

**Porsche Club of America Chicago Region
Board of Directors Meeting
February 4, 2026
FINAL**

Voting Board Members Present

☒	Dana Comolli – President	☒	Grace Chen – Director
☒	Pete Bukantis – Vice President	☒	Ross Conforti – Director
☒	Catherine Fischer – Treasurer	☒	Marcin Proszek – Director
☐	Stanley Sangdahl – Past President	☒	Brian Scifers – Director
☒	Mark Prescott – Secretary	☒	Bart Surowka – Director

Coordinators Present

☒	Dana Comolli – Autobahn/Website/Sponsor/Chief Driving Instructor	☐	John Moore – Concours
☒	David Bowers – Autocross	☒	Barb Mashburn – Concours
☒	Todd Conforti – Blackhawk/Safety	☐	Robert Safe/Committee – Social
☒	Pete Bukantis – Blackhawk/AX Timing	☒	Jack Steidle – Rallye
☒	Pete Hackenson – Blackhawk	☒	Jake Steidle – Rallye
☒	Glenn DeWeirdt – Gingerman	☒	Brian Scifers – Rallye
☐	Neil French – Gingerman	☒	Cliff Horn – RADE/TRAC
☐	Mark Palmer – Gingerman	☒	Joel Kaphengst – RADE/TRAC Volunteer
☐	Susan Shire – Club Race Registration	☒	Keith Clark – RADE/TRAC
☒	Bob Rath – Insurance	☒	Tess Conforti – RADE/TRAC/Social Media
☒	Griffin Fujii – Membership/Social Media	☒	Ross Conforti – RADE/TRAC DE Reg
☐	<open> - Historian	☒	Mark Prescott – RADE/TRAC CR Reg
☒	Jody Freund – Drivers Ed Tech	☒	Sean Gillette – Tours
☒	Committee - The Scene	☐	Julie Gillette - Tours
☐	Karen Stephesen - Charity	☐	Todd Benz – Zone 13 Representative
☐		☐	Ed Leed –Car Numbers/Member DB
☐	<Open> – Dinner Dance	☐	Debbie Leed – Car Numbers/Member DB

This meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing

- Others: Henrique Regina, Jeff Brown, Keith Booton

Secretary's Report (Mark Prescott)

The meeting started with all board members present: a quorum at 7:00pm

January 2026 minutes were sent out prior to the meeting with comments from 3 people. No further comments since. A motion was made to accept the minutes:

Motion to accept minutes: Ross Conforti

Second: Grace Chen

Accepted: Passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report (Catherine Fischer)

The financial report was distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed. The club's financial summary starts with total assets in January 2026 of \$809,128 compared to January 2025 of \$967,100. Cash assets in January 2026 were \$482,296 compared to January 2025 of \$507,479. Income for January was \$15,065 with a YTD of \$15,065. Our expenses were (\$31,887) with YTD of (\$31,387). With a charity disbursement of (\$1,860), our net loss was (\$18,681).

Top income sources were 1 Event, PCA rebate, and scene income.

Large checks include payments for events, Scene related expenses and charity.

Total bank account balances, including checking, savings and CDs Total \$507,479. CDs are being renewed at the best possible rate and term.

Charity collected YTD is \$1,925 versus \$2,465 last year.

Top receivables are the incident and damage at TRAC from RA. PCA Club Racing is committed to make the region whole on RA.

Events were reviewed by each, most everything did well with limited activities YTD.

Motion to accept financial report as presented:

Motion: Pete Bukantis

Second: Brian Scifers

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

President's Report (Dana Comolli)

Zone 13 presidents meeting is being hosted in Chicago on March 13 and 14 at Black Dog.

Vice President's Report (Pete Bukantis)

Working with Tech Team to get novice more help in getting cars ready for events rather than last minute. Also have Scene articles for tech related information for Auto X and DE

Past President's Report (Stanley Sangdahl)

No report

Autocross Report (David Bowers)

Budget worksheet attached to the agenda. Tire Rack is on July 19 for 3rd event. No major changes in budget from last year. MPC is sponsoring again. May have some cones to be replaced but should clear expenses for the year.

Motion to approve budget as submitted for the year:

Motion: Pete Bukantis

Second: Grace Chen

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Timing & Scoring Report (Pete Bukantis)

All is fine with equipment. Looking for someone to step up and be owner of the equipment this year.

