

New York State ENA Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2026

New York State Emergency Nurses Association (NYS ENA)

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026

Time: 1000 hrs EST

Format: Hybrid — In-Person (Binghamton, NY) & Microsoft Teams

1) Call to Order & Agenda

President Eileen Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1000 hrs. The agenda was amended to add two items under New Business: Water Whistle and the Julie Kangro Memorial Award. Motion to accept amended agenda by Mary Ann Teeter, seconded by Jamla Rizek; motion carried (no nays recorded).

2) Attendance

In-Person: President Eileen; Kathy Conboy, Mel Wilson, Mary Ann Teeter

sign-in sheet on file

Virtual (MS Teams): New York ENA Secretary; Eileen Breckenridge; Anne Wall; Phyllis Parker; Joanne Fadale; Maureen Chernosky; Wendy Thompson; Susan Kossowsky; Tammy Aiken; Maria Giganti; Meg Barry; Mary Wilson; Marina Grennen; Louise McEvoy; Sophia Specht; Kate O'Neill; Carolyn Dixon; Nigel Peters; Sue; Mary Harwood; Megan Pawlowski; Lila Hageman Sheehan; Angie Lee; Audrey Sealey.

{The Secretary will reconcile the Teams roster with the in-person sign-in and append the final list to the archived copy}

3) Approval of Prior Minutes

- February 2025 Council Minutes — Council performed line-by-line corrections for names, titles, and spelling. Counsel's guidance was reiterated: grammatical/formatting fixes can be accepted; any substantive content changes require a formal amendment at a future meeting. Motion to approve with corrections carried.
- April 2025 Council Minutes — Clarified use of organization naming conventions ("New York State Council ENA" with DBA "NYS ENA"); corrected officer titles, capitalization, and formatting. Motion to approve with corrections carried.
- August 2025 Council Minutes — clean-up of credentials, acronyms (e.g., ENPC/TNCC), and spellings; clarified counts (e.g., Lantern Award winners) and typos. Motion to approve with corrections carried.

New York State ENA Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2026

- October 11, 2025, Council Minutes — Attendance verified; minor edits only. Motion to approve carried. Process reminders captured: distribute minutes within two weeks; present Profit & Loss (PROFIT AND LOSS) at each Board and Council meeting; handle content changes via amendment at subsequent meetings.

4) Officer & Board Reports

President — National ENA updates: national voter participation reported at 5.9% with NYS historically at ~8–9%; CEO search launched, goal Q1–Q2 2026; Lantern Award applications open through Feb 25. National has operated in recent years with deficit budgets but is executing financial management strategies to return to break-even/positive. Strategic Planning (Jan 16, 2026) outcomes: relaunch NYS ENA newsletter (member spotlights, committee columns); strengthen mentorship, especially for new ED leaders; expand injury prevention (gun locks, Stop the Bleed); increase national award nominations; and stabilize council finances. Compliance from attorney consult: re-establish Leadership Development & Elections Committee (LDEC); draft officer qualifications and board accountability standards; ensure designated officer access to financial data; present PROFIT AND LOSS at every meeting; avoid deficit budgets unless policy-permitted with mitigation plan.

Immediate-past President — Continuing work with the American Red Cross on medical outreach/emergency planning; will share activation pathways and volunteer engagement opportunities as built out.

Treasurer — Q4/Early 2026 highlights: reimbursements for General Assembly (~\$40k); CEN course (~\$22k cost vs ~\$35k revenue); Suffolk holiday membership drive near break-even; CD rollover of \$82,254 to maintain liquidity. Current balances about \$97k liquid and ~\$190k in CDs/savings. Budget expense reports will be presented routinely going forward; standardized course budget forms to be re-implemented for TNCC/ENPC for transparency.

Secretary— Committee chairs will receive a shared roster tool to keep membership lists current for communications and invites. MS Teams link accessibility for public events will be assessed and discussed as needed with Communications and Education committees (settings for public access); a short Teams “how to join” demo is planned for April.

Directors at Large — Tammy Aiken: supporting onboarding/process improvements; raised AI and documentation considerations. Mickey Forness: assisting bylaws review with Kathy Conboy; supporting multiple committees in 2026.

5) Committee Reports

Awards (Chair: Vepuka Kauari) Committee convened; drafting/writing teams are organized to produce high-quality nominations for state and national awards; call for names/evidence from members; mentoring emphasized.

Conference – Setting the Pace 2026 (Lead: Sue Breese) — April 22–24, 2026, Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs. Registration opened Jan 16 with immediate uptake. Awards Gala separated from Council to enhance recognition; preregistration required. Exhibitor recruitment active, floor plan in development. Skills labs (e.g., Mercy Flight/ultrasound) will be capacity-limited and may use a lottery system.

Trauma / TNCC / Injury Prevention (Chair: Mary Ann Teeter) Standing meeting 2nd Thursday at 1900 hrs. Syracuse TNAC completion celebrated seven new instructor candidates progressing; new TNCC faculty added. Identified gap: no national guidance for selecting Instructor Potentials (IPs); a workgroup will draft state criteria and share with National. Re-instituting course budget forms so the Treasurer can track revenue/expense per course. Plans to revitalize Stop the Bleed and expand injury prevention.

