

Note: On March 27, Secretary Ana Ley made a motion via email to approve these minutes. It was seconded by Treasurer Mark Greenblatt and received 11-0 approval on March 27. No vote was recorded from Paroma Soni or Marina Villeneuve.

IRE Board of Directors

Board Meeting Agenda via Zoom

March 22, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. CT

Board members in attendance: President Josh Hinkle, Vice President Kate Howard, Treasurer Mark Greenblatt, Secretary Ana Ley, At-Large Member Alejandra Cancino, Chair of the Board Brian Rosenthal, Mary Hudetz, Paroma Soni, Cindy Galli, Jodie Fleischer, Caresse Jackman, Andy Lehren.

Staff members in attendance: Lauren Grandestaff, Francisco Vara-Orta, Amy Eaton, Laura Moscoso, Chris Vachon, Heather Feldmann Henry, Benét J. Wilson, Krista Sporleder, Adam Rhodes, Aaricka Washington, Cody Winchester.

Note on Guests: Because a large number of members attended the meeting, they were asked to share their comments via the Zoom chat feature. Many of those comments have been posted to [a memorial page dedicated to Diana Fuentes](#) on the IRE website.

After board members and staff shared memories of Diana Fuentes, IRE's late executive director, for about an hour, President Josh Hinkle called the meeting to order at 2:51 p.m. CT. Secretary Ana Ley called roll.

Action Items:

Ring of Honor Nomination for Diana Fuentes¹

President Josh Hinkle presented a proposal for the board and staff of IRE to nominate Fuentes to the Ring of Honor. The group held a roll call vote 12-0 in favor of the nomination, with Marina Villeneuve absent.

¹ **Ring of Honor Nomination for Diana Fuentes:** Submitted by Josh Hinkle, IRE Board President – josh.hinkle@kxan.com; Kate Howard, IRE Board Vice President – khoward@revealnews.org; Mark Greenblatt, IRE Board Treasurer; Ana Ley, IRE Board Secretary; Alejandra Cancino, IRE Board At-Large Member; Brian Rosenthal, IRE Board Chair; Jodie Fleischer, IRE Board; Cindy Galli, IRE Board; Mary Hudetz, IRE Board; Caresse Jackman, IRE Board; Andy Lehren, IRE Board; Paroma Soni, IRE Board; Marina Villeneuve, IRE Board (NOTE: Did not cast vote); Lauren Grandestaff, IRE Deputy Executive Director; Amy Eaton, IRE Director of Member Services; Heather Feldmann Henry, IRE Financial Officer; David Herzog, IRE Director of Data & Research Services; Laura Kurtzberg, Training Director; Laura Moscoso, Training Director; Adam Rhodes, Managing Editor & Training Director; Krista Sporleder, Program Coordinator; Chris Vachon, Conference Manager; Francisco Vara-Orta, Director of Diversity & Inclusion; Aaricka Washington, Marketing & Communications Specialist; Benét Wilson, Training Director; Cody Winchester, Director of Technology & Online Resources

Appointment of Interim Leadership²

Hinkle made a motion to enter executive session at 2:59 p.m. CT so that the group could discuss the appointment of interim leadership after Fuentes' unexpected death on March 20, 2026. Rosenthal seconded and then the Board voted in favor by voice vote. Hinkle then moved to close executive session at 3:49 p.m. and Hudetz and Soni seconded; the group then approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

The group announced that during executive session, the board had favored a proposal to appoint Deputy Executive Director Lauren Grandestaff to the position of interim executive director and Director of Diversity & Inclusion Francisco Vara-Orta to the position of interim deputy executive director effective March 22, 2026. Hinkle and Howard said they had consulted with Grandestaff and Vara-Orta to make sure both felt comfortable temporarily taking on a leadership position.

The board held a vote at 3:59 p.m. CT, with Hinkle making the motion to approve that proposal and Howard, Lehren and Rosenthal seconding. The group approved the proposal with a 12-0 vote, with Villeneuve absent.

Hinkle made a motion to adjourn at 4 p.m. CT and Greenblatt seconded. The group voted by voice vote to adjourn.

² **Appointment of Interim Leadership:** Following the unexpected death of IRE Executive Director Diana Fuentes on March 20, 2026, the IRE Board of Directors appoints Deputy Executive Director Lauren Grandestaff to the position of interim executive director and Director of Diversity & Inclusion Francisco Vara-Orta to the position of interim deputy executive director effective March 22, 2026, until a new, permanent executive director is named – at which point Grandestaff and Vara-Orta will resume their previous roles. In the interim, they will receive supplemental monthly pay for additional responsibilities assumed.