NCSC September Minutes

Governing Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 8th, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 10:31 AM

Attendees: Sherry S., Alyssa F., Elena C., Rachel K., Rachel M., Patti A., Jodi L., Emily B., Cristina, Aalana L., Sarah H., Candy M., Hannah, Jaden S., Savannah V., Jess B., Sarah K.

Advisor: Sherry Shaw

President: Alyssa Faughnan

New Business:
- We were presented with the opportunity to partner with the Red Cross Giving Day Blood Drive Tuesday, Dec 1. In addition to sponsoring a blood drive, NCSC would coordinate volunteers to deliver acts of kindness such as: delivering donuts to the fire stations, writing holiday cards for Veterans, and more. These endeavors are funded by various grants and corporations; NCSC would be the boots on the ground to make them happen.
- Samaritan wants to know if we'd like to sponsor a tree for their Festival of Trees, which would entail choosing a theme and decorating a tree, and/or sending volunteers to help run the event.
- I'm meeting with MoveNY on Wednesday to discuss what collaborating together could look like.
- Cristina has joined us as historian!

Old Business:
- HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out at the Sackets Harbor Marathon!!
- I still need to talk to Julie Halpin to finish getting our events on the My Army Post App
- No date for new CG COC or Spouse welcome
- No update from MWR on revalidation, though all of our events have been approved

Vote Needed: none
Income: None
Expenses: None

Board Position: Membership
New Business:
- We have 94 members!
- I have an applicant for membership (Olivia Reynolds), but she had to reschedule our meeting; new meeting date is this week!

Old Business:

-I will bring birthday koozies to give to August/September birthdays
Vote needed:None
Income:None
Expenses:None

Volunteer hours: 40

Added Notes: Should specify whether children are allowed at and at which volunteer opportunities. For the Red Cross event, we would need 10-15 volunteers. November 27-December 6 is the week for the Samaritan Festival of Trees. They will provide a tree and we will decorate it to be auctioned. Elena and Jodi will spearhead the tree decoration. We can also volunteer during the event itself. Sponsored membership tier will be added to the membership form.

1st Vice President: Elena Comiskey

New Business:

Fundraising Committee Meeting

Monday, September 28th, 6pm at my house (bring your kids if childcare is an issue)

- Will be covering fundraising goals, how to solicit donations, and brainstorm ideas

Can Drive

- We are filling out the paperwork to open an account with Griffs (I believe both locations, Carthage & Watertown, will be accessible to us.) They do a direct deposit to our account which feels more sustainable than a cash only system.
- We currently have an account at Make Cents Redemption Center 904 Leray St, Watertown, NY

'Account' means there is an envelope with "North Country Spouses Club" on it and any receipts for cans dropped off go into it. They hand over cash to the designated pickup person. I don't love this option for cash flow purposes.

Old Business:

North Country Gala: Saturday April 3, 2027 @ Sally Port View in Three Mile Bay

It is time to start soliciting donations (from any business that did not donate already in 2026). Our first focus is on seasonal businesses.

Google Drive Folder "NCSC Donations Documents" {Link Here} Use these resources anytime you want to help collect donations. This will be shared with our Fundraising

Committee also.

1. Donation Q&A Document – Internal doc to address some questions you or our members may have about soliciting donations
2. 2026/7 Donation Tracker – Google Sheet with active list of businesses to contact
3. Donation Letter & Form – The paperwork you need when visiting businesses to ask for donations

First Proceed Night is Tuesday, October 3rd at Chipotle (in Watertown)

Vote Needed: None

Income: N/A

Expenses: N/A

Volunteer hours (only if you did not enter them into VMIS yourself): 13

2nd Vice President: Rachel Klahs

New Business:
As of this report we have 21 tickets sold. Please help spread the word to get those sales up! Let me know if you have anything to include in club business.

Event Flow:
10:30 Begin Setup
11:00 doors open and guests find their name tags and mingle
11:30 Welcome everyone, grab food, and find seats (tables of 8-10)
11:45 Club Business and Community Outreach

- *Can and bottle drive (Elena Presents)*
- *Chipotle fundraiser 10/3 (Elena)*
- *Upcoming Sub club events*
- *Possibly discuss merch*
- *Scholarship requirements listed*
- *Volunteer Opportunities–craft club co-chair (Alyssa)*
- *Voting on the budget*
- *Thrift Shop Community Outreach*

12:00 Favorite Things Game
12:45 Opportunity Prize drawings
Group Picture
1:00 Thank everyone for coming, plug for next month's social

Please let me know if you can come before or stay after for help with setup. We have a 30 minute time period before and after.

