Los Angeles Robotics Annual Board Meeting and Elections
May 20, 2025, 7:00-9:00 PM Pacific
Zoom Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tony Young (President), Stephen Stein (Vice President), Terry Wells (Secretary), LeRoy Nelson (Treasurer), Anita Nelson, Tarek Shraibati, Kearstie Hernandez (Guest)
Absent:

Quorum: 4 Directors

Standard agenda items for the annual May Board Meeting and Elections:

- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
- Review liability insurance coverage
- Review interim financial reports for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30
- Elect directors
- Elect officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Review committees and select committee chairs
- Assign committee members
- Committee reports: Audit, NTG, Website
    - Activities during the last year
    - Plans for the next year
- Program reports: REC Foundation programs
    - Other developments not mentioned previously
- New business
- Schedule next meetings

Meeting convened at: 7:12 PDT

Review and Approve Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting held on Nov 11, 2024: Minutes for Board meetings are posted at:
http://larobotics.org/BoardMeetings.html
Minutes approved by consensus

Review Liability Insurance Coverage. We need General Liability coverage to get Directors & Officers Liability coverage. We added Commercial Auto Liability to General Liability to cover truck rentals. We have not needed to supply an Additional Insured certificate since 2019. The renewal confirmation was received May 13 for coverage that starts May 31. All coverages are included in a new Commercial Package Policy. The premium increased by about 16%.

Annual liability insurance premiums:

Coverage	2024-25	2025-26
Commercial General Liability (includes Auto)	$1,582.00	$1,890.00
Directors & Officers Liability	759.00	$815.00
Total	$2,341.00	$2,705.00

The renewal insurance policy is available here in case anyone would like to review it:
Commercial Package Policy
Reviewed and discussed. No concerns noted.

Review Interim Financial Reports for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The financial reports for the

- First half of Fiscal Year 2024 (07/01/24-12/31/24)
- Partial Fiscal year 2024 (07/01/24-04/30/25)

are posted on our website at:
https://larobotics.org/FinancialReports.html

The one-page **Financial Report Summary** provides an overview of revenue and expenses for FY 2022, FY 2023, and the first 10 months of FY 2024 (from 07-01-24 through 04-30-25).

Each section of the full **Financial Reports** begins with a large program name (**LARobotics, NTG, Other, SCRRF**) at the bottom of the account balances page. The Audit Committee will do a full Audit after the full FY 2024 Financial Reports are generated in July.

Although the SCRRF accounts were closed in May 2024, they still appear on financial reports that include columns for FY 2023.

I did not realize until after I closed the books on FY 2023 that there was no reason to keep separate LARobotics Other and NTG Other accounts. I closed the LARobotics Other account at the start of FY 2024 and renamed the NTG Other account as NTG Admin.

Going forward, the program accounts will finally match the programs that have been enumerated on our tax returns for the past several years:

- NTG Admin
- NTG Championships
- NTG Leagues
- NTG Teams

After the SCRRF and LARobotics accounts no longer appear on the financial reports, I plan to drop NTG from the program account names.

- **Account Balances**:
  - June 30, 2024: 24,194 (20% of annual expenses)
  - April 30, 2025: 40,948 (33% of annual expenses)
- **NTG**: During the 2024-2025 VEX IQ Robotics season, we
  - Received $100K in donations from the Nelsons.
  - Received $34K from championship registrations and $6K from other sources.
  - Spent $92K on team grants and event host grants.
  - Spent $31K on championship and other expenses
- **SCRRF**: All funds were transferred from SCRRF to NTG at end of the prior fiscal year.
- **Tax status**:
  - Our tax return as a public charity was accepted in FY 2023.
  - In FY 2023, our 5-year average public support percentage was 47.5%--above the 33.3% min.
  - In FY 2024, our 5-year average public support percentage estimate is 42.7%.

Reviewed and discussed. Tarek explained the upcoming audit process. No concerns noted.