Blackhawk Farms Report (Todd Conforti, Pete Hackenson, and Pete Bukantis)

All contracts received.

Need decision on instructor school. We have 11 committed and interest from RA. National has many schools in April or May. Need at least 20 candidates to make it worthwhile. Should know shortly.

Todd will sign and send contracts back. Once this is done, we need to pay in advance like previous years.

Pricing will be same as last year for early birds then jump up \$40 2 or 3 weeks prior to the event.

Octoberfest may be Italian themed. Events are on club reg ready to go. Taco Tuesday will be in July.

Motion to approve payment of Blackhawk Fees for 2026 in full of \$63,500.

Motion: Pete Bukantis

Second: Ross Conforti

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Ladies' day budget submitted with a big price increase. Challenge for team to find more sponsors.

Charity (Karen Stephensen)

Keith Booton presented on behalf of the charity team.

The group discussed promoting selected charities at events and through communications. Dana expressed hesitation about sending e-blasts promoting charities, preferring to integrate awareness into regular event offerings rather than making it a standalone event. Pete shared that he had spoken with charities about providing materials for event registration desks and information tables. It was suggested that we include a call to action in a March Scene article to allow donations, which Dana confirmed would be included in a single article covering both charities.

The group also discussed the challenge of reaching members who don't attend events.

The board discussed implementing Donor Box as a donation platform, the charity will explore this option more deeply and report back. It was reminded that we are a car club not necessarily a philanthropic organization, and we need to be cautious about this and make it so members have fun and feel good about donating. Discussion included ways to increase engagement with charities, including sharing impact stories on social media and providing updates in newsletters.

Motion to use Donor Box on a 3-month trial

Motion: Grace Chen

Second: Pete Bukantis

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

ADDENDUM 1

During the meeting the fees for Donor Box were presented as 5.1% + \$0.30 per transaction. The board approved this.

After the meeting, and upon further research, the fees for this are actually: 2.95% + 2.9% + 0.30 which is 5.85% + \$0.30 for credit and debit cards. There is an additional 0.5% fee if the card number is manually entered. That means for a donation, the fees will be as high as 6.35% + \$0.30 per donation.

The feeling is this fee is unacceptably high. The board wants to present better solution, and one that would provide the Club with greater control of the process and provide us with other options in the future.

Because our website is run on WordPress, there are many of what are called "Plugins" available that allow the acceptance of credit cards (as well as for implementing full e-commerce sites). Given this, the recommendation was made to obtain a license (\$99.50 per year) for the WP Simple Pay (<https://wpsimplepay.com/>) plugin and obtain a Stripe (free) account (like Square, more focused on websites with greater security options). This would then be implemented on a simple donation page within the region website. This would allow us to fully control the

branding around this topic, and the transactions fees would be 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction, which is significantly lower than the Donor Box (and even clubreg at 4.5% + \$0.30) option. Time to implement this solution is measured in hours. The process is quite simple, and the plugin and Stripe have extremely robust anti-fraud measures built into the products that do not require additional work on the part of a developer.

It is proposed we rescind the approval for Donor Box and instead, implement this solution.

Motion (via e-mail) to rescind approval of Donor Box and proceed with Simple Pay and Stripe

Motion: Marcin Proszek

Second: Brian Scifers

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Gingerman Report (Glenn DeWeirdt)

It is mentioned about adding a Friday session to the Gingerman event. It would be a great addition, but the cost would be around \$6,000 for daily rental, which could pose financial risks. It would provide benefits, especially in terms of traffic on Friday and Sunday.

Looking at options on how to add the Friday in terms of costs and still account for people possibly leaving early. We might be able to coordinate with the local car club that runs mostly on Fridays.

Consensus was to move forward with Friday as a trial and come up with pricing to accommodate all options.

Road America Report (Ross Conforti, Cliff Horn, Keith Clark, Tess Conforti)

Finishing details for RADE. Contracts and deposits are in. Room blocks are in for May. The Osthoff has 2 weddings in May that weekend, so they are pretty full. Siebkens has rooms. Putting out a sheet of details to publish on the website.

Autobahn Report (Dana Comolli)

Street Survival in May is open for registration, already 30% full. Street Survival has raised price by \$25 and is passing that along to regions. Skid pad pricing went up 20%.

