WESTERN INSTITUTE OF NURSING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Friday, September 11, 2026
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Pacific
Hyatt Regency Bellevue

MINUTES

Call to Order and Welcome:	The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM Pacific by Dr. Austin Nation, WIN President.
Attendees:	Lauren Clark, Heather Coats, Patti Daly, Kimberly Kassab, Razel Milo, Austin Nation, Andrea Wallace (virtual)
Staff:	Bo Perry, Kelly McGrath

Agenda Topic:	**Approval of Consent Agenda**
MOTION:	Dr. Coats moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Minutes from the meeting on August 11, 2026; WIN Balance Sheet (July 2026), WIN Profit/Loss Statement (July 2026), NEXus Balance Sheet (July 2026), NEXus Profit/Loss Statement (July 2026), FANS SIG Article Proposal. Dr. Daly seconded the motion, and the Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

Agenda Topic:	**Aspirational Topic/Discussion - Future Conferences / Length of Conference**
	Bo led a discussion about the future (2030) conference schedule and program design. Several factors create an opportunity to evaluate the length and structure of the annual conference, such as rising AV costs that led to the elimination of the Friday breakouts in 2026, and limited financial support for conference travel for WIN members. Conference evaluations from attendees support a 3-day format. Through discussion, the Board reached consensus on the following points: • The WIN conference should remain a scientific conference at its core although greater emphasis could be placed on translational topics that bridge research, practice, and education; • Keep the three State of the Science Addresses but consider combining these into a panel or other ways to deliver these each year; • Seek alternative formats that could complement scientific content, such as the 2027 ADR paper; • Members connect to WIN through SIGs, and the conference agenda should allow for more SIG activities; • WIN could become a national leader in integrating PhD and DNP scholarship and education, helping bridge existing silos; • Posters are viewed as a key pathway for introducing new members and scholars to the organization, and the Board did not support decreasing the number of posters. Consider modernizing the poster hall using QR codes, digital poster boards, and/or rapid poster sessions.
ACTION:	Dr. Nation, Bo, and Kelly will establish Board expectations for a future (2030) conference agenda to share with the Program Committee for feedback and collaboration. Any proposal will be circulated to the Board for approval before sending it to the Program Committee.

Agenda Topic:	**Report of the President**
	<u>NINR Strategic Planning Listening Session</u> Dr. Nation reported that the NINR event was successful and thanked the Board

ACTION: ACTION:	members who volunteered as moderators. A huge take-away was the need for and importance of mentorship, particularly concerning experienced researchers with students and early-career scholars. An increased focus on AI, implementation science in community health, and partnerships between academic and community healthcare was identified as popular themes across the listening groups. <u>Sponsorship and Engagement</u> The Board discussed ways in which WIN could create opportunities for engaging with potential sponsors and future partners: • How can WIN identify organizations already partnering with members and institutions? • How can those relationships be leveraged into future sponsorship opportunities? • What approaches are other professional societies using to cultivate partnerships? Ideas included: • Sharing 2027 sponsor and exhibitor list with the Board for follow up. • Circulating the zoom background and WIN conference email badge in the next member newsletter. • Creating an honorary award for an institution doing outstanding work that benefits nursing research, allowing for development of a partnership. <u>Academy of American Nurses (AAN) Update</u> To date, the first meeting including regional presidents has not been scheduled.

Agenda Topic:	**Report of the Director**
	• Conference Direct continues to negotiate the 2029 WIN Conference – San Diego proposal on WIN's behalf. The site visit proved to be valuable for decision making, especially in terms of meeting space; • WIN has 52 Member Organizations for the 2026-2027 academic year, which includes 4 pending payment, 2 new organizations, and 1 non-renewal; • 4 nominations for the Board of Governor positions have been received to date. The deadline is November 1. • To date, the 60 x 60 campaign has raised $34,525; • To date, 2027 Conference Sponsorships total $30,000; • Bo recently met with the Executive Directors of the regional societies, with plans to meet each quarter. Some regionals are raising membership and conference registration fees. The office will share with the membership that WIN has not increased conference registration rates for five years. • Confex, the abstract management software that WIN has used for 19 years, will be replaced in 2027 for the 2028 conference. Five companies (Whova, Cadmium, Oxford Abstracts, Ex Ordo, and SessionBoard) have been demoed by Bo and Kelly. Building and migration to a new platform will begin no later than January 2027. • Bo has been researching and demoing board management software and reported that a platform will cost approximately $5,000 annually. The Board agreed to move forward with acquiring software but requested a demo of the platforms.

