Arkansas School Counselor Association

ArSCA Board Meeting MINUTES

May 13, 2026

Zoom

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Theme: Be the Spark

Attendance (voting members in **BOLD**) ☐ present			
☐	**Dr. Jennifer Lyle,** ArSCA President	☐	**Nick Williams**, Central Region President Hannah Gorman, Central President Elect
☐	**Jane Stewart,** ArSCA President Elect	☐	**Shayne Thompson,** North Central Region President
☒	**Kelli Dockery**, ArSCA Past President		**Katie French,** Northeast Region President
☐	**Marisa Snow,** Elementary Vice President (odd year '25-'27)	☐	**Karon Parrish,** Northwest Region President
	Samantha Tilley, Middle/Jr. High Vice President (even year '24-'26)	☐	**Bernie Roberts,** Southeast President Elect
☐	**A. Michelle Williams,** Secondary Vice President (odd year'25-'27)	☐	**Jana McWhorter**, Southwest President Allie Sage, Southwest President Elect
☐	**Pam Dixon,** Post-Secondary Vice President (even year '24-'26)		
☐	Susie Harvison, Office Manager & Professional Development	☐	Donna Wilchie, Secretary & Hospitality Leslie Walden, Historian
	Lindsay Ledgerwood Reed, DESE Program Director Morgan Weigand, DESE Public School Program Advisor	☐ ☐ ☐	Angela Millard, Human Rights Angela Jones, Ethics Cynthia Cochran, Membership
	Finance: Past President & Treasurer	☐	Susan Whatley, Public Relations & Advocacy/Social Media Lauren Harris, Public Relations & Advocacy
	Michele Lewis, Grant Writer Debbie Drake, Critical Incident & Crisis Response Karon Parish, Public Policy & Legislation	☐ ☐	Terri Callaway, Conference Cochair Allison Spraggins, Conference Cochair
☐	Technology/Website: Heather Barron Tahnee Bowen Dr. Robin Finley Rhonda Jones Becky Lowery Megan Reese Tawyna Shelton		***Vacant Positions:*** Research
	Additional Attendees:		

I. Call to Order/Roll Call
Meeting called to order by President Dr. Jennifer Lyle at 4:10pm (11 voting, 9 nonvoting)

II. Announcements/Reminders
a. Reminder - newsletter assignments ArSCA Newsletter Assignments/Content Guidelines - Google Sheets
Reminders are only listed for those who submit items to the newsletter monthly, not for discussion.

III. Approval of Minutes – Donna Wilchie (PDF emailed and link to view in Google)
April 8, 2026 Board Minutes
Motion #2 by Michelle Williams and seconded by Shayne Thompson to approve the April 8th board minutes. (all in favor)

IV. Financial Report – January, February and March documents shared via email
Motion #3 by Jana McWhorter and seconded by Nick Williams to approve the April 8th board minutes. (all in favor)

V. Region News & Reports - please submit to the president or secretary for the agenda or share "no report"
a. CENTRAL REGION - Nick Williams
b. NORTH CENTRAL REGION - Shayne Thompson
c. NORTHEAST REGION - Katie French
d. NORTHWEST REGION - Karon Parish
e. SOUTHEAST REGION - Bernie Roberts
f. SOUTHWEST REGION - Jana McWhorter

VI. Additional Committee Reports
a. None to report at this time (updates in old business)

VII. New Business
a. LDI update - Dr. Jennifer Lyle (July 31 - August 1st UofA Grad School)
A committee will be formed at LDI to review the Bylaws, which will be sent to ASCA and to the membership at the following conference. Board members are asked to look over the handbook and send updates.

b. Legislative update - Jeffery Hall - added to the newsletter

c. Contracts - Dr. Jennifer Lyle
Anyone paid over $600 needs a contract. The payment to our lobbyist should also include a contract or a 1099 if payment is received.
Motion #6 by Karon Parrish and seconded by Jane Stewart to approve that those who make over $600 must have an annual contract.

d. Newsletter - Dr. Jennifer Lyle
Lindsey with DESE would like ArSCA to rejoin them to work on the newsletter as a group, as a partnership.
Motion #4 by Kelli Dockery and seconded by Bernie Roberts to table the decision of giving DESE control of the newsletter. ArSCA will consider publishing the newsletter in August/September, October, February, March, and April.