We will have one south track event in 2026, Tuesday July 28.

Chief Driving Instructor's Report (Dana Comolli)

Want to renew the \$100 per communicator subsidy for instructors every 3 years.

Motion to provide communicators this year as before (\$1,00):

Motion: Pete Bukantis
Second: Ross Conforti
Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Instructor workshop is at Black Dog on March 28.

Concours Report (John Moore, Barb Mashburn)

Chili cook off is first event for year on 2/22 at the Exchange, followed by Concours school at Body Builders. Chili tasting signups are good. The school should be an upgrade. Finalizing last event.

Historian Report (Open)

No Report

Insurance Report (Bob Rath)

Started applying for COIs on February 1. Will get those to the coordinators. Need to follow up on observer reports and tighten that process up.

Membership Report (Griffin Fujii)

Membership Report for 2025 was distributed prior to the meeting. Region is Up 24 members this month from last month – Total 4137, Primary 2734, Affiliate 1403. 2025 closed out at a new high.

Transition completed with James and still learning. Adam Kern is stepping down so Griffin will help Tess with social media and will look at strategy and input.

Rallye Report (Jack Steidle, Jake Steidle, Brian Scifers)

Good level of interest at the General Membership Meeting. Collected contact information for 20 potential new rallyists.

Registration for Rallye School (5/3) is open. Two new novice teams have already signed up.

Completed updates to the Rallye General Instructions and the Rallye Classes and Competitive Points documents. Both are posted on the Chicago Region website.

Rallye Budget for 2026 submitted. Anticipate being slightly better than breakeven (~\$300). Generally forecasting 15 teams per event, which is consistent with prior

year. Increased team registration fee from \$35 to \$40.

Motion to approve \$3750 to help with expenses.

Motion: Grace Chen

Second: Mark Prescott

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Dinner Dance (Open)

Looking for someone to chair the 2026 dinner dance.

Safety Report (Todd Conforti and Jody Freund)

Tech sheets have been updated to cover 6 months.

As for helmets: PCA is allowing 2015 helmets through June 2026 which is currently the guideline Chicago will follow.

Social Media (Tess Conforti, Griffin Fujii)

More to come from Tess and Griffin

Technical Report (Jody Freund)

Tech session is April 12 at Northstar with typical agenda to explain tech requirements and new changes.

Trying to donate tech labor for 2 cars prior to tech session for Novice drivers. Will do a full tech at Fischer motors and provide instruction to others so they know the expectations about getting the car ready for DE events. Could be a good video addition to our web site. Goal is to do this on April 11. Still in preliminary stage.

Social Report (Robert Safe/Committee)

Porsche paint along is almost sold out. Considering a cooking class that is Porsche related. Valentine's Day social has 77 signed up. Currently we need a \$1500 subsidy to help cover costs for Valentines' Day.

Motion to approve up to \$1500 to cover extra costs:

Motion: Pete Bukantis

Second: Grace Chen

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

On 3/21/26 there is an event being planned at Porsche Orland Park – High level tech training targeted to Woman. It is being handled by others, but we are looking for more information

St Patricks' day ready to go

Potters Picnic (Catherine Fischer)

No report

Sponsorship / Dealer Liaison Report (Dana Comolli)

No report.

The Scene Report (Editorial Board)

Now have an editorial board – Pete Bukantis, Dana Comolli, Chris Winslow. Nick Halper, Barb Stark. Have content for two more issues

Touring Report (Sean and Julie Gillette)

Spring trip to Road America is booked and ready. Planning to go live for registration

Webmaster's Report (Dana Comolli)

Web report was supplied in meeting invitation.

Zone 13 Rep Report (Todd Benz)

No report

New Business

For membership we need to purchase emblems (qty 500 for \$1,512) and magnets (qty 250 for \$1,755) for name badges.

Motion to approve purchase of emblems and magnets

Motion: Mark Prescott

Second: Ross Conforti

Accepted: Motion Passed unanimously

Casa is having a fundraising gala. Fischer Motors has agreed to provide a car and to auction off a novice day at Blackhawk on the region budget. Blackhawk will provide the free entry.

The region will consider a similar request from The Spring Foundation if one is presented.

Next meeting is March 4, 2026.

Action Items:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35PM.

Motion to Adjourn: Pete Bukantis

Second: Katherine Fischer

Motion Passed Unanimously