



WNA ANNUAL MEETING

March 8, 2026

Board Members Present: Chrissy Burd, Adam Felleman, Virginia Felleman, Sam Gruber, Carol Johnson, Kimberley McCoy, Kevin Montgomery, Heila Martin-Person, Marilyn Zaleon

Others Present: Brent Beier, Maurice Brown, Cameron Clarke, Dan Deschamps, Don Deschamps, Corey Dunham, Eva Essi, Christopher Erato, Mark Feldman, Micah Fialka-Feldman, Anthony Gigliotti, Judy Jerome, Dara Kerins, J. Koch, Laura Lavine, Andy Leahy, Carl Mellor, Kerri McNamara, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Michael Sanders, Charlie Sam, Sharon Sherman, Sarah Sgromo, Kerry Thurston, Serena Wang, Lisa Warneke, Corey Williams

Program Opening: Sam Gruber welcomed all attendees and announced that this will be his last meeting as President. He will continue as a WNA member. Sam explained that the Annual Meeting is a requirement of the bylaws and stressed that all meetings are entirely open to the public. Also required at the Annual Meeting is for members to vote on any changes made to the bylaws which did occur this year.

Financial Summary, Kevin Montgomery: In 2025 the WNA cash balance increased to \$3,582 from \$2,393, primarily the result of an increase in memberships and profits from the first time T-shirt sales. A 2025 TNT grant provided funding for the three poetry events and a CNY Arts grant provided funding for the annual dog parade.

Kevin shared that in 2025, WNA for the first time purchased a liability insurance policy, the policy also included coverage for Board Members. The first half installment of \$444 was paid in 2025, the second half payment will be made in 2026. The plan is to renew the policy in 2026.

Board of Directors' Election 2026: A ballot was distributed to all WNA members regarding the following: Board Members not needing a vote: Sam Gruber, who rejoined the board in 2021; Kevin Montgomery, who joined the board in 2023 and Marilyn Zaleon, who rejoined the board in 2025. Needing a vote, Third Term Members including Adam Felleman, elected in 2022, Carol Johnson, elected in 2022, and Kimberley McCoy, elected in 2022; Second Term Member, Heila Martin-Person, elected in 2024; First term election for Chrissy Burd, 2026; and Virginia Felleman, 2026. Twenty-one WNA members voted for approval of all board members and for approval of the updated bylaws.

Keynote Speaker: Corey Driscoll Dunham, Deputy Mayor, City of Syracuse.

Corey highlighted 7 focus areas of the present administration as follows: (1) Affordable Housing; (2) Interstate 81; (3) the CARE team focused on social services; (4) Infrastructure; (5) Syracuse Police Department under the current Chief of Police,, Mark Rusin; (6) Budget, focusing on fiscal management and sustainability; and (7) Vision Zero charged with developing a safety action plan with a goal to “eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes” occurring in the City.

Corey then graciously took questions of concern from the audience and ended her talk by sharing her email: cdunham@syr.gov and her phone number: 315 448 8051.

The meeting ended at 4 o'clock. Submitted by Virginia Felleman