



Educating Tomorrow's Innovators , TODAY!

Location:  
Residential Address  
5230 Whitaker Ave  
Encino, CA 91436

Time: Monday, August 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

*Empowering innovation through collaboration, Rally in the Valley competition sparks curiosity and nurtures talent, cultivating the next generation of STEAM leaders.*

## AGENDA

The Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo welcomes your participation at the meetings of the Board of Directors ("Board"). The purpose of a public meeting of the Board is to conduct the affairs of the Organization in public and encourage continued community interest in our organization.

### **END OF STATE OF EMERGENCY AND NEW REMOTE PARTICIPATION RULES - Assembly Bill 2449**

Governor Newsom announced that the COVID-19 state of emergency ended on February 28, 2023. With the end of the state of emergency, agencies are no longer able to utilize pandemic-era virtual meeting procedures. However, board members may continue to participate remotely by telephone and/or videoconference under traditional Ralph M. Brown Act teleconference rules. Effective January 1, 2023, Assembly Bill 2449 (AB 2449) allows individual board members to participate in meetings remotely during "emergency circumstances" or for "just cause." Specific requirements may be found in the full text of AB2449 (posted on the Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo website: [rallyinthevalleyrobotics.org](http://rallyinthevalleyrobotics.org))

***All requirements for attendance by the Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo adhered to in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.***

### **Instructions for Presentations to the Board by Citizens**

*If you wish to make a public comment, please follow these instructions:*

1. The public may attend in person. If joining in person, the public may complete a "Request to Address the Board" (on an agenda item or non-agenda item) card which will be available at the door.



2. Speakers will fill in their names and select if they wish to address the board regarding a specific agenda item or a non-agenda item.
3. When it is time for the speaker to address the board, his/her name will be called by the Board Chair and the requesting speaker's microphone will be activated.

## I. **PRELIMINARY**

- A. **Call to Order** – Chair of the Board, Oscar Cesar Rios Jr.
- B. **Roll Call** – Secretary of the Board – Jennifer Nishimoto
- C. **Flag Salute** – Oscar Cesar Rios Jr.
- D. **Approval of the Agenda** – Chair of the Board, Oscar Cesar Rios Jr.
- E. **Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting** - Oscar Cesar Rios, Jr.,

Minutes of the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors presented for approval.

## II. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. **Presentations from the Public** – Chair, Oscar Cesar Rios Jr.  
Any persons present desiring to address the Board of Directors on any proper matter.

*Agenda items:* No individual presentation shall be for more than five (5) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes per agenda item.

*Non-agenda items:* No individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction following a presentation.

- B. **Financial Report:** Treasurer, Jon-Michael Rodriguez



Jon-Michael Rodriguez, Treasurer of Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo.

Financial Report

**C. President's Report** - Chair, Oscar Cesar Rios Jr.

President Report

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board's vote on them. The Director recommends approval of all consent agenda items.

There are no items scheduled for action

**IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION**

- A. Pitsco Professional Development (*Discussion to Approve*)
- B. Vendors (*Discussion to Approve*)
- C. Event Dates (*Discussion to Approve*)
- D. Events for 2026-2027 Year (*Discussion to Approve*)
- E. Trophies for 2026-2027 Year (*Discussion to Approve*)
- F. Luncheon (*Discussion to Approve*)

**V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION**

- A. Podcast and Social Media Updates (*Informational Item*)
- B. Orientation (*Informational Item*)
- C. Volunteers (*Informational Item*)
- D. Merchandise (*Informational Item*)
- E. STEAM Expo Winner Mat (*Informational Item*)
- F. Website (*Informational Item*)

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo will be October 5, 2026.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting of the Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo Board of Directors, please contact the President at (818) 378-2997. Notification of 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo Board of Directors to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accommodations and accessibility to this meeting. Upon request, Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo Board of Directors shall also make available this agenda and all other public records associated with this meeting in appropriate alternative formats for persons with disabilities.