Dr. Finley stated she will give us one year before she makes a request to charge for doing that service. Some members stated assisting with it later. Jane Stewart was acknowledged for her great work with projects such as this.

VIII. Old Business

a. Handbook Update - Dr. Jennifer Lyle
President Lyle would like to specify the years of experience and specify for the COY.
Motion #7 by Jane Stewart and seconded by to change the COY to merge numbers 2 and 4 - to change the school counselor of the year nomination form to state a minimum of 5 years experience in school counseling with a standard license in school counseling by the Arkansas Dept of Education (all in favor)

b. School Counselor of the Year (SCOY) Update - Allison Spraggins
Elementary COY - Lashona Crater
Middle/Jr High COY - Jessica Ashcraft
High School COY - Carie Brooks
The overall winner will be announced at the conference.

c. Hugh Lovett Scholarship Update - Secondary VPs Michelle Williams
The re-vote occurred because those who applied had not started a graduate program. There was a tie with a tiebreaker established.
Motion #1 by Kelli Dockery and seconded by Shayne Thompson for the Hugh Lovett recipient to receive conference registration/membership and one additional complimentary meal for a guest.

d. Budget Committee - Kelli Dockery

1. Budget
Motion #5 by Kelli Dockery (on behalf of the Budget Committee) and seconded by Jane Stewart to provide a hotel room on the Friday night before LDI for board VPs that live 3 hours or more from the LDI destination/location. (all in favor)

2. Stipend May 2026 - December 2026 -This will be addressed at a future meeting.

e. Conference Committee Update - Terri Callaway
ArSCA Conference June 29 – July 1, 2026 Hot Springs, AR
Registrations received after Friday, June 5th, will not be guaranteed a conference t-shirt or meal. Forty-six days away from the conference with 385 attendees, including exhibitors. Regional presidents are asked to share the soda tab collection for AR Children's Hospital and bring items for the silent auction. Regional meetings will be held on Tuesday from 1:00 -1:30 pm. Regions are responsible for their region COY plaques. Jane Stewart will send volunteer times to the regions to sign up and request membership to assist. VPs are responsible for facilitating the share sessions on Monday, 4:30 -5:20 pm, the only sessions during that time. The conference at a glance will be ready in the next week or two. Helpers, please arrive Sunday afternoon to help with preparation. Monday morning helpers are encouraged as well.

IX. Adjournment - Motion #8 by Karon Parish and seconded by Nick Williams to adjourn at 5:56pm (all in favor)

X. The Board of Directors voted electronically on May 14th to finish the Budget Committee.
Motion #9 by Kelli Dockery and seconded by Bernie Roberts to pay Donna Wilchie a stipend of $300 a month from May 2026 - December 2026 from the conference fund account. (all in favor)

Future Meetings
ArSCA Board Meetings:

2026-2027 TBD
Lunch and mileage will be provided when meeting in person.
If meetings are face-to-face, there will be a hybrid option for those who cannot attend in person.

ArSCA Conference June 29 – July 1, 2026 Hot Springs, AR **Theme: Be the Spark**
ASCA National Conference July 11-14, 2026 New Orleans, LA

ArSCA LDI August 1st UofA Graduate School 8am-4pm
-President's Retreat July 31st Fayetteville

ArSCA Conference June 28 – 30, 2027 Hot Springs, AR
ASCA National Conference July 17-20, 2027 Columbus, OH

ASCA National Conference June 24-27, 2028 Seattle, WA

ASCA National Conference July 14-17, 2029 Charlotte, NC