



RSAI Minutes - 2026 Regional Meetings SW Region – 04/01/2026

RSAI Region	Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Regional Representative
SW Region	04/01/2026	Green Hills AEA 212 E Coolbaugh St Red Oak	11:45 Lunch; 12 Meeting	Ron Lorenz

Attendees:

Jason Shaffer, Bedford & Mount Ayr
 Pam Stangeland, CAM & Nodaway Valley
 Jeff Privia, Clarinda & South Page
 Joe Erickson, Corning & Villisca
 Deron Stender, Creston
 Tim Kuehl, East Union & Murray
 Nicole Kooiker, Glenwood
 David Henrchs, Griswold & Lenox
 Jenny Barnett, Harlan
 Christi Gochenour, Missouri Valley
 Ron Lorenz, Red Oak
 Angela Huseman, Tri-Center and IKM-Manning
 Jason Plourde & Kerry Newman, Green Hills AEA
 Margaret Buckton & Dave Daughton, RSAI

RSAI Region Representatives

SW Region (Ron Lorenz)
term expires Sept. 2028

NW Region (Justin Daggett)
term expires Sept. 2026

SE Region (Jeremy Hissem)
term expires Sept. 2026

NE Region (Barb Schwamman)
vacant seat July 1, 2026
term expires Sept. 2027

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Approval of the Agenda
The meeting convened at 12:03 by Ron Lorenz. Jeff Privia moved approval of the agenda. Joe Erickson seconded. No changes to the agenda were suggested. The agenda was approved unanimously
3. RSAI Overview and Processes (Margaret Buckton)
Margaret Buckton shared the history of RSAI, partnerships and growth, and explained the governance structure of RSAI representation.
4. Election of Regional Representative to the RSAI Leadership Group, if term expires Sept. 2026, see chart to the right.
Term is 3-years, no term limits. RSAI Leadership Group meets virtually most months for approx. one hour, has responsibilities at the RSAI Annual Meeting in October, sets date/location and hosts this Regional Meeting, assists with staffing the RSAI booth at IASB Convention, and supports advocacy efforts throughout the year.
 - a. Nominations
 - b. Election

No election required for this region. Buckton thanked Ron Lorenz for his service.

5. Election of Regional Representative to the RSAI Legislative Committee, see chart on the following page. *Annual Election, representative(s) attend Legislative Committee Meeting in Des Moines during August, attends the Annual Meeting in Ankeny during October, and supports legislative advocacy efforts during the 2027 Session.*
 - a. Nominations
 - b. Election

David Henrichs moved appointment of Deron Stender to represent SW Region from Green Hills AEA. Jeff Privia Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ron Lorenz moved appointment of Bill Watson to represent SW Region from Heartland AEA. Deron Stender Seconded. Approved unanimously.

There are a couple of RSAI member districts in NW AEA and one district in Prairie Lakes AEA. The group asked staff to reach out and determine if they would like to serve.
6. Updated RSAI Draft Mission/Vision and Annual Review of RSAI Bylaws (*Amendments require 2/3 vote to move to the RSAI Bylaws Committee*)

Margaret Buckton explained the process to review or revise the RSAI Bylaws, as well as shared background on the mission/vision workgroup's suggested new draft RSAI Vision. Attendees broke into groups and discussed the Bylaws Committee's recommendations on the mission/vision. The group was supportive of the vision statement change, and no other changes to the bylaws were brought forth for consideration. Buckton explained that any changes will be discussed by the Legislative Committee, then the Leadership Group and finally presented at the RSAI Annual Meeting for approval, so there are multiple opportunities for input from members.
7. Brief Review/Update of the 2026 Legislative Session by Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton, RSAI Professional Advocates

Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton shared updates on the 2026 legislative session actions to date and RSAI's influence on RSAI priority issues. Discussion ensued.
8. Discussion of Upcoming Election & RSAI Advocacy Efforts

Margaret Buckton shared information about the upcoming general election and RSAI resources that will be available. The group discussed reaching out to local businesses about the impact of rural schools on those local businesses and communities.
9. Discussion and Vote on Region Recommendations for 2027 RSAI Legislative Priorities (*Requires simple majority vote to forward recommendations to the RSAI Legislative Committee*)

The group broke into groups and reviewed the 2026 legislative priorities language to determine if the priorities should continue or not for the 2027 session, if any changes were needed, and if additional priorities should be discussed. Notes were taken on the Discussion Guide, to be shared, with comments and recommendations, for the Legislative Committee.
10. Brainstorming/Networking Discussion:

The group discussed expressed appreciation for the RSAI Calls to Action with specific action steps.
11. Other Business

No other business was brought forth for discussion. Margaret thanked Ron Lorenz for chairing the meeting and thanked Jason Plourde and the GHAEA team for hosting the meeting and providing tacos.
12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.