	• The PhD/DNP Collaboration and Clinical Networking Special Interest Group has requested a sunset, as the focus of the SIG has drifted from its original purpose. • Bo attended ASAE conference in Indianapolis, August 15-18.
ACTION:	Bo will share demos from OnBoard and Board Effect for the Board to review.
ACTION:	Bo will remove the PhD/DNP SIG from the WIN website and announce this news in the next newsletter.

Agenda Topic:	**Board Liaison Committee Updates**
	The Board received updates from the DEI, Development, and Research Committees and discussed opportunities to provide greater direction and to strengthen accountability. Guidance from the Board, with clearer expectations regarding outcomes and deliverables, was requested by the committee liaisons. Developing an exemplar document for distribution would support committee planning and reporting. Governance: As the PhD/DNP SIG has requested to sunset, the distinct tracks still need attention in conference programming, mentorship opportunities, and leadership. The idea of a PhD Governor of Education and a DNP Governor of Education was discussed. DEI: The committee has proposed a conference panel that includes five SIGs. The Board suggested broadening the scope in terms of SIG involvement and format to create more interactive and actionable engagement opportunities. The Board emphasized that DEI should remain a visible, organization-wide priority, with evidence-based approaches and practical application as drivers for engagement and action. Development: Discussion focused on clarification of responsibilities between fundraising, donor stewardship, sponsorship development, and anniversary celebration activities. Management of donor relationships should remain a core function of this committee, in addition to exploring how sponsorship opportunities intersect with membership and development efforts. Research: The Associate Deans for Research (ADR) continue to meet regularly to develop a follow-up paper to "The Best is Yet to Come."
ACTION:	Distribute the Conference Policies/Presenter Guidelines for Board review.

Agenda Topic:	**NEXus Lead Organization**
	NEXus is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2026, and WIN's five-year commitment to serving as the Lead Organization of NEXus ends this year. Because NEXus has its own finances, Executive Committee, and requires little of WIN staff's time, there are few risks associated with serving as the Lead Organization.
MOTION:	Dr. Coats moved to accept WIN's proposal to serve as the Lead Organization of NEXus for the next five years. Dr. Clark seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Agenda Topic:	**WIN Leadership Academy / Leveraging WAN**
	A WAN subcommittee reviewed and refined the Leadership Academy proposal. There was ongoing discussion surrounding who would oversee the Leadership Academy (WIN Board or WAN). Bo noted that he received no volunteers for WAN Chair or Chair-Elect, and efforts to formalize WAN remain challenging. The Board supported moving forward with the Leadership Academy but discussed eliminating the nine-month sessions and book club, perhaps incorporating monthly cohort meetings instead. Discussion included assigning each Academy participant (Emerging Leader) a Board and/or WAN mentor and including committee chairs in leadership development activities. The Board will continue to discuss the structure of the Academy but supported announcing the Academy at the 2027 conference. The Board was in full support of maintaining WAN's identity as an honorary society while utilizing its members as mentors, advisors, reviewers, and leadership development partners. Inviting WAN members to participate in meetings and mentoring activities, to assess WIN program outcomes, and to identify future Board nominees were identified as ways to leverage WAN's expertise.
ACTION:	Continue discussion in November. Bo and Dr. Clark will develop a Leadership Academy application using the other regional societies' applications for reference.

Agenda Topic:	**2027 Membership Assembly**
	The Board supported hosting a virtual Membership Assembly again in 2027. Better attendance, increased accessibility, and additional time on the in-person conference agenda were cited as reasons for holding the meeting virtually.
MOTION:	Dr. Nation moved to permanently hold the Membership Assembly virtually. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Agenda Topic:	**Paula Meek Dissertation Grant**
	Dr. Coats shared a grant opportunity, developed in collaboration with Suzanne Lareau, which provides a one-time award of $6,000 to support a doctoral student research grant in honor of Dr. Paula Meek. The Board considered whether the grant should be ongoing and agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.
MOTION:	Dr. Clark moved to accept the proposal to offer the Paula Meek Dissertation Grant in 2027. Dr. Daly seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Agenda Topic:	**WIN Governor Representative of Global Nursing Proposal**
	The Board considered a proposal by Dr. Schola Matovu to create a Board position for a Governor Representative of Global Nursing. As a regional research society, the Board did not believe the position would align with the mission of advancing nursing research in the West. The Board supported asking Dr. Matovu to consider a Global Nursing Special Interest Group.

