

NYS Women Post-Conference Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2026, 9:30-11:30am

Taken By: Gabrielle Kostrzewski

Welcome (Patti Layton)

Post Conference Surveys (Laurie A.): We want transparency, and honesty even if they are negative comments. This is your event, and we want your feedback.

Plan for Upcoming Year (Patti)

- Ramona G. (BNC): Microphones were inconsistent and hearing was a struggle at times if people did not use it right (maybe opportunity for learning on public speaking)
- Kathy H. (Tri-County): Maybe we should invest in our own mic if we have problems
- Robin B. (Mohawk Valley): This AV system is better than what we've had in the past. Mostly user error;
- Linda Winston (Tri-County): What is the "Why"? Simon Sinek YouTube videos; Why be here? Why be part of the organization? Step-up the website and share more of the Why, investing in technology necessary; Youth leadership opportunities; Binghamton held first Reality Store with volunteer project; Partnerships with local BOCES to bring young girls to our organization (pipeline); The what and the how are easier and more well-known; Why do we exist and why are we worth the time as NYSW? Energizing, reinvigorating, updating how we communicate
- Tonya Robinson (Binghamton): Second what Linda W. said; Stuff is outdated; Rules, regulations, and stipulations need to be modernized; Can the Business meetings be separate to keep the conference fun and uplifting? Or a separate Track? Installation could have more energy with music; Website has really old forms and is difficult to navigate; Link to video about how to use the website is not accessible; People still like paper or an Owner's Manual that outlines everything in one spot; Better way that everyone can be connected; Website has mostly documents; Should we start a whole new website built from scratch?
- Barbara Strype (Staten Island): Echo what Tonya said; A President's Manual would be so helpful; No search box visible on the website
- Mary Ellen Morgan (Yates Co): Direction on officers is needed; People may not fully understand what being an Officer entails; A manual is great, but interactions between presidents and officers across the state will be stronger; Follow-up with speakers at monthly meetings to try and get their membership
- Dottie G. (Binghamton): Really struggles to find things on the website, even being generally tech savvy; emails directly to members are very helpful; Website must be user-friendly, even for seasoned members; What did I take away from this weekend that I can share with others to get them here next year? Conference numbers are decreasing, but it's an important event that deserves attendance; Our members should feel like our conference is the place to be

Post-Conference Board Meeting Called to Order at 9:55am (Patti Layton)

- Patti: Monthly Board Meetings will open up other meetings to support members; Conference itself is not about Board Meetings, but Business Sessions are pivotal to getting membership feedback and votes

State of the Organization (Open to ALL NYS Women Members) Meeting Dates for 2026-2027 and Locations (Patti L.)

- Fall 10/17/26 on Zoom
- Winter 2/27/27 on Zoom
- Annual Conference June 11-13, 2027 in Syracuse (tentative)

Committee Chair Assignments

- Advocacy: Jessica Helminiak
- Bylaws: Kimberly Suminski
- Communications: Linda Winston
- Finance: Shelby McPherson
- Membership: Gabrielle Kostrzewski
- PPD: Robin Allen
- Governance: Jacquie Shellman
- Marketing/PR: Joyce DeLong

Special Committee Chairs:

- Fair: Pat Ferguson
- MOI: Neale Steiniger
- MAL: Jacquie Shellman
- Credentials: Janet Carey
- PSP Liaison: Helen Rico

Board Meeting Monthly Schedule (Patti): Possibly second Tuesday of the month for one hour

- Linda Winston: Can we have the Treasurer meet monthly instead of quarterly? Are monthly meetings necessary for everyone on the board?

Advocacy Updates (Jessica H.): Feedback on survey itself; Survey results showed Healthcare Access for Women is overall advocacy goal for organization this coming year

- Patti L.: Health-related giveaways at state fair
- Tonya R. (Binghamton): Can we use money we have sitting for manuals and giveaways?

PPD Promotion (Patti): Believes in Robin Allen to get this going

Nominating Committee Selection (2026-2027)

- Appointed by Patti: Pam Pringle (Susquehanna) & Mary Ellen Morgan (Yates Co)
- Nominated off the Floor:
 - Ramona Gallagher (BNC)
 - Barbara Strype (Staten Island)
 - Janet Carey (Sullivan Co)
- Alternates: Helen Rico (Rome) and Kathy Capra (Tri-County)
- Nominating Committee must choose a Chair and tell Patti by July 1, 2026

Leadership Directory (Patti): PLEASE UPDATE YOUR LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY; Robin can help if assistance is needed

Conflict of Interest Forms (Patti): Those who were given a form, please sign and return before you leave today

Adjournment by Patti at 10:14am

Announcements

- Ramona Gallagher: Are we a 501c3 or what is our classification
 - Patti: 501c4 is our classification
- Mary Ellen Morgan: Nike deadline is July 15th
- Laurie Albertsson: only 2 Nike's now (September and Spring/March)