

2027 Convention Committee

Minutes from 2026-08-12 6pm

Attendees: Ruth & Debbie, Jon & Val, Jim & Linda, Buddy & Jennifer, Maggie & Mark, Ann & Scott

Key Outcomes

The committee reviewed lessons from the Denver RCA convention to inform 2027 Richmond planning. Key themes included AV/sound challenges in hybrid settings, program structure improvements, and recruitment needs. PayPal registration issues affecting Apple/iPhone users were confirmed resolved. The next meeting is scheduled for **September 30 at 6:00 PM**.

Decisions Made

- **Minutes conditionally approved** pending minor corrections (spelling of "Gali Beh"; "Mike and Liz" not "Mike and Linda")
- **One Zoom-enabled session per time slot** for Richmond; Zoom attendees will interact via chat only — no interactive hybrid format
- **Own AV equipment** will be used at the Omni; hotel equipment mandate was negotiated out
- **Scholarship = Zoom attendance only** (not travel); no monetary cost to the committee
- **Admin page** at RCA2027.org/admin is the central repository for agendas and minutes

Denver Convention Highlights

- **~84 couples** attended after 3–4 last-minute cancellations
- Presentation at Sunday session well-received; Mike and Liz distributed printed flyers and a poster-board QR display at the registration table
- Keynote speaker widely praised; karaoke Saturday night was popular
- Denver team had a **core of 6–7 people** plus 5–6 task-focused volunteers
- Denver offered a **room upgrade raffle** to incentivize early registration

Key Issues Identified (Denver → Richmond Lessons)

- **Hybrid/AV sound:** Board members dialing into Zoom from within the room caused audio conflicts; remote attendees and secretary struggled to hear

- **Richmond differentiation:** RCA 2027 will have a dedicated Zoom moderation team (~8–10 people from Trailblazers); parking lot meetings planned for Zoom attendees post-sessions
- **Session length:** 1hr 15min sessions with 15-min breaks worked well; 45-min workshops felt too short for interactive exercises
- **Speaker time limits:** Suggested cap of ~15 min for speaker couples to preserve sharing time
- **Workshop materials:** Handouts were sparse; soft copies and pre-distributed folders with scripts recommended for presenters
- **Accessibility:** Microphone instructions unclear; visually impaired attendees missed speaking opportunities — explicit repeated directions needed
- **Last-minute changes:** Two presenters dropped out; recommend at least one **backup speaker couple**
- **Airport transport:** Free bus from airport to Omni Richmond confirmed — transportation page to be added to website

Pending Confirmation

- Specific **asks to the RCA Board** from this committee — to be compiled for next meeting
- **Scholarship eligibility criteria** — Anne and Scott to draft guidelines (active meeting attendance as a baseline)
- Whether to adopt **WhatsApp** for real-time convention communication vs. email
- Projector needs for ABM room — potential board purchase request

Action Items

- **John:** Connect with Gali (Denver chair) to debrief lessons learned; include Ruth; propose dates
- **Buddy (Jennifer):** Liaise with Mark (WSO tech) on ABM AV setup requirements
- **Anne:** Bring committee asks to the RCA Board of Trustees meeting
- **Anne & Scott:** Develop scholarship eligibility criteria; receive forwarded scholarship email alias from Ruth
- **Ruth:** Send JotForm registrant report to relevant committee members (confidential) ; blast outreach to follow up on failed registrations

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- **Programming Committee (Debbie & Liz):** Incorporate session length, presenter scripts, and newcomer/youth programming ideas
- **All:** Submit agenda items or ideas to Ruth before next meeting

Next Meeting

September 30, 6:00 PM (same Wednesday format)