ENPC/Pediatrics (Chair: Sue Breese) Courses scheduled; additional enrollment/roster details forthcoming.

Membership & Fundraising (Lead: Mickey Forness) — 1,914 members; 23 new in January. ENA Foundation windows: Conference (Jan 2–Feb 2); Academic Cycles 1 (Apr 1–30) and 2 (Aug 1–29); Research (Aug 31–Oct 2). Discussion to enhance the NYS 9/11 scholarship for 2026 only (see motions).

Education (Chair: Jamla Rizek) — Standing meeting 4th Monday @ 1900 hrs; 2026 content pipeline includes Weapons of Mass Destruction; Awards Writing Clinic; Forensic Deaths in ED (Coroner); Hostage Negotiation (nurse/military instructor); Pediatric Disaster Readiness; Government Affairs updates; travel/aviation medical scenarios (“Is there a nurse on board?”); and seasonal clinical topics (e.g., measles/rashes). Sessions recorded to a YouTube archive (no CE for recorded viewing; live required).

Communications collaboration to relaunch newsletter and expand LinkedIn/Instagram/TikTok presence with consistent branding and scheduling; request for members to amplify by sharing posts.

Leadership Development & Elections – (Chair: Mary Ellen Wilson) — Committee reestablished. 2026 tasks: officer qualifications; board accountability standards; election

**New York State ENA Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2026**

timeline; mentorship framework. Lantern Award judging window Mar 19–May 13 for assigned applications.

Government Affairs – (Chair: Jonathan Nover with Kate O’Neil) - Federal workplace-violence prevention standard and provider mental health/suicide prevention reauthorization are priority; NYS progress on workplace violence acknowledged.

National committees: CPGs in development (blood culture contamination, intranasal meds); TNCC 10th Edition rewrite participation noted. Day on the Hill planned Apr 28–29, 2026.

6) New Business

Water Whistles (Suffolk) — Program overview since 2016: whistles with quick-action instructions for designated water whistles distributed via PTAs, realtors, pool companies, and fairs to reduce drowning risk. Education invited Suffolk to present statewide on program impact; Treasurer confirmed budget support for 2026 procurement. ACTION: Suffolk to schedule a spring session with Education; confirm ordering with Treasurer.

Julie Kangro Memorial Scholarship (Suffolk) Concern raised that two prior awardees were told they could not redeem awards; no written time limit exists; scholarship historically funded from Suffolk activities and honors Julie’s mentorship. State budget context requires disciplined 2026 spending with mid-year review of paused items. Discussion emphasized the need for written criteria to comply with 501(c)(3) administration and consideration of elevating the scholarship to a state-recognized award with standardized criteria. OUTCOME/ACTIONS: (a) Suffolk to draft purpose, eligibility, use-of-funds, redemption window, documentation, and selection process; (b) submit to Awards & Finance; (c) convene a small workgroup (Suffolk + Awards/Finance) to meet offline and bring a recommendation in April; (d) Treasurer/Secretary to review prior communications to the two awardees and propose a fair resolution consistent with policy and budget.

NYS ENA 9/11 Scholarship – One-Year Enhancement (2026 only) — Motion (Joanne Fadale; second: Vepuka Kauari): For 2026 only, increase the number of awards from two to three and the amount from \$2,500 to \$3,000 each (total \$9,000) in recognition of the 25th anniversary of 9/11, transmitted as a recommendation to the ENA Foundation (final authority resides with the Foundation). Rationale discussed: greater visibility and impact in the anniversary year; balance breadth vs. depth of support; reversion to standard level in 2027. VOTE: Motion carried (no nays recorded). ACTION: President/Membership to send formal recommendation to the ENA Foundation marked “2026 only.”

7) Strategic Planning – 2026 Priorities

New York State ENA Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2026

- Newsletter relaunch (Comms + Education + Awards content)
- Mentorship framework for leaders/new members (LDEC + Education)
- Communications infrastructure: LinkedIn page; Teams public-link process; social media cadence; YouTube archive
- Financial discipline: routine PROFIT AND LOSSs; standardized course budgets; mid-year review of paused items; conservative budgeting
- Injury prevention: Stop the Bleed refresh; Water Whistles sharing statewide; gun lock distribution planning

8) Action Items

- Secretary: Append final attendee list; distribute approved/corrected 2025 minutes within two weeks.
- Treasurer: Present PROFIT AND LOSS at next Board/Council; implement standardized course budget form with TNCC/ENPC.
- Secretary/Comms/Education: Publish a simple “How to join Teams” tip; set public links; schedule a short demo at April Council.
- Suffolk (Water Whistles): Coordinate spring education session; confirm purchasing with Treasurer.
- Suffolk (Julie Kangro): Submit written criteria; meet offline with Awards/Finance; bring recommendation in April; Treasurer/Secretary to review past awardee communications for equitable resolution.
- President/Membership: Send 9/11 scholarship recommendation to ENA Foundation (2026 enhancement).
- LDEC: Draft officer qualifications & board accountability standards; propose election timeline.
- Education/Comms: Publish 2026 education calendar; launch LinkedIn; pilot newsletter in Q1.

9) Adjournment

1235 hours -Motion to adjourn by Sue Breese; second recorded; motion carried.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christopher Sorrentino, RN

Secretary, NYS ENA

New York State ENA Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2026