



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2026

Call to Order

Meeting convened at: 4:02 PST/ 7:02 EST

Attendance

In Attendance	Absent
Chloe Alexander Kati Bell Sharece Bunn Julianne Dunn Sandra Jacobs Madison Jansen Adrienne Johnson Taylor Reynolds Graham Salinger Natasha Wanchek Rebecca Wegscheid Cassie Brooks Cairns	Myroslava Fisun

E-Vote Records

No e-votes have been initiated or recorded since the last board meeting.

Approve Prior Minutes

- February 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve: Sharece
 - Second: Kati
 - Yay: 12
 - Nay: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - Absent: 1 (Myroslava Fisun)

Announcements

- AUA Google Group email address shortcut (please save!): aua2026board@allianceforukraine.org. You can use this email address to email all AUA board members at once.
- American Coalition for Ukraine: membership intake is currently on pause. AUA is not currently a member of the American Coalition for Ukraine.
- Becky confirmed that Sharece should remain the point person for ACU and is willing to help in terms of advocacy and communication efforts between AUA and ACU.

Kudos

- Taylor: for getting out the minutes
- Becky: Thanks to everyone helping with social media and newsletter content!
- Sandy: for nominating an alliance member for recognition!
- The deadline to submit committee updates, minutes, kudos for the April 2026 board meeting is **April 20, 2026!**

Committee Business

Pre-Submitted Committee Updates

☰ March 2026 Committee Updates

- **Committee Leads:** Updates are due the Friday before the board meeting. Next month, because our meeting is on a Saturday, the updates will be due on Monday, April 20, 2026. This document is for those updates that board members should know but that do not have to be shared aloud in the meeting.

Advocacy

- Becky: met with Nellie Petlick (Public Engagement Manager at Razom and RPCV)
- Learned more about efforts and goals of Razom
- Razom is prioritizing getting RPCV's involved during events
- Nellie sent info about doing an op-ed campaign in the lead up to Ukraine's Independence Day (Aug. 24th)
- Contact Becky if you're interested in helping!

Communications

- Focus right now is the Peremoha Auction for Action, coming up on April 23-26, 2026
- Mandi's effort in getting out the newsletter is appreciated!
- Remember: the deadline to submit newsletter items by the 15th of each month!
- Ongoing effort to cross promote like organizations continues.

Membership Engagement

- Membership team met a few weeks ago to discuss goals and ideas for 2026.
- 4 virtual events will take place this year.
- The committee is exploring new ways to get the word out about events since many people were not aware that they were happening, and thus, did not attend.

Possible Ideas for 2026:

- Op-ed event/webinars
- Partnering with RPCV Nexxus may be possible, incorporating fundraising would be a plus here
- Leaning into the academic panel idea that was discussed in the past.
- Watching movies, having cooking events, highlighting AUA during PC reunions, Ukrainian geography lessons.
- In person events via a provided toolkit may be an option (as opposed to Julianne leading multiple events all over the country)
- Calendar, photo/poetry contests
- Reels on socials to highlight Peremoha grants
- Member survey via ESJ committee may also be possible

NPCA Updates

- Adrienne met with NPCA representative about AUA applying for RUPPE award
- We won this award in 2022, so we are not currently eligible until 2027
- AUA can consider attending PC Connect Conference and hosting a table at the event.
- PC Connect Conference takes place July 18-19 in DC.
- Sandy is planning to go, Taylor is also interested in attending.
- We can vote on hosting a table in April's board meeting.

Equity & Social Justice

- We will loop back in April with updates. No updates were shared during this meeting.

Finance & Fundraising

- Chloe gave a financial update: noted a slower month in revenue
- **Balance:** \$32,396
- **Revenue:** \$1,171.56
- **Expenses:** \$284.03
- Disbursement of Round 9 Peremoha grants will deplete this current balance by about 50%

- Kati gave a fundraising update.
- The Peremoha Auction for Action is happening **April 23 - 26, 2026!**
- The Board is encouraged to donate items. You can sign up here (before March 20th): <https://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/topics/42348/events/163657>
- We use Bonfire for our merch: [Merch Store](#) . You can find aprons, totes, and tea towels here.
- Please complete the Merch Survey here: <https://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/topics/42348/events/163657>
- A fundraising competition may happen between the groups that served in Ukraine, stay tuned!

Babusya's Kitchen Update

- Sandy: The goal is not to replace in person sales with bookstore sales. She clarified that the team would just like to offer the book in more bookstores to increase community engagement in addition to the ongoing book sales generated by in person engagement and events.