Old Business:
Paperwork should be all submitted. Discussed ballroom sizes with Abby at the Peak, and it was agreed that we can confirm final numbers and change the ballroom size at the time of the final RSVP count in case we need extra space. The smaller ballroom holds 50 comfortably.

Vote Needed: None

Income:

Expenses:

Volunteer hours (only if you did not enter them into Vmis yourself): 20

Added Notes: Event tickets sold: 30 as of this moment. Hannah, Elena, Alyssa, Rachel M., Jodi all can be there for setup. Merch pickup may or may not be at the social.

Secretary: Morgan Sims

New Business:
-Need to discuss birthday cards/koozies

Old Business:
-Will upload approved August minutes to MWR
-Please continue to do your best to get your board reports to me on time 🙂

Vote Needed: Need to approve August meeting minutes
Income:N/A
Expenses: N/A
Volunteer hours: 6

Vote: To approve August Meeting Minutes
Motion: Elena
Second: Rachel M.
All in favor: 12 (Unanimous)

Added Notes: Birthday cards will be sent to everyone for their birthday month, and the koozies will be handed out at the monthly socials.

Publicity: Rachel McBride

New Business:
October newsletter updates due by the 15th.
Please help spread the word about the Chipotle fundraiser & other volunteer opportunities.
Continue to like, share, and comment on our socials.
I have been going through Instagram and Facebook to follow different businesses and groups in the area. If sub clubs meet off post, please be sure to snap a picture or two so we can post/tag them and show our thanks..
Looking to update the website with our 26-27 scholarship requirements to give applicants some lead time ahead of the holidays/application window.

Old Business:
Will order more NCSC stickers once the budget is approved.
I hope to have NCSC Merch in hand by the September social.

Vote Needed: N/A
Income:N/A
Expenses: N/A
Volunteer hours: 28

Treasurer: Nicole Anupol

New Business:
- August finance statements completed and submitted to MWR.
- NCSC Bond renewed - we should be expecting a hard copy to come in the mail.
- Cheddarup account has been downgraded to a free account. Most existing events will stay in Cheddarup. Events that were using paid features had to be deleted. I downloaded event data and have them saved in the Treasurer g-drive in case we need it for anything in the future.
- Budget Meeting was held on 8/20 (Board Attendees: Nicole Anupol, Patti Agard, Rachel McBridge, Elena Cominskey, Non Board Attendees: Paige Downing, Jen Ragsdale, Brooke Leonelli). No major budget changes requested. A copy of the tentative budget to be presented at the Sept. social is attached.
- Open House prize ordered

Old Business:
None

Vote Needed: -
Income: -
Expenses: -
Volunteer hours: 20

Vote: Approve the NCSC Budget for the 2026-2027 year
Motion: Jodi
Second: Elena
All in favor: 12 (Unanimous)

Parliamentarian: Patti Agard

New Business:
Constitution Revision Meeting Update: November 13. Details will be shared in the October and November board meetings.
Old Business:
Please update the constitution and by-laws in your binder- if you did not get them from me last month, I have your copies. Keep reviewing your AAR from last year.

Vote Needed: N/A
Income:N/A
Expenses: N/A
Volunteer hours: 29 hours

Community Outreach: Aalana Lacewell

New Business:
October's Community Outreach initiative will support the Watertown Urban Mission. Their shelves are running extremely low and are currently in need of canned goods, peanut butter, pasta & rice, boxed meals, cereal, juice, and hygiene items. Still waiting to hear back if someone possibly wants to come speak at our October social.

Old Business: None

Vote Needed:None

Income:None

Expenses: none

Volunteer hours: 14

Donations Coordinator: Savannah Van Slyke

New Business:
-None

Old Business:
-None

Vote Needed: N/A
Income:N/A
Expenses: N/A
Volunteer hours: 10 (will enter into VMIS this week)

Added: Elena is setting up the first fundraising meeting, so please attend if you can!

Historian: Cristina Pantoja

-New board member!!!! Welcome to the crew!