Elect Directors. The two-year terms of the following directors expire after the May elections, so they will need to be re-elected if they wish to continue on the Board:

Director Name	Office	Chair / Program	Committees
Anita Nelson	Director		NTG
Tarek Shraibiti	Director	Audit, REC Foundation	Audit, NTG

Tarek and Anita both chose to continue as directors. Both are confirmed by consensus.

The directors whose terms do not expire in May are:

Director Name	Office	Chair / Program	Committees
Tony Young	President		NTG
Stephen Stein	VP		NTG
Terry Wells	Secretary		
LeRoy Nelson	Treasurer	NTG, Website	NTG, Website

NTG = Nelson Team Grants

Elect Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
All officers chose to continue in their current positions. All are confirmed by consensus.

Review Committees and Select Committee Chairs: Audit, NTG, Website
No changes to the committee chairs.

Assign Committee Members: Consider adding members to Audit or Website
Anita joined the Audit committee. Tony joined the Website committee. No other changes to committee members.

Committee Reports.

- Audit:
  - No activity since review of FY 2023 records.
  - Tarek plans to review financial records for FY 2024 in July or August.
- Nelson Team Grants (NTG):
  - Last VEX IQ Robotics Competition season (2023-2024), we
    - Received increased support throughout the season from Stephen Stein.
    - Started 14 new schools and 30 additional teams. Restarted 11 dormant teams.
    - Started 3 new leagues and supported 10 returning leagues for 323 teams.
    - Supported 2 Southern California Championships for 119 teams.
    - Offered Event Host Grants for 13 leagues and 2 regional championships:
      - Increased grants by 3.3% over last year.
      - Stipends ranged from $1,271 to $2,620.
      - IRS Forms W-9 and 1099 required for stipends exceeding $600.
  - Next season (2025-2026), we plan to
    - Start 15 new schools and 40 additional teams. Restart 20 dormant teams.
    - Start 3-4 new leagues and support 13 returning leagues for 400 teams.
    - Support 2 LAUSD Championships for 84 teams.
    - Discussed upcoming changes in league play and team-type restrictions.
    - Discussed options being considered for increased support of teams
      - Competition kits for restarted dormant teams. For some returning teams?
      - Would pneumatics kits for all teams make enough difference for this game?

Website:

- Updated information for 2024-25 season.
- After the VEX World Championships in Dallas (05/05/25-05/14/2524), I will update the Nelson Team Grant website and grant application for the 2025-2026 VIQRC MIX & MATCH season at: https://larobotics.org/NelsonTeamGrants.html
- Suggestion to add CNN story of the robotics team that rebuilt after the Palisades fire and went on to win to the "Never Give Up" section of the website.

Reviewed and discussed. No concerns noted.

Program Reports. Additional information not discussed previously.

- REC Foundation programs:
  - 2400 teams at Worlds. "Best one ever". 60 countries represented; visas were a problem, as always. Program up 9% internationally. US flat this year due to change in registration fee structure. Cracked down on "ghost" teams to keep program more student friendly. 2000 drone teams. Increased outreach to indigenous people on reservations and in Pacific Islands. Teams at Worlds were visibly more student run. Moving to St. Louis next year and should be a little bit earlier (late April instead of early May).

New Business.

- VEX Robotics Qualifying Criteria includes Conference Model pilot
  - https://kb.roboticseducation.org/hc/en-us/articles/5474199602071-Qualifying-Criteria-for-VEX-Robotics-Competition-Events
  - Conference Model pilot allows school organizations with at least 40 teams to have Conference Championships in parallel with Event Region Championships feeding into World Championships. This is in response to concerns that club teams were not student-centered and were unfairly dominating school teams at Event Region Championships. LA should be officially announced as a pilot in July.
  - Australia is moving to a school-only model this year. No club teams.
  - If successful, pilot will expand.

Schedule Next Meeting. November 11, 20252526, 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:27 PDT

Agenda submitted by LeRoy Nelson

Minutes submitted by Terry Wells

Minutes edited for clarity by LeRoy Nelson

Typos corrected by LeRoy Nelson after review at Board Meeting on 2025-11-11