- The BK team is willing to partner on any cooking events that we might have ideas for!

Impact/Grants

- Natasha: The Grants Committee met on March 1, 2026 to review applications for Round 9 of the Peremoha Grants.

- Raisa will work on promotional materials for Round 9 and connect to Becky about updating the newsletter
- Question raised: Should there be a maximum number of grants that any one RPCV/Organization can receive? We would need to be transparent if we introduce a limit.
- Humanitarian aid continues to be the priority for the committee right now.
- If anyone is interested in co-leading the next round of Peremoha grants, please contact Natasha!
- Natasha explained each grant that was recommended for funding.
- Chloe asked for clarification on approval of two similar projects: both projects were looking at providing funding for indirect support of ongoing projects.
- Natasha clarified that one project supports the work of a team specifically, one supports a team and an accessible office that supports the wider community in Ukraine. The space is not exclusively used by the team that applied for the grant.
- Natasha asked for feedback from the board to make sure that we agree on the interpretation of Juliet Sorensen's proposal correctly before finalizing the vote. Adrienne clarified that she and Raisa agreed that the proposal was not clear enough to move forward. The funding needs for the project were vague.
- Cassie departed the meeting early before the vote for Round 9 Peremoha Grants. She was marked absent for the vote.

Vote to Approve Round 9 Peremoha Grants

 March 2026 Committee Updates (Review Recommendations Here)

- Motion to approve: Sharece (to approve all grants recommended for funding)
- Second: Julianne
- Yay: 10
- Nay: 0
- Abstain: 1 (Natasha Wanchek, as her grant was included in the package)
- Absent: 2 (Myroslava Fisun & Cassie Brooks Cairns)

General Discussion Items

Topic #1: Ed Ma NPCA Award Nomination

- Sandy and Courtney have been working with Denise and John Capelli to nominate Ed Ma for the NPCA Sargent Shriver Distinguished Humanitarian Award!
- Letter: [Ed Ma Nomination Sargent Shriver Award Nomination](#)
- Final Nomination is due on March 15th!

Vote to Approve Ed' Ma's NPCA Award Nomination

- Motion to approve: Sharece
- Second: Julianne
- Yay: 11
- Nay: 0
- Abstain: 0
- Absent: 2 (Myroslava Fisun and Cassie Brooks Cairns)

Topic #2: 2026 AUA Work Plan

- Sharece: shared out the work plan last month to provide the board and committees more structure.
- Sharece requested feedback from the board on the workplan. This was due on February 28, 2026. She will send out specific work plan items to committee leads this week and will give a deadline for feedback/confirmation. After receiving feedback, Sharece will finalize the work plan.
- The annual survey is moving back to the ESJ community.
- We're removing the RPCVNexus collaboration event from the work plan for this year.
- Regional Events will be shared with the whole board.
- How to do the work plan: add data to tracking sheets for the Director of Strategic Planning. (This will aid in spreading the work among everyone and make the annual report much easier for all in the long run!)

Action Items

- Sharece: Share out work plan items to committee leads.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 5:40 PST/ 8:40 EST

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on: **April 25, 2026** at 8 am PST / 11 am EST. This will be an open board meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Please add your initials and the date when you have read the minutes:

Board Member	Initials	Date Read
Chloe Alexander	CBA	15 April 2026
Kati Bell	KB	16 March 2026
Cassie Brooks Cairns	N/A	20 March 2026
Sharece Bunn	SMB	12 March 2026
Julianne Dunn	JBD	31 March 2026
Myroslava Fisun	MF	8 March 2026
Sandy Jacobs	SMJ	13 March 2026
Madison Jansen	MJ	23 April 2026
Adrienne Johnson	AJ	3/22/2026
Taylor Reynolds	TTR	3/10/26
Graham Salinger	GS	25 April 2026
Natasha Wanchek	NW	3/22/26
Becky Wegscheid	RLW	4/7/2026

Addendum

- Sharece: I made a few edits for clarity. Someone asked me to clarify why I am removing the RPCVNexus collaboration action item from the work plan. After consulting with Sandy about BK team specific work items in the work plan, we agreed that taking this collaboration out of the work plan for 2026 makes sense. She noted that RPCVNexus is working on collaborations with many different groups. If someone is interested in making another event with them this year, that is totally fine. However, I'm removing it from the work plan so we can focus on the items that people had more energy to do.