

Neighbors Link Board of Directors Meeting

April 13, 2026

Participating in the meeting were Nancy Bauer, Carola Bracco, Elisa Burns, Jelane Caspar, Kevin Conroy, James Fenimore, Wendy Gardner, Stuart Marwell, Julie Muniz, Christopher Robinson, Raymond Sanchez, Joel Seligman, Tracy Stein, Mary Weiss and Teresita Wisell. Joining on Zoom were Steven Bloom, Cynthia Brill and Robert Newborn. Staff members Genesis Managual, Jeanette Gisbert, Kathy Thorsberg and Adrienne Vogel were also in attendance.

Elisa welcome everyone and noted that due to the Power of Community event and the board retreat scheduled in May, the May 11 board meeting is cancelled.

The March minutes were approved.

Staff members Cynthia Paz (ESOL Program Coordinator) and Margarita Zambrano (Senior Manager of Client Support Services) shared some client stories. Cynthia spoke about a client who was applying to become a citizen. Through dedication and perseverance and the support of the Neighbors Link instructors, she passed the newly updated citizenship test with flying colors. Margarita discussed a client who was the victim of human trafficking and was in removal proceedings because she missed a court date. When the woman was released in a remote area alone and with no resources, the Neighbors Link legal team reached out to the NL client services team and our rapid response partners and was able to contact her family and find a safe place for her to stay until they arrived. This underscores the importance and effectiveness of collaboration among the different departments at Neighbors Link.

Cynthia reported on current events. There have been increased obstacles for immigrants in the housing, financial and education spheres. Many immigration judges have been dismissed and there have been more deportations and fewer individuals are being granted asylum. The birthright citizenship issue continues to be considered by the Supreme Court. Third country deportations continue. There are currently over 600,00 immigrants in ICE detention.

Carola presented her Executive Director's report. Debbie Hubbe is retiring and her responsibilities will be assumed by Anne Marie Curreri. Carola credited Debbie with enabling Neighbors Link to take on more government grants. The NY State Bar Association has expressed support for the NY for All legislation and Karin Anderson Ponzer was integral to writing the report that inspired their support. Carola noted that as a result of Neighbors Link's continued efforts in community outreach and engagement, we are are well known and respected in the community.

In the programming area, Neighbors Link is offering OSHA training for workers, parent education programs in collaboration with the Katonah Museum, mental health training for parents and legal clinics throughout the county.

Chris presented the finance report and noted that we have had a very good first quarter. Revenues are over budget and expenses are on target.

The board passed a motion to approve the proposed document retention policy.

Jeanette gave an update on our partnership with ReSet. As their fiscal sponsor we provide financial oversight and ensure compliance through monthly meetings. They have a wonderful, engaged board. Last year they worked with eight families and are currently working with two families. They are exploring the possibility of reaching out to families who have graduated. They are working to keep their volunteers engaged and hope to deepen their partnership with Neighbors Link.

Adrienne and Jelane reported on development. Jelane thanked the board for stepping up to support the spring event on May 20. Foundation grant work is going well. The development team continues to work on government grants but also stressed that the support of individuals and foundations is crucial. After the Immigrant Empowerment Campaign some donors are continuing to give at a higher level. The volunteer appreciation event is Wednesday, April 22 and the board is invited and encouraged to attend.

The board retreat is scheduled for Friday, May 29 from 8-12. The decision to have a retreat evolved from the responses on the board survey. It will provide an opportunity for more thoughtful and in-depth discussion. Omar will be the facilitator for the retreat. This is not meant to rewrite the strategic priorities that were approved in 2022, just to provide an opportunity to re-examine them.

Wendy reported on behalf of the governance committee and reiterated the committee's decision to rotate committee membership and leadership very four years. Committees will be reorganized at the end of this year.

The board met in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Bauer