

LA Robotics Board Meeting Minutes: Nov 11, 2025

Attendees: LeRoy Nelson, Anita Nelson, Terry Wells, Stephen Stein, Tony Young, Tarek Shraibati

Convened: 7:07pm

1. **Review and approve Minutes** of LARobotics May 20, 2025, Board meeting.
Board Meeting Minutes are available online at larobotics.org/BoardMeetings.html.
Tony found one error in a date which was repaired. Minutes approved as amended.
2. **Committee Reports** – Activities for previous 6 months and plans for next 6 months:
 1. **Audit:**
Tarek Shraibati, Anita Nelson, and I met on August 8 to review the financial records.
LeRoy found some typos in the middle of the reports. They did not affect the beginning or ending numbers so nothing of substance changed after the corrections were made.
 2. **Nelson Team Grants:**
64 schools approved, 46 complete, 6 withdrew, 12 pending, Spent: \$78.2K
26 new schools, 40 additional teams, 14 dormant schools, 15 additional robot upgrades
14 Conference Leagues, 1 Conference Tournament, 2 Conference Championships
4 Leagues cancelled: many schools lacked funding for registration fees
2024 registered teams: 342 LAUSD / 753 So Cal
2025 registered teams: 377 LAUSD / 733 So Cal
Challenges with funding in the district due to funds management issues.
Extended discussion of league size and tournament capacity.
 3. **Website:**
Maintenance
Tony and Anita did a review of the site a few months ago and will do so on occasion.
3. **Treasurer Reports**
 1. **Review and approve Financial Reports.**
Financial Reports were announced on 7/5/25 and are available online at larobotics.org/FinancialReports.html.
Increased donations this year in response to more grant requests.
Pneumatics are working well for this year's game. Probably not viable to buy for everyone.
Reports approved by consensus.

2. Review Federal tax return and State tax return.

Draft 2024-25 tax returns were posted today at larobotics.org/TaxReturns-Filings.html.

Our tax returns are due on Saturday, November 15.

Reported grants to schools and individuals as required by state.

No immediate concern about maintaining public charity status.

3. Key balances as of 10/31/25:

Banks: \$16.6K, Receivable: \$20K, Credit cards: -\$10.8K, Total: \$25.9K

4. New Business

1. Australia – No private clubs. Anticipated a loss of 80 teams, actual loss was only 20. Playing with ideas on how to keep things student-centered. Looking at 30K teams. REC is looking at ways to improve the process. G4/G5 rules further refined things (student must be able to describe how they built the robot). Getting questions from the US and Canada about picking up on Australia-style rules. Trying to avoid a one-size-fits-all solution. Some schools (and home-schools) have been picking up robotics as part of their curriculum. On the flip side, it's made things more challenging to register teams as you have to prove you're a school.

Q: how would a shift like this be handled in California? How could the existing volunteer talent be leveraged or absorbed into schools?

A: Structure in Australia and China is much different based on laws, school structure, and depth of experience with kids starting much younger. Plus those kids spend lots of time on their robots.

Struggle with Magikid trying to dominate the competitions.

2. AB 506 (2021) discussion. Requires youth-serving organizations to conduct Live Scan fingerprint-based background checks and mandate child abuse and neglect reporting training for administrators, employees, and regular volunteers. A "regular volunteer" is generally defined as someone with more than 16 hours a month or 32 hours a year with children.

3. Next meeting: Wednesday 5/20/2026 7pm

Adjourned: 8:44

Minutes recorded by Terry Wells