

NJCOE Executive Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025 @ 10:00 am

Members in Attendance:

Dolores Szymanski, Pat Hollenstein, Ken Figgs, Ken King, Martin Smith, Laurie Newell, Cheryl Simone, Michael Gorman, Christine Vespe, Amy Stella, Alease Griffith, Martin Smith, Melindo Persi, Jay Dugan, Judy Ratter, Aaron Graham, Vin Przybylinski, Carole Butler, Dana Lawrence

1. Call to Order – Laurie Newell

-President Laurie Newell called the meeting to order at 10:05 am, thanking Ken Figgs and the executive committee for their leadership. Laurie welcomed new members of the executive committee and officers for 2025-2026.

2. Report of Vice President – Ken Figgs

-Greeted the exec committee and discussed the meeting dates/location for 25-26. General member meetings to be held October and May at Forsgate.

3. Report of the Treasurer – Michael Gorman

-Provided a review of the Audit conducted on July 29, 2025.
-Pat Hollenstein will be sending deposit information as dues are received.
-Discussion regarding the healthy balance in the budget.

4. Report of the Secretary – Christine Vespe

-Christine Vespe congratulated Amy Stella on her recognition as the Burlington County Woman of the Year, In the Field of Education.
-Minutes from General Membership Meeting and the Executive Meeting will be sent to Pat Hollenstein for the October 2025 General Meeting .

5. Report of the Historian – Alease Griffith

-Advised the committee that she has photographs that can be given to members and she would like to have them displayed at a table/easel at the October meeting.

6. Report of the Awards Chair – Jay Dugan

-Bridgeton trophy will produce the Past President Clock.
-Pins and Portfolios for new members are in stock.

7. Report of Membership Chair – Cheryl Simone

-There are currently six new members to be inducted at the October meeting. These individuals have already been approved for induction.

7. Report of Program Chair – Judy Rattner

-Using the membership feedback survey from 2023 Judy advised of the topics that members had the most interest. The committee selected the topics of Human Trafficking Issues and Understanding Generational Differences/Needs in the Workforce we hire.

8. Report of Continuity – Dolores Szymanski

-No Report

9. Report of Social Media/ Webmaster – Vincent Przybylinski and Pat Hollenstein

-Website is updated. Executive committee was asked to review website and advise if there are any updates to be made. The membership list will be updated in September (prior to October meeting). LinkedIn has 108 members. Business contacts on LinkedIn could be potential sponsors. Make any recommendations for changes on the brochure to Pat Hollenstein.

10. Report of Liaisons - No Report

11. Necrology – Aaron Graham

- Mel Persi will pass on the information to Dr. Graham who will take over this position.

12. Old Business – None

13. New Business/Good of the Order – Laurie Newell

-Discussion of creating a role of “Member Emeritus” – this position would allow someone to remain an executive board member, but not as active. Discussion to form a constitution review committee for this purpose (DS, CS, CV, KF).

-Laurie Newell asked that personal contact information be reviewed and provide her with any updates via email.

-Pat Hollenstein announced her intent to retire from her position in education, but will remain active on our executive board.

-Ken Figgs will reach out to Craig Wigley regarding any sponsorship leads.

-Laurie Newell Confirmed upcoming Meeting Date: October 10, 2025 – General Meeting at Forsgate CC.

Executive Council Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 am.

Minutes Submitted by: Christine Vespe