



**America 250 | CT Commission  
Governance Subcommittee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom  
Minutes**

[Watch the Recording](#)

**Attendees**

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco, Chair  
Jason Mancini  
Michael Werner  
Deborah Schander  
Steven Hernández  
Denise Merrill (joined at 10:07)

CTH Staff

Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:04 a.m.

1. Minutes Approval
  - a. [August 13, 2025](#)

Arienne Orozco opened the meeting and asked for any comments and a motion to approve the draft minutes from the August meeting.

Motion: Deborah Schander, Second: Michael Werner, Vote: Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

2. Affiliate Program Discussion & Approvals
  - a. Discussion on any flagged applications
    - i. [Application Review Form](#)
    - ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
    - iii. [Full Applications](#)
  - b. Vote on applications - September & outstanding from August

Rachel Gonzalez provided an update from the application tabled in August, Spencer Trask & Co. Their representative confirmed that they are not planning inclusive events because they do not have plans for events at this time. There were no concerns on the subcommittee over this response or over any of the 7 new applications. Jason Mancini recommended bundling the tabled application with the new applications, with a motion to approve all 8 applications in one slate.

Motion: D. Schander, Second: J. Mancini, Vote: Yes - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0

3. October Commission Meeting
  - a. Annual Reporting

A. Orozco noted that at the October commission meeting, we will need to discuss annual reporting to the Governor. She requested that R. Gonzalez include a reminder when sending the agenda for the meeting. After some discussion by subcommittee members, the deadline for draft submission by subcommittee chairs will be 12/15/25. R. Gonzalez will prepare templates & samples from last year's report for subcommittee chairs to use.

4. Other Business as Needed

A. Orozco shared that the Secretary of the State's office has a full-staff meeting tomorrow to discuss their goals for the 250th over the next year. D. Merrill and J. Mancini requested prioritization of Red, White, and Blue Schools; the SOTS office is working with Connecticut's Old State House to launch in mid- to late-October with the theme "For the Common Good." There was discussion among subcommittee members on how to expand participation in the program. D. Merrill volunteered to engage with the state board of superintendents, and requested that staff share the program with local 250th committees.

No other business.

The meeting ended at 10:24 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 10:00-10:30 AM**