# FINANCIAL REPORT



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jon-Michael Rodriguez, Treasurer  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Financial Report: As of August 1, 2026

The Financial report as of August 1, 2026 Rally in the Valley Robotics & S.T.E.A.M. Expo is currently achieving a positive net income starting in the month of February. This month's revenue consists of: in checking in checking **\$4,885.67** and **\$7,057.34** in savings Payroll **\$1,648.00**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Oscar Rios  
President, Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: President Report: August 3, 2026

Dear Board Members,

### ***Summary***

Since our last meeting, Rally in the Valley Robotics has successfully completed two major milestones: our inaugural Sky Circuit Drone Competition and our annual Robotics Competition. Both events were well attended and showcased the incredible talent, teamwork, and innovation of our students, coaches, volunteers, and community partners. As we transition into the new season, our focus is on preparing for the upcoming competition year, expanding our outreach, and strengthening our organization's presence throughout the San Fernando Valley.

### ***Achievements***

Successfully hosted our first-ever Sky Circuit Drone Competition, introducing an exciting new STEM opportunity for participating schools.

Held another successful Rally in the Valley Robotics Competition, bringing together students, educators, volunteers, and sponsors for an outstanding day of robotics and innovation.

Continued building strong relationships with schools, community partners, and sponsors that support our mission.

Began planning improvements for the upcoming competition season, including the development and preparation of new competition mats promised to participating schools.

### ***Challenges & Solutions***

As participation continues to grow, we are preparing additional competition materials and equipment to better serve more schools.



Increasing awareness of our organization remains a priority. We will expand outreach efforts by visiting local schools, attending community events, and strengthening our marketing initiatives.

We are also working to establish a relationship with a merchandise distributor to provide quality apparel and promotional items for volunteers, participants, and supporters.

### ***Upcoming Goals***

Prepare and complete the new robotics competition mats for the upcoming season. Increase recruitment by promoting Rally in the Valley Robotics throughout local schools and community events.

Meet with a merchandise distributor to develop branded apparel and promotional products.

Continue expanding partnerships and sponsorship opportunities.

Finalize planning for the upcoming robotics, drone, and esports competition season.

### ***Acknowledgments***

We sincerely thank our Board of Directors, volunteers, coaches, sponsors, educators, and community partners for their continued dedication and support. Their commitment makes it possible to provide meaningful STEM opportunities for hundreds of students each year.

### ***Closing***

Rally in the Valley Robotics continues to grow and evolve. With a successful season behind us and exciting plans ahead, we remain committed to inspiring students through robotics, drones, esports, and STEM education while expanding our impact throughout our community.



### **III.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

*There are no items scheduled for consent.*



## **IV.**

# **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION**



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Oscar Rios  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Pitsco Professional Development (Discussion to Approve)

## Background

The Drone Professional Development originally scheduled for June was postponed due to the presenter's illness. The training will now be rescheduled for the beginning of the new school year. The presenter has provided the following available dates:

- August 3–6
- Week of August 24
- Week of August 31
- September 9–11
- September 22–25

The Drone PD is designed for a broad audience and is not limited to drone coaches. Participants may include principals, directors, teachers, coaches, volunteers, or anyone interested in supporting or participating in the drone competition program.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Drone PD be scheduled during the **week of August 31** or **September 9–11**.

While the August 3–6 dates occur before the start of the school year, many staff members may still be unavailable prior to their return to campus. Because school begins in mid-August, the week of August 24 may present challenges as principals finalize staffing and teachers establish classroom routines. Additionally, schools may still be identifying individuals to serve as drone coaches during this period.

Scheduling the training during the week of August 31 or September 9–11 will give schools time to identify coaches and interested participants while maximizing attendance and allowing teams adequate time to prepare for the drone competition season.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Vendors (Discussion to Approve)

## Background

Once event dates are approved, they are shared with all vendors and sponsors so they can reserve the dates and make the necessary arrangements. Event dates should remain unchanged except in cases of natural disasters or other emergencies. The postponements and rescheduling of events this past year created significant challenges for vendors, sponsors, and event planning.

## Recommendation

### Vendor Pricing Structure (Effective for All Events):

- Events with fewer than 100 students: **Flat fee of \$200**
- Events with more than 100 students: **Flat fee of \$500**

Businesses that are participating primarily to support the organization—without selling products or services—and that actively contribute to promoting the nonprofit alongside their own business will be granted a complimentary space at the event and will not be charged a participation fee.

The board discussed and approved a service trade option for event participation. Businesses that provide professional services, such as design work or other in-kind contributions, at no cost to the organization may be eligible for a waiver of the standard event participation fee. To qualify, the service must offer clear value to the organization and be agreed upon in advance. In such cases, the participation fee will be waived in exchange for the provided services.

