

MINUTES
of the
UAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING^[1]
Thursday, April 16, 2026
10:30 am–12:30 pm

The Executive Committee ("ExCom") of the USAID Alumni Association ("UAA") met via Zoom on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 10:45 a.m. The following UAA Board members, committee co-chairs, Senior Advisors, staff members, and guests participated in the meeting:

BOARD MEMBERS

Present

Jeanne Briggs
Tony Chan (Co-Chair)
Steve Haykin

Chris Milligan (Co-Chair)
Tony Pryor

Christine Sheckler
(Secretary)

Absent

Alicia Dinerstein

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Present

Carol Dabbs
(Treasurer)
Margot Ellis
Karen Freeman

Roberta Mahoney
Joy Riggs-Perla
Sharon Pauling
Carol Peasley

James Redder
Alex Shakow
Rob Sonenthal
(Asst. Sec.)

Absent

Terry Brown
Denise Rollins
Gail Spence
Steve Wingert
Oren Whyche-Shaw

SENIOR ADVISORS

Present

Nancy Tumavick
(Communications)

Absent

Miles Toder
(Regional Outreach)

WEBMASTER

Stu Callison

SYSTEMS MANAGER

Absent

GUESTS

David McCloud
Dottie Rayburn
Anne Peniston

MEETING CHAIR

Chris Milligan

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Chris Milligan called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. He noted that (a) a quorum of the Board was present; (b) Carol Peasley of the USAID History/ADST Committee would be recording the decisions

^[1] These minutes benefited greatly from the decision notes prepared by Carol Peasley and Alex Shakow of the History of USAID/ADST Committee, and from comments on early drafts by Steve Wingert, Joy Riggs-Perla, and Carol Dabbs. The contributions of these ExCom members are gratefully acknowledged. [RBS]

taken the meeting; and (c) the Social Events Committee would be responsible for recording the decisions taken at the ExCom meeting scheduled for May 21.

1. MINUTES.

The Board approved the minutes for the ExCom meeting of March 16, 2026, as circulated, subject to any additional corrections and clarifications are received by Rob Sonenthal by COB on Friday, April 17.

2. BOARD UPDATE.

A. Since the March 19 ExCom meeting, the Board has . . .

- **Appointed** Irene Koek as co-chair of the Membership Committee (MemCom) and approved Anne Peniston as co-chair of the AGM Committee to replace Steve Haykin at the end of the year.
- **Cancelled** the Development Issues Committee event scheduled for April 29. The Board will forward a cancellation notice to Nancy Tumavick by COB on Friday, to be included in an email to event registrants and posted on the website.
- **Initiated** a new public outreach effort, recruiting USAID alumni speakers (over 80 have already signed up) and posting a PowerPoint presentation and other materials — including videos of the two training sessions — on the website.
- **Continued monitoring** the proposed rewrite of the Foreign Assistance Act.
- **Wrote** to the State Department seeking a role in the ceremony rededicating (and adding names to) the USAID Memorial Wall, now located in the D Street lobby of the State Department, but has not heard back. (AFSA is planning a vigil across D Street for UAA members who are not admitted to the ceremony itself; Christine Sheckler will advise the Board and ExCom once arrangements by AFSA are finalized.)

B. In addition . . .

- Chris Milligan is writing a short article for the Foreign Service Journal on developments at UAA over the past year, including UAA's current activities and future plans. He would appreciate thoughts and suggestions.
- Chris noted the following DIC events scheduled for the coming weeks:
 - **Tuesday, May 12:** Former A/AID Brian Atwood will speak at DACOR on "State and AID – Building Back Better."
 - **Tuesday, May 19:** a discussion with Alex Carnes of the Senate Appropriations Committee Democratic staff on State and Foreign Operations (SACFO) legislation.
 - **Tuesday, May 26:** the third Development Issues Foreign Assistance 2.0 session on "Adventures in Transitioning–Notes on 'Policy' in Six Administrations" with Mike Crosswell.
 - **Friday, June 5:** A UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, in person at DACOR and on-line, featuring Nicholas Enrich, former USAID staff member in Global Health and author of *Into the Wood Chipper – A Whistleblower's Account of How the Trump Administration Shredded USAID*.
 - **Wednesday, June 10:** A Development Issues Discussion, on-line only, with Sarah Rose on "Government Partnerships in Global Health Cooperation."
- Alex Shakow reminded ExCom members that UAA/DACOR events are recorded and posted to the UAA website.

C. Carol Peasley noted that the Enrich book (which is highly critical of the current Administration) was creating quite a stir; an event promoting the book at Politics and Prose was packed. She suggested that

UAA consider alerting its regional members about Mr. Enrich's upcoming book tour. After discussion, the consensus view was that a "general information" notice to the regions would be appropriate, as long as there was a principled explanation of why this book, among others, deserved special notice by UAA.

