

WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

Business Meeting Minutes

NCHC Conference • November 8, 2025

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025

Time: 5:04 p.m.

Presiding: Megan Hughes, President

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by President Megan Hughes.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 4 meeting.

Motion	Moved By	Seconded By	Result
Approve the minutes of the April 4 meeting.	Kira Castle	Dr. Timothy Nichols	PASSED

3. Board Introductions

Current WRHC board members were introduced to the membership.

4. WRHC 2026 Conference Update

Presented by Dr. Bill Doyle, Vice President and 2026 Conference Host.

- Registration and call for proposals are now live.
- Conference runs April 9 through midday April 11, 2026.
- Plenary session scheduled for Saturday afternoon.
- Registration costs: \$185 (student) / \$205 (faculty).
- A student mixer is being planned.
- Proposal deadline: priority deadline November 30 (not a hard deadline); final deadline January 15, 2026.
- The conference website link will be added to the WRHC website under the Conference tab.
- WRHC 2025 had 330 registrants.

5. Conference Host – 2027 and Beyond

A call was made for institutions willing to volunteer to host future conferences. Institutions and individuals who expressed interest or were mentioned:

- Kira Castle, her institution has discussed hosting.
- Julie Chew, Utah Tech University expressed interest.
- Alaska. willing to host, with some logistical concerns noted.
- Oregon honors directors have discussed hosting in Portland.

The board noted that the conference is affordable and student-focused. The possibility of multiple programs or colleges co-hosting was discussed. Past conference hosts spoke to the benefits of hosting.

6. WRHC Website

The board discussed desired features and content for the updated WRHC website, including:

- Meeting minutes archive
- Scribendi submission highlight reels
- Image/photo directory
- Conference hosting tools and resources
- Online conference registration (with capacity for multiple registrations at once)
- Proposal and abstract submission system
- Examples of past proposals, abstracts, and winning posters
- Job postings / position ads
- General student resources page
- Social media plugin/feed integration

7. Scribendi Update

Presented by Amaris Ketcham with the student editorial team.

- Scribendi won the Pacemaker Award from the Associated Collegiate Press (considered the “Pulitzer Prize” for student publications).
- 2025 submission statistics: 334 submissions from 191 students at 63 schools.
- Geographic representation: California and Utah under 20%; New Mexico below average.
- The 40th edition will be published in Las Vegas at WRHC 2026.
- Budget increased from \$8,500 to \$11,500 (approved at the October 2025 officer meeting).
- Christopher Syrnyk provided an update from NCHC regarding exploration of alternate funding streams for major projects and signature programming such as Scribendi.

8. WRHC Budget and Membership

The budget report was presented. The board and membership discussed whether to increase dues. Key comments from the discussion:

- Concerns were raised about whether increasing dues is effective if schools do not pay them, and how to build community year-round rather than only at conferences.
- Note that involvement through two conferences (WRHC and NCHC) is expensive; a stronger website could help build an ongoing community.
- Suggestion to allow members to submit student spotlights for posting on the website.
- A reminder system for dues payment was suggested.
- Idea to post on the website what dues support (e.g., scholarships for attending WRHC and NCHC).
- Current dues of \$75 noted as affordable; discussion of whether a tiered dues structure (similar to NCHC) might be appropriate.
- Travel challenges acknowledged: the region is large and airfare is required for many members.
- Opportunity for smaller-scale state-level collaboration discussed.
- The California Honors Council is noted as a model: monthly virtual meetings, summer meeting, and topics that create an ongoing community.
- Suggestion for quarterly virtual meetings on timely topics, with resources for new directors.

9. NCHC Updates

Presented by Christopher Syrnyk, Vice President and President-Elect of NCHC.

- The NCHC Conference Chair offered brief remarks and reminded attendees to complete the conference survey.
- NCHC 2026 conference will be held in New Orleans.
- NCHC is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with regional honors councils, offering marketing systems and website support; regional councils may select which services they wish to use.
- NCHC is offering an additional \$2,000 in support to regional councils that engage in specified activities.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.