

DRAFT SLOBs March 15th General Meeting Minutes To Be Approved at the April 26th, 2025 General Meeting

Saturday, March 15th, 2025 @ 2:30pm

New Canaan High School - Cafeteria

I. Co-Presidents: Teddy Goetz & Brooks Wunderlich

- Welcome everyone
- Member Appreciation. *Presidents let members know that we have been having a great year and are completing great service hours, so keep up the good work.*
- Speakers today. *Today we have:*
 - Luca Palombo for Filling in the Blanks. *Luca is here to explain what Filling in the Blanks does and how SLOBs members can get involved with the organization; and*
 - Tom McInerny on behalf of South Avenue Cottage. *Tom came today to explain what South Avenue Cottage does for its residents with autism and how volunteerism has been important to him and his family.*

II. Secretary: Ryan Leahy on half of Henry Ravanese

- Approval of January 25th, 2025 General Meeting Minutes. *Ryan asks if anyone has any changes to the Draft January 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes as posted on the SLOBs' website and linked in the SLOBs Newsletter.*
 - No changes proposed
 - Minutes approved

III. Parliamentarian: Ryan Leahy

- Candidates who applied to be on next year's board will be notified next week.
 - New board members will be asked to confirm their acceptance by email
 - If you are not selected, we encourage you to apply to be a liaison again next year
 - Applications are open until April 1st
- Transition meetings between the new and current boards will happen in May.

- The new board takes over on June 1st
- Amendments to the SLOBs Bylaws
 - We may need to vote at the April 26 meeting on changes to the Bylaws. Any changes will be explained in the SLOBs newsletter before the meeting.

IV. Membership: VP Zach Santiago & AVP James Dunkin

- Hours must be completed by June 1st
- The next SLOBs General Meeting is April 26th
- Membership Requirements Reviewed.
 - Student Requirements: 10 Volunteer Hours* & 5 General Meetings.
 - Parent Requirements: 5 Volunteer Hours* & 5 General Meetings.
 - *Up to 2 hours may be donations.

V. Philanthropy: VP Matthew Riley, Co-AVP Ayush Dave & Co-AVP Ryan Stannard

- March 15th General Meeting Donations are personal care products for **Filling in the Blanks** and personal care and household products for **The Little Free Pantry**.
- Volunteer Hours Improvement. We have donated 270 more hours this year compared to last! Keep up the good work!
- IMPORTANT NOTE- Do not cancel sign-ups last minute. Remember to communicate and get coverage.
- Take pictures at all events and make sure to share them with the corresponding liaisons or Public Relations.
- Liaisons for Upcoming SLOBs events discussed and described their events and how and where to sign up (i.e.Preston Lambreth promotes working at the Multicultural Day Fair at Horizons Kids; Sam Schoonmaker mentions Open Doors Closet Sorting Event; Zakir Ayusha notes the New Canaan Land Trust needs help moving offices; Willem Wrede mentions Staying Put in New Canaan Spring Patio Furniture Move; etc.)

VI. Treasurer: Rohan Shenoy.

- SLOBs registering as a tax-exempt organization (501c3) - SLOBs Inc.
- New Cost Implications ≈ \$900
- Plan for the next SLOBs General Meeting

- Amend by-laws - reflecting clauses needed because of 501c3 status + tweak job responsibilities for some Board roles.
- Membership will vote to approve SLOBs becoming a tax-exempt organization at the April 26 General Meeting.

VII. Public Relations: Co-VP Grayson Ladsley & Co-VP Brandan Ma

- Take event photos and send them to us by Direct Messaging them to our SLOBs' Instagram Account: NCHS.SLOBs or text us or our Parents Frank Ma: (203) 820-7430 or Trish Ladley (203) 722-5806
- Follow Us on Instagram
- T-shirt Pick-Up- if you need a new SLOBs' T-Shirt let us know and you can pick one up at General Meetings
- Parents, please remember to take more photos
- Congratulations to the winners of our fourth giveaway!
 - Class of 2025: Erik Johnson
 - Class of 2026: Preston Lambeth
 - Class of 2027: William Morawa
 - Class of 2028: Billy Flynn

VIII. Communications: Co-VP Ben Kim & Co-VP Johann Wrede

- Weekly Blast
 - Sent on Sunday Mornings
 - Highlights Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities
- Photo Requests
 - Please help upload photos onto the SLOBs' website by using the photo submission tab.
 - Also, Liaisons, Volunteers, and Parents, can text pictures to: (203) 722-5806

IX. Technology: VP Pranav Sant and AVP Henry Chandra

- SLOBs will be shifting to a new tech platform called Membership Toolkit, which is software available for nonprofits.
- Replaces many existing platforms for a lower price
- Track it Forward- We will be keeping Track it Forward for a year into the transition to Membership Toolkit to make sure we have a smooth transition

X. Meetings: Stuart Hellmann

- Attendance has been good, keep up the good work

- Introduced speakers and gave a brief explanation for each of them
 - **1st Guest Speaker** - Luca Palomba, Filling in the Blanks
 - History of Filling in the Blanks. Tina Kramer and Shawnee Knight wanted to address the fact that many families are struggling with Food Insecurity in Connecticut and when kids go home for the weekend they don't have access to the food they are given at the public schools.
 - SLOBs has been very helpful to Filling in the Blanks. Lots of SLOBs volunteers have packed the bags the kids can take home with them for the weekend at the 8,000 square foot warehouse in Norwalk, CT where Filling in the Blanks packs over 40,000 meals weekly.
 - Mobile Food Pantry and Community Outreach Partners. Excited about Filling in the Blanks new initiative-providing fresh fruit, vegetables and dairy on the new Mobile Pantry.
 - People begin lining up at 5am for the Mobile Food Pantry and each family is eligible for 50lbs of fresh branded, non-generic food. The hope is that it feels like a Farmer's Market so families maintain their dignity and are comfortable getting assistance.
 - Partnering with Stamford Health to take blood pressure and give vaccines and Covid tests free of charge and Mothers For Others brings free diapers.
 - Stay Involved! The need keeps growing and Filling in the Blanks is doing what they can to meet that need.
 - **2nd Guest Speaker** - Thomas McInerney on behalf of South Avenue Cottage. The quote "service is something you either find or it finds you" is meaningful to Tom because it appropriately explains how South Avenue Cottage came to be.
 - History of South Avenue Cottage. Tom's brother was diagnosed with autism in the 80s when there was no awareness or understanding about the spectrum.

- The McInernys banded together with other families in New Canaan who also had family members with autism and it became a protective and safe space for them.
 - This collective of families all banded together 25 years ago to create the South Avenue Cottage for their family members and others. Residents benefit from a structured system with 24/7 care.
 - The time and attention SLOBs gives to those living at South Ave. Cottage makes them feel seen, and valued and that they are members of a community that expands past the Cottage walls. Please keep donating your time and effort to valuable causes.
- Remember that service takes many forms and that whether you are coaching a kid's team or working on behalf of a religious organization: **Service will be a lifelong return on investment.**

XI. Co-Presidents: Teddy Goetz & Brooks Wunderlich

- Thank you to our speakers
- Thank you all for being a part of SLOBs and for coming today

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45