Agenda Topic:	**Half-day Virtual WIN Member Colloquium**
	The Board reviewed a proposal for a half-day, virtual member colloquium and considered a series of questions surrounding such an opportunity, including interest, cost, capacity, and time of year. The Board suggested "colloquium" sounded too formal and supported "workshop" or "engagement session" instead.

	The Board also thought it might be better to start with a shorter, 90-minute agenda, similar to the recent NINR listening session (introductory remarks followed by breakout discussions and report backs). "AI in the Practice Setting" was proposed as a potential topic for a session in October 2027, and the Board suggested that presenters of AI sessions in the conference program could be approached to lead breakout discussions. The Board will continue discussion of a member engagement session during a future meeting.
ACTION:	

Agenda Topic:	**In-Person Board Meetings / Retreats**
	The Board discussed and supported holding shorter, more frequent meetings throughout the year, such as for two hours every two months. The Board considered whether more in-person meetings were needed, but noted the costs associated with bringing the Board together. Future in-person meetings/retreats could place more emphasis on relationship-building, team development, and strengthening collaboration among Board members.
ACTION:	The Board agreed to hold a two-hour meeting on November 18, 10 AM – 12 PM.

Agenda Topic:	**Review Revised WIN Goals from September 15, 2023**
	The Board reviewed the goals that were revised in September 2023 and supported removing the bullet points under each goal. The Board will continue to explore ways to assess Key Performance Indicators and to intentionally operationalize the goals into future work. The Board considered sharing the goals with the Membership Assembly for feedback.
ACTION:	Board liaisons should ask their respective committees how the committees are moving the goals forward. Dr. Coats will share the goals with the SIG chairs in November and ask if they align with their work and how they might operationalize them and measure outcomes.

Agenda Topic:	**Executive Session**
	The Board held its annual Executive Session from 3:30 – 4:45 PM.

Agenda Topic:	**Take 5**
	"Take 5" is a summary of the Board's 5 action items to work on until the next meeting:
ACTIONS:	**1. WIN NEEDS OUR NEXT LEADERS — CALL FOR NOMINATIONS** The call for nominations is coming for **four WIN Board positions:** President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Governor-at-Large, and Governor for Student Members. We need more members to step up and serve. Think about the talented people in your committee and across your WIN network. **Who should be at the Board table?** Encourage them to come forward—or nominate them! Also, our Development Committee needs new members! Do you have an interest—or even a little talent—in **fundraising, philanthropy, money, donor engagement, or endowments?** **2. WIN TURNS 60! — BELLEVUE, WA | APRIL 6–9, 2027** **Save the date!** Our 60th Anniversary Celebration is happening in **Bellevue, Washington, April 6–9, 2027**, and you will not want to miss this one. We were there and saw what a beautiful, vibrant city this was and know our members are

	going love it. The hotel is beautiful! We are planning a celebration worthy of 60 years of WIN—including a **Wednesday night dance party, anniversary swag, special surprises, and much more!** Tell your committee members to get. We especially need your help with our **60 for 60 Campaign: raising $60,000 in honor of WIN's 60th Anniversary.** Consider adding the new email logo to your signature line and feel free to scenic Bellevue WIN ZOOM background. **3. SEEKING YOUR HELP TO FIND NEW CONFERENCE VENDORS AND SPONSORS** We need your help in securing new vendors and sponsors for the 60th anniversary event. Maybe they would host a luncheon or the gala dance event. Do you have corporate relationships that you can introduce us to? Wouldn't it be great to have an exhibit hall that would include vendors and sponsors across education, practice and research…including AI and clinical technology? Please send your contact and referrals to a board member or to Bo Perry. We are even in discussion about considering offering future awards to those businesses and organizations who support WIN. **4. NO MORE PHD-DNP SIG** After many years, this group has decided to sunset. Interested and feeling inspired to form a new SIG? Let us know and we can share with you the SIG Charter requirements. **5. WIN GOALS ARE BEING REVIEWED AND REVISED** We are asking each of our committees and SIGs to share with us how they are meeting the three goals. Please help us map your actions so that we can better understand how you are assisting us to meet our mission and vision. Please get these back to your board liaison or to Bo Perry no later than December 31, 2026. 1: Structure opportunities to advance health equity in the West 2: Advance health by connecting, unifying, and supporting researchers, clinicians, and educators 3: Build capacity for nursing scholarship in research, practice, and education

Next Meeting:	Wednesday, November 18 – WebEx – 10 AM to 12 PM Pacific

Adjourn:	The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM Pacific.