Hospitality: Yornalis Loblack

New Business:
None

Old Business:
For the September social we have:

- -wreath donated by Mona
- -30 min express facial donated by Bare & Bougie Beauty Studio
- -$25 gift certificate to Burville Cidermill and a serving platter
- -one or two more prizes, working on the idea

Vote Needed: None
Income: None
Expenses: Will have total spent by September 20th
Volunteer hours:

Added Notes: Will take pictures of prizes to be included in the social reminder email by September 12.

Membership: (board position open)

ODYD: Emily Buennemeyer

New Business: None

Old Business: Deployed Dresses: 17 / Donated Dresses: 55

Vote Needed: None
Income: None
Expenses: None
Volunteer hours (only if you did not enter them into Vmis yourself): 15

Added Notes: Committee is going well. Hours are still being adjusted to hopefully start including evening hours.

Property Manager: Mona Alfaro

New Business:
-None

Old Business:
-None

Vote Needed: N/A
Income:N/A
Expenses: N/A
Volunteer hours: 15

Added Notes: reservation link for property is active and we have received $280 in donations so far!

Reservations: Hannah Mueller

New Business: as of 2:05pm on 9/6/26 we have 27 RSVPs to the Favorite Things Tea. Ordering new name tags that are smaller than what we currently have.

Old Business: none

Vote Needed: none

Income: $0.00

Expenses: $0.00

Volunteer hours: Logged them in VMIS - 9 hrs

Retiree Representative: Jessica Bowline

-No report received

Scholarships: Lindsey Wencl and Sarah Kukesh

New Business:
None

Old Business:
None

Vote Needed: None

Income: N/A

Expenses: None

Volunteer hours: LW: 4; SK: 3

Added Notes: Will start putting together information so it's all ready to go by December.

Social: Candy Marr & Sarah Hatchett

New Business:
We want to do a monthly contest between clubs to help community outreach and are wanting to know what our budget for prizes can be.

Old Business:
We are still working hard to approve members into Facebook groups in a timely manner. We had a meeting with all the leads to discuss our expectations of them and their expectations of us.

Vote Needed: n/a

Income: n/a

Expenses: n/a

Volunteer Hours:
Candy-32
Sarah- 18

Added Notes: Will reach out to Aalana and Nicole to meet and discuss the community outreach ideas. Co-lead for craft club is requested. Discussed information shared on the main Facebook

page about sub-club events. A schedule of events will be posted at the beginning of the month on the main page, and then each sub-club group posts their events individually. Flyers for sub-club events can be shared via the newsletter.

Volunteer Coordinator: Jaden Sargent

New Business:
Reminder to register in VMIS if you have
not already.

1. Go to vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com
2. Create/Register account
    a. Create email/password
    b. Will send token and link to email, follow the instructions of that email
    c. Log in
3. Main Menu of account will have three lines in top right corner, can navigate to VMIS through there if you are not already there
4. Left hand menu, select ***Opportunities***
5. Search ***your position title (ex: I would search "volunteer coordinator")***
    a. Make sure the organization is listed as ***North Country Spouses' Club***
    b. Click the correct position, select apply, will open another pop up, select apply again, you should get a pop up confirming submission (I will have to accept/approve application)

This September, we will be collecting donations for the ***Fort Drum Food Pantry*** at our social. In addition to this, the Fort Drum Food Pantry has several volunteer needs, including a coat drive and general staffing for their food/diaper pantry. For the coat drive specifically they are looking for volunteers to help the thrift shop with sorting, hanging, and organizing to prepare for the coat distribution as well as volunteers for the coat distribution dates. If interested in assisting, here are the sign up links:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAA922A2FEC25-65175282-food

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAA922A2FEC25-65258495-coat

Old Business: We had 2 volunteers at the food pantry and about 20 at the Sackets Harbor Marathon. Thank you all who came out. Reminder you can still sign up for food pantry and coat drive above.

Vote Needed: none

Income: ***AT LEAST $200*** from marathon, will wait to hear result of voting (question for Alyssa, do I need to follow up with Shelly on that or will she work directly with Nicole or you or what are next steps?)

Expenses: n/a

Volunteer hours: n/a

Added Notes: Volunteer of the quarter ceremony will be November 13 at 2PM at the Peak. We had a great presence and feedback at the Sackets Harbor Marathon water station!

Meeting End Time: 11:26AM