

**The Arizona Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2009
Flagstaff, Arizona**

Present

Wayne Anderson
Frank Barrios, Secretary
Deanna Beaver
Marsha Bonham
Ted Cunningham
Jack Donnelly
John Driggs
Lynn Haak
George Hartz
Mark Haynes
Axel Holm
John Lacy
Julie Larson
Pat Loven
Susan Olberding
Don Prior
Jim Ronstadt, President
Oscar Schraml, Vice-president
Richard Shaw

Absent

Jim Babbitt

Dan Chambers
Bill Schafer
Cynthia Schroeder
Ralph Smith
Michael Urman
Michael Wade

Staff

Anne Woosley, Executive Director
Carol Brooks, AHS-Rio Colorado Curator
Kyle McKoy, Education/Outreach Div. Dir.
Joe Meehan, AHS-Northern Curator
Deborah Ortiz, Executive Assistant
Bill Ponder, Chief Administrative Officer
Les Roe, AHS-Northern Div. Dir.
Deborah Shelton, AHS-Southern Div. Dir.
Peter Welsh, AHS-Central Division Director

Guests

Connie Anderson
Bill Haak
Bill Porter
Barbara Prior

1 **Call to Order**

2
3 President Ronstadt called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

4
5 **Roll Call**

6
7 Roll was taken and Ronstadt declared a quorum present.

8
9 **Approval of Minutes**

10
11 **Beaver moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2009, Board of Directors meetings as**
12 **presented. Prior seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

13
14 **Introductions**

15
16 Ronstadt thanked the AHS-Northern staff and chapter board for the lunch. He welcomed the
17 guests.

18
19 Porter presented AHS with a check for \$1,750 from the Arizona History Convention raffle for
20 the certified grant program. He contributed an additional \$750 to make the total donation
21 \$2,500. He reminded the Board that the next Arizona History Convention would be held April
22 16-18, 2010, with the Nevada Historical Society in Laughlin, Nevada.

23
24 Woosley recognized Mary Lou Morrow, AHS-Northern chapter board member. She introduced
25 staff.

26
27 **Call to the Public**

28
29 Ronstadt made a call to the public. None were heard.

30
31 **History Note**

32
33 Roe encouraged the board to visit the museum and see the new Pioneer Kids exhibit.

34
35 Meehan told a story about B.B. Bullwinkle who came to Flagstaff in 1884. He was foreman of
36 the Arizona Cattle Company and built the first telephone line in Flagstaff. In May 1887, he fell
37 off his horse and died. Frank Livermore took over as foreman of the Arizona Cattle Company
38 and in 1889 the company went out of business. Livermore owned the parcel of land near the art
39 barn that was built in the mid-1890s. In 1907, the property was sold to build the hospital, which
40 is now the AHS Pioneer Museum. In 1908, the barn, the location of the meeting today, was built.
41 The structure is very similar to the art barn. In 1938, the hospital closed, and the barn became
42 the County garage. In 1960, AHS purchased the property with authorization to use the barn. In
43 1964, a local organization, headed by Viola Babbitt, got permission to open the art barn. In
44 1970, funds were raised to build the Coconino Center for the Arts. In 1998, the contract was
45 pulled for the art barn and there has been talk about demolishing the barn. The Northern Arizona
46 Pioneers' Historical Society is negotiating with the County to have the barn on the National
47 Register and have it preserved.

48

49 **President's Report**

50
51 Ronstadt thanked the committees who met during the summer. He announced that he would
52 establish an ad hoc committee with the presidents of chapter boards and that the Ad Hoc
53 Committee for Rio Nuevo had been placed as inactive.

54
55 **Executive Director's Report**

56
57 Report on 2009/2010 Budget

58 Woosley said there was no official state budget but on July 1, agencies were given budget
59 numbers to work with. The AHS budget cut was \$147,000. Woosley indicated there is a very
60 good core of support from legislators for AHS. She noted that vacant staff positions could not be
61 filled.

62
63 Properties

64 Woosley reviewed properties owned by AHS throughout Arizona:

65
66 **Charles O. Brown House** – El Centro Cultural de Las Americas leases the house from AHS. It
67 is the oldest surviving structure in Arizona. Money is needed to stabilize an adobe wall that