This fee structure is designed to support event operations and will not impact our existing revenue streams. We will continue to generate revenue through merchandise sales and raffle activities as planned. This approach allows us to maintain financial sustainability while continuing to encourage mission-aligned partnerships and community engagement.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Event Dates (Discussion to Approve)

## **Background**

Once the school year begins, schools will be contacted to determine their availability to host student events. A decision is needed on whether host schools will waive facility rental fees or whether our organization will pay the required facility usage costs.

### **The proposed host sites and events are:**

- Fenton Academies – Esports Event (January)
- SLA – Robotics Scrimmage (February)
- SLA – Robotics Main Event (April)
- SLA – Drone Event (May)
- Balboa Elementary – Board Meetings

## **Recommendation:**

The president will confirm these host sites and event dates with each school. Request that host schools waive facility usage fees whenever possible; if a waiver is not available, authorize payment of reasonable facility rental costs to ensure events can be scheduled and confirmed in a timely manner.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Events for 2026-2027 Year (Discussion to Approve)

## Background

The following activities are proposed for this year's Esports, Robotics, and Drone competitions:

### Esports

- Retro Introduction Games: Classic game consoles purchased for parents, coaches, and students to enjoy and introduce participants to the event.
- Mario Kart: Individual competition with up to 10 student participants.
- Overcooked! All You Can Eat Edition: Team-based competition with 4 teams of 4 students.

### Robotics

The Robotics competition will feature the following challenges:

#### Remote Controlled

- Sumo: 1-5 teams per school, 3 students per team
- Basketball Game (by SMBCCS): 1-5 teams per school, 3 students per team
- Soccer (1v1) Game: 1-10 teams per school, 3 students per team

#### Coded Games

- Obstacle Course - The Jewel Heist: 2 teams per school, 3 students per team
- Golf Course : 2 team per school, 3 students per team
- Color Run: 1-5 teams per school, 3 students per team

### Drones

The Drone competition will include:

- Joust with Balloons
- Maze Challenge



### **Recommendation:**

Approve the proposed Esports, Robotics, and Drone competition events as outlined above. These activities provide a balance of individual and team-based competitions while promoting coding, engineering, strategy, collaboration, and problem-solving skills for students across all grade levels. The team will need to meet to create all the rules and mats for the new year.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Oscar Rios  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Trophies for 2026-2027 Year (Discussion to Approve)

## **Background**

To create a consistent awards program across all competitions, each event will recognize winning teams with a custom-designed team trophy created by JonMichael Rodriguez and Brian Goldberg. Individual members of each winning team will receive a commemorative medallion displaying the event name, placing, and year. Each medallion will be presented on a lanyard.

All event medallions will have the same overall design to establish a consistent look and expectation across competitions. The unique "wow" factor for each event will be the custom-designed school team trophy.

## **Recommendation:**

Approve the standardized awards program for all events, including custom team trophies designed by Jon Michael Rodriguez and Brian Goldberg and uniform participant medallions displaying the event, placing, and year. This approach provides consistent recognition for students while making each school's team trophy the featured award for its event.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Oscar Rios  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Luncheon (Discussion to Approve)

## Background

Our organization has benefited from the generous support of our sponsors, donors, school partners, and other community supporters. Hosting a luncheon provides an opportunity to thank them for their continued commitment, share the impact of their contributions, strengthen relationships, and present our vision for the coming year.

As part of the luncheon, we will also make our annual request for renewed financial support. Invitations will be extended to current sponsors, donors, school representatives, and other key partners.

## Recommendation

**Approve the planning of a Sponsor & Donor Appreciation Luncheon that will:**

- Invite current sponsors, donors, school partners, and key supporters.
  - Balboa - hosting board meetings
  - SMBCCS - hosting scrimmage
  - Transit Systems - monetary donation
  - Fenton Academies - hosting esports
  - Premier America - On going support but doesn't hit the \$ amount
- Recognize and thank attendees for their ongoing support.
- Present organizational accomplishments and future goals.
- Include a formal request for renewed or increased financial contributions.
- Return with final recommendations for the event location and proposed date for approval.

## Decision Needed

- Approve moving forward with the luncheon.
- Provide input on potential dates and venue options.
- Authorize planning and invitation development.



