

These minutes received unanimous approval by the IRE Executive Committee on February 27, 2023, via email.

- Hinkle moved for approval on February 27, 2023, via email.
- Galli seconded that motion and voted “yes” on February 27, 2023, via email.

IRE Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 27, 2023 | Meeting via Zoom

Vice President Cindy Galli called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. CST.

Secretary Josh Hinkle called roll:

- Executive Committee members present: At-Large Director Jodie Fleischer, Vice President Cindy Galli, Secretary Josh Hinkle and Treasurer Brian Rosenthal
 - Other IRE Board members present (silently observing or speaking when recognized): Lam Thuy Vo

Executive Session

Hinkle made a motion to enter executive session at 2:35 p.m. CST. Galli seconded the motion, which then received unanimous approval from committee members by voice vote.

- Committee members discussed this week’s NICAR Conference in Nashville and safety concerns expressed by some members in light of recent actions by Tennessee lawmakers.
 - President Mark Walker joined the meeting at 2:51 p.m. CST. Galli turned control of the meeting over to Walker at that time.
 - Director Aaron Kessler joined the meeting to observe at 2:52 p.m. CST.

Hinkle made a motion to exit executive session at 3:05 p.m. CST. Galli seconded the motion, which then received unanimous approval from committee members by voice vote.

Treasurer Brian Rosenthal made a motion to approve posting the following public statement online ahead of the NICAR Conference. At Large Board Member Jodie Fleischer seconded the motion, which then received unanimous approval from committee members by voice vote.

Statement from the 2022-23 IRE Executive Committee:

This week, IRE is holding its annual data journalism conference in Nashville. Some members have expressed concern about their safety in light of recent actions by lawmakers in Tennessee. Today, the IRE Executive Committee issued the following statement:

IRE is committed to serving and supporting all its members and maintaining a safe, discrimination-free organization where everyone can learn and be supported professionally.

IRE is also dedicated to evolving its practices to create a more diverse and inclusive community. We believe discrimination based on gender identity or expression is damaging. IRE should be a space for all members to thrive, including trans, non-binary and gender diverse people.

If you are feeling unsafe during the conference, please seek out an IRE [staff](#) or [board](#) member for further assistance. They are there to help.

We will continue listening to all members, responding to their input, and working to improve our trainings, conferences and other events with those perspectives in mind. IRE also has a [Code of Conduct](#) to address complaints of discriminatory or harassing behavior. We encourage members to reach out to the IRE [board](#) or [executive director](#) with further questions, and please review the organization's [recent DEI initiatives](#) for additional details.

Thank you.

-IRE Board of Directors Executive Committee

The committee agreed Walker would direct IRE Executive Director Diana Fuentes to post the statement on the organization's website as soon as possible and ask her to reference the issue in her welcome remarks at the upcoming conference.

Walker made a motion at 3:07 p.m. CST to adjourn the meeting. Galli seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval of committee members by voice vote.