



**NENA Federation Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**December 14, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
**Zoom Link:** <https://stockton.zoom.us/j/7769907736>

Tracy Michaud, presiding

**1. Meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.**

- Tracy Michaud, NENA president welcomed members and call the meeting to order.

**2. NENA Board Reports/Updates**

**a. President (Tracy Michaud)**

- Tracy reported that the NENA board and conference committee have been working on the spring conference and that registration will open soon – members are encouraged to register early for both the conference and the hotel room block.
- She also thanked members for participating in the Rise & Grind series.
- As president, she has been participating in various ICHRIE meetings with staff and other federation presidents. The ICHRIE board is exploring ways to increase revenue beyond membership and sponsorship, possibly through fundraising, including government grants, private foundation support and legacy giving (estate planning).

**b. Vice President (Noel Criscione-Naylor)**

- Noel began her report by acknowledging Jennifer Forney for her leadership of the conference committee. Together they are also working on revising the conference RFP, along with Donna Albano, Jeff Lolli and others. The revised RFP will have clearer guidelines for host colleges and should be ready soon. Members were encouraged to consider hosting the spring conference in 2026 and beyond.
- Conference submission portal is open and members were encouraged to reflect on the conference theme, “Attract, Engage, Retain,” and consider submitting proposals for papers, posters, rapid research, and professional or instructional workshops.
- She also noted that many members
- Noel also announced the dates for the 2025 conference, which will be held at Stockton University March 28-30, 2025.
- She also shared that she has been unable to participate in the ICHRIE Strategic Planning committee with other federation vice presidents due to a conflict with her teaching schedule. However, she maintains frequent communication and the VP’s are highly focused on summer conference attendance.

**c. Secretary (Tracy Michaud reporting for Maureen Gittelman)**

- The **minutes** of the July 23, 2023, NENA Federation meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

**d. Treasurer (Joseph Scarcelli)**

- Joe reported that the Federation’s financial position remains strong, as it has been for several years.
- The Promise Awards Scholarship applications were announced this this fall and have been steadily coming in; the application closes 12/15/23 and will be announced in early 2024.

**e. Director of Conferences and Events (Jennifer Forney)**

- Spring Jennifer gave an update on conference planning:

- ⇒ The hotel block is set and the registration link is active – see the NENA website ([www.nenachrie](http://www.nenachrie)) for details.
- ⇒ An optional Portland “foodie tour” will be available for an additional fee and can be reserved through the conference EventBrite link.
- ⇒ In addition to the board, Jen acknowledged the work of non-board committee members Christine Cleaver, Ruth O’Rourke, and Sean Bips and noted there is room for more volunteers – for this year or next year’s conference.
- ⇒ Jennifer reiterated Noel’s request to consider hosting the 2026 and 2027 conference.
- ⇒ Tracy Michaud added that the committee welcomes suggestions and introductions for prospective sponsors and noted that sponsorship offset the conference cost and helps keep registration under \$100.

**f. Director of Education (Ya-Ling Chen)**

- Ya-Ling began by thanking members for attending Rise & Grind workshops and noted that overall we’ve had an increase in participation and robust discussions.
- Three more Rise & Grind sessions are scheduled for the spring semester; dates and topics will be announced in early January.

**g. Director of Membership and Marketing (Frank Tsai)**

- Frank noted that he is working with Tracy and Jeff to secure conference sponsorships. Letters have been sent via email to member institutions and he and asked members to reach out to decision-makers at their schools to consider supporting the conference.
- He also invited members to send any news about their research, schools, programs, and student activities/achievements that can be shared via NENA’s social media channels.

**h. Director of Research (Markus Schuckert) – no report**

- In Markus’ absence, Tracy Michaud and Noel Criscione-Naylor reiterated that the call for submissions is open until January 15 and that the conference theme is timely and should resonate with every institute of higher education and business in the hospitality and tourism industry – all of us need to attract, engage, and retain both students and employees.
- It was suggested that undergraduates should be encouraged to submit conference proposals. Additionally, students in general are encouraged to attend; the committee is planning a student panel and several USM students are involved on the planning committee.

**i. Members-at-Large (Chuck Meitner) – no report**

**j. Immediate Past President (Jeff Lolli)**

- The call for nominations was sent out a few weeks ago and the Nominations Committee has been meeting to discuss and recruit candidates for the NENA board. There are four open positions: Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Director of Education, and Director of Conferences & Events. The final slate will be announced in mid-February after board approval and the election will run from February 15 – March 15.
- Jeff also noted that in early 2024 the board will announce applications for three NENA conference registration scholarships and later in the spring for the ICHRIE summer conference registration scholarships.

**k. Upcoming Conferences**

- **2024 NENA Spring Conference – University of Southern Maine, April 4-6, 2024**
  - ⇒ Tracy Michaud gave a final plug for the conference, highlighting the emerging food tourism scene in Portland, which has attracted a significant number of high-caliber chefs

in recent years. Attendees are encouraged to bring their appetites for the Friday afternoon lobster bake and Saturday foodie tour.

- 2024 ICHRIE Summer Conference – Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 26-26, 2024
- 2025 NENA Spring Conference – Stockton University, March 28-30, 2025
- **2025 ICHRIE Summer Conference – Indianapolis, IN**
  - ⇒ The conference will take place in June 2025 in conjunction with the Hospitality Industry Technology Exposition and Conference (HITEC).

3. **Old Business** - None

4. **New Business** - None

5. **Indigenous Beverage Demonstration**

- Noel Criscione-Naylor introduced Caroline Paras, a doctoral student at the University of Southern Maine who discussed and demonstrated a beverage indigenous to Maine's Wabanaki tribe.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.*

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### 12.14.23 Meeting Attendance

Jennifer	Aarons	Stockton University
Donna	Albano	Stockton University
Paul	Bagdan	Johnson & Wales University
Ya-Ling	Chen	SUNY Brockport
Christine	Cleaver	Temple University
Noel	Criscione-Naylor	Stockton University
Elisabeth	DeRose	Frederick Community College
Jennifer	Forney	SUNY Jamestown
Iris	Gersh	Fairleigh Dickinson
Rick	Lagrewski	Rochester Institute of Technology
Jeff	Lolli	Widner University
Forest	Ma	University of Southern Maine
Fred	Mayo	Retired
Chuck	Meitner	East Strousburg Univerity
Tracy	Michaud	University of Southern Maine
Caroline	Paras	University of Southern Maine
Joe	Scarcelli	York College of Pennsylvania
David	Schweiger	Northampton Community College
Michael	Tews	Penn State University
Frank	Tsai	Slippery Rock University

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