**V.**

## **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION**



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Podcast and Social Media Updates (*Information Item*)

## BACKGROUND

We will continue producing our WebShow while also featuring schools on both our podcast and our Instagram account. One of our primary goals is to attract more viewers and expand our audience beyond our current followers.

Our social media presence continues to grow. We currently have **521 Instagram followers** and **237 YouTube subscribers**. While this steady growth is encouraging, we want to increase our reach and attract more viewers outside of our existing audience. We are hopeful that the launch of our WebShow will help expand our following and introduce our content to new audiences.

Our first student guests on the WebShow will be the winners of the **2026 STEAM Challenge Robotics Event**. We look forward to highlighting their accomplishments and sharing their experiences with our audience.

One strategy to consider is releasing a series of short-form teaser videos (YouTube Shorts and Instagram Reels) before each full WebShow episode is released. These brief, engaging clips could build anticipation, showcase featured guests or episode highlights, and encourage viewers to subscribe and watch the full episode when it drops.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Orientation 2026-2027 (*Informational Item*)

## **BACKGROUND**

Our annual Orientation Meeting will provide an overview of the upcoming year and ensure that schools and participants are prepared for the season ahead. Topics to be covered include:

- Professional Development (PD) opportunities
- Drone program updates and competitions
- Robotics scrimmages and the main robotics event
- Esports updates and competitions
- Expectations and important dates for the year
- Encouraging schools, students, and families to follow our social media accounts and subscribe to our YouTube channel for updates and event coverage

During the Orientation Meeting, we also need to finalize the design of all event mats for the showcase and begin identifying a vendor who can manufacture and produce the mats in time for the season.

The Board may also wish to consider making this an all-day event, with the Orientation Meeting held in the morning followed by a Professional Development (PD) session in the afternoon. This format would allow participants to receive important program information while also benefiting from hands-on training and professional learning opportunities.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Volunteers (*Informational Item*)

## BACKGROUND

Our organization continues to need additional volunteers to support our events and programs. Although we have asked participating schools to provide at least **two volunteers** for each event, this expectation has not been consistently met.

We are fortunate to have several student volunteers who earn community service or school credit for their participation, and their contributions are greatly appreciated. However, additional volunteers are still needed to ensure our events run smoothly.

The Board is asked to discuss strategies for recruiting more volunteers. One suggestion is to expand our outreach to local high schools to encourage students to volunteer for community service hours or academic credit. Additional ideas may include partnering with community organizations, promoting volunteer opportunities through social media, and encouraging current volunteers to invite friends, family members, and colleagues to participate.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Oscar Rios  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Merchandise (*Informational Item*)

Vendors will continue to be responsible for all food sales at our events. Our organization will focus exclusively on selling our own RIV merchandise.

We will continue to monitor current trends and offer popular merchandise, including trending fidget toys and other items that appeal to our audience. In addition, we will continue raffling our 3D-printed merchandise, which has been well received and helps generate interest and engagement at our events.

The Board is encouraged to discuss additional merchandise ideas, identify emerging trends that may appeal to attendees, and consider new ways to promote our merchandise to increase sales and support our fundraising efforts.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: STEAM Expo Winners (*Informational Item*)

## **BACKGROUND**

STEAM Expo winners mat for the upcoming season, several tasks will need to be completed to ensure the challenge is ready for participants.

These tasks include:

- Recreating the competition mat.
- Designing and 3D printing all required challenge components.
- Revising the official challenge rules and incorporating the organization's logo and branding.
- Designing and producing a commemorative challenge pin.
- Scheduling a podcast interview with the winning students to recognize their achievement and provide them with an opportunity to share their experience and discuss the development of their winning challenge.

The Board is encouraged to discuss the project timeline, assign responsibilities, and establish target completion dates so that all materials are ready well in advance of the upcoming season.



TO: Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge & S.T.E.A.M. Expo  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Nishimoto  
Rally in the Valley Robotics Challenge and S.T.E.A.M. Expo

SUBJECT: Website (*Informational Item*)

## **BACKGROUND**

The website has been updated for the upcoming season. All major events have been added, and each event now has its own dedicated tab. The names of the games have been included; however, the game rules have not yet been posted.

Event dates are currently listed as TBD until campus availability has been confirmed. Once we have spoken with each campus and finalized scheduling, the dates will be updated accordingly.