D. Other recent developments:

- Membership Committee. Sharon Pauling will re-send to co-chairs Irene Koek and Tony Pryor the names of two volunteers interested in the MemCom.
- Alicia Dinerstein's paper on "UAA Executive Committee Effectiveness" has been shared with the Ex-Com, and will be discussed at the May meeting. Please send comments on the paper directly to Alicia.
- **On that subject, Christine reminded ExCom members that henceforth co-chair input/committee updates for each ExCom meeting must be sent to her not later than the Friday before the meeting so that she can send out an ExCom agenda with attachments on the Monday before the meeting. Christine will send a reminder each month a week in advance of the deadline, which is the day after the Board meeting.**
- All UAA survey responses have been received. After Alicia returns, she will work with the UAA System Manager to compile the results.
- Workshop/Retreat (June 15-16). Tony Chan agreed to re-send his "terms of reference" paper on the "Way Forward," and asked that any further comments on the paper be sent to him by next Wednesday, so that decisions can be made on key issues, format, invitees, etc.

3. COMMITTEE UPDATES.

A. Finance and Administration.

Carol Dabbs called the ExCom's attention to Financial Report for March 2026 (Attachment A) she had previously circulated to the ExCom. (Carol's recent surgery prevented her from preparing the two Budget Reports for March 2026 — i.e., the fifteen-month report on the 2025 Budget and the regular March report on the 2026 Budget — both of which will be provided before the May 21 ExCom meeting.) Carol noted the following highlights:

- As of March 31, the total balance in all UAA accounts at LFCU was roughly \$157,000 — including \$108,000 in the Operations Account (checking and savings) and \$49,000 in the History of USAID Account.
- The History of USAID Account savings account no longer qualifies for the benefits available to accounts with balances of over \$50,000, but will instead be in a lower tier of savings accounts.
- Steve Haykin has been added to the LFCU accounts as an authorized signatory.

Carol asked if anyone could pick up mail from DACOR next week as she will be unable to drive until mid-May. Carol Peasley volunteered.

B. Annual General Meeting.

Joy Riggs Perla reported on planning for the 2026 Annual General Meeting:

- Joy introduced Anne Peniston, who has joined the AGM Committee as a third committee co-chair to facilitate a smooth transition when Steve Wingert steps down as co-chair after the upcoming AGM.
- The committee prepared a concept paper which repeats the committee's presentation to the March ExCom meeting. Nonetheless, Joy encouraged ExCom members to read the concept paper and send any comments to her. Unlike previous AGMs, this year's meeting will focus inward on UAA, rather than outward.
- The committee met with Chris Milligan, Jim Kunder, and Dottie Rayburn to discuss potential candidates for keynote speaker.

Christine Sheckler wondered whether the date of the 2026 AGM could be moved up from its late October date to allow more time for post-AGM actions. According to Joy, there may be some flexibility regarding the currently scheduled date of October 30. Although we've reserved the CGD conference facility for October 30, given the limited space at CGD and the perennial problems with the CGD sound system, we feel it prudent to seek out other possible venues and other possible dates, including weekends. Tony Pryor and Tony Chan have approached CSIS about their facilities.

C. Awards.

Discussion deferred until the May 21 ExCom meeting.

D. Communications/Media.

Nancy Tumavick reminded the ExCom that the next monthly newsletter is scheduled for publication on May 4. Therefore, all items to be included in the newsletter should be delivered to Nancy at least one week in advance of the publication date — i.e., by Monday, April 27. As is customary, Nancy will send ExCom members an email reminder as the deadline approaches.

Nancy also reminded the ExCom that a special Communications Briefing will take place on April 27 at 6:00 p.m. The briefing is especially for new committee co-chairs and new committee members, but everyone is welcome to join.

E. Development Issues.

See Part 2.B, second bullet, above.

F. History of USAID/ADST.

Tony Pryor invited ExCom members to review and comment on the 15-20 PowerPoint presentation that he prepared on "knowledge management," under the auspices of ATA. In addition, Tony plans to seek Board approval to contact UAA members for additional funding (via a "go fund me" like mechanism) to support knowledge management work.

G. Membership.

According to Carol Dabbs, as of March 31 there were 741 contributing members, an increase of roughly 70% over March 31, 2025.

Tony Pryor noted that the MemCom needs to follow up with contributing members from 2025 who have not yet made a contribution for 2026. Tony P will also work with Tony C to convene a meeting of committee co-chairs to focus on ways to assure that committee work is complementary.

H. Peer Support (formerly Mentoring).

Sharon Pauling noted an upcoming presentation at DACOR on the transition from the Foreign Service to high school teaching in Fairfax County, scheduled for April 21. A notice about the event was sent yesterday to UAA members, but Sharon urged ExCom members to publicize the event to non-members as well.

I. Nominations.

The Nominations Committee for 2026 consists of Steve Haykin, Jeanne Briggs, and Christine Sheckler. Each is a Board member who is not standing for re-election this year.

The Committee has scheduled an initial meeting for May 4, and will thereafter follow a strict schedule designed to identify candidates (two current Board members eligible for re-election; Chris is not), and complete voting by the membership, in time to have the results announced at the 2026 AGM.

The table on website with Board members and terms needs to be updated.

J. Public Outreach/Allied Organizations.

Chris Milligan reported that the preparation of training materials was a collaborative effort involving UAA and Aid on the Hill.

K. Regional Activities.

Christine Sheckler reported that Miles Toder, who would ordinarily report on activities in Florida, was unable to attend today's meeting.

Christine reported on a gathering of USAID alumni in the Sacramento area.

L. Social Events.

Karen Freeman reported that the Spring Reception is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, from 3:00 to 5:30, at DACOR Bacon House, and the Summer Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 30, at Fort Hunt Park in Virginia. The Committee is also working to identify potential group activities in the DMV over the summer, and events to be organized in connection with the AGM.

M. Legislative/Judicial.

Dottie Rayburn is part of a group of USAID alumni that has been tracking the progress of 2026 appropriations legislation, including the proposed reconciliation bill. She agreed to provide the ExCom with brief summaries of the state of legislative play and noted that legislative activity would be intense and consequential for the next several months.

4. OTHER BUSINESS.

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion to adjourn, duly seconded, was approved by the Board by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Sonenthal
Assistant to the Secretary

Approved: May 21, 2026.

Attachments:

- A. UAA Financial Report as of March 31, 2026 (v.2)
- B. UAA Membership/Registrants/Friends Report, December 1, 2025—March 31, 2026.

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To be distributed prior to the May 21 ExCom meeting and attached to the May meeting minutes;

- UAA 2025 Operations and History Project Budget Report through March 31, 2026 (15-month report).
- UAA 2026 Operations and History Project Budget Report through March 31, 2026

ATTACHMENT A

**UAA FINANCIAL REPORT
as of March 31, 2026**

(U.S. Dollars)

	Balance 02/28/2026	Deposits	Disburse- ments	Balance 03/31/2026	Comment
UAA Operations Account					
Checking Account	24,000.28	14,365.52	14,239.50	24,126.30	
Savings Accounts	73,420.35	10,216.74	0.00	83,637.09	Moved \$10k from checking to savings
Total Operations Member Acct	97,420.63	24,582.26	14,239.50	107,763.39	
UAA History Project Account					
Checking Account	421.44	0.00	5.00	416.44	Monthly maintenance fee
Savings* Accounts	48,046.86	52.96	0.00	48,099.82	Opened preferred sav-ings; corrected interest payment amount
Total History Project Member Acct	48,468.30	52.96	5.00	48,516.26	
UAA Total Bank Accounts					
Checking Accounts	24,421.72	14,365.52	14,244.50	24,542.74	
Savings* Accounts	121,467.21	10,269.70	0.00	131,736.91	
Total LFCU Accts	145,888.93	24,635.22	14,244.50	156,279.65	

* Includes both Main Savings and Premier Savings Accounts

05/17/2026

ATTACHMENT B

UAA MEMBERS/REGISTRANTS/FRIENDS REPORT
December 1, 2025—March 31, 2026

(with comparative data for December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)

REGISTRANTS

A. New registrants: March 2026	32
B. New associate registrants: March 2026	0
C. Registrants and associates removed: March 2026	0
D. (A+B+C) All registrants as of: March 2026	32
E. Total 2026 registrants: December 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	2659
F. Total 2025 registrants: December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	1438
G. (E-F) 2025-26 registrant growth/reduction	1221

MEMBERS

H. New contributing members: March 2026	90
I. Renewing contributing members: March 2026	129
J. (H+I) Total contributing members: March 2026	219
K. Total 2026 contributors as of: March 2026	741
L. Total 2025 contributors as of: March 2025	435
M. 2026 "Friends" minimum \$100 as of: March 2026	226
N. 2025 "Friends" minimum \$100 as of: March 2025	209
O. (K+L). 2025-26 contributing member growth/reduction	306
P. % of contributing member growth/reduction	70%

The total contributions received in March 2026 were 286. There were 67 repeat contributors. We received 90 new member contributions of \$1 each in March, and a total of 258 contributions of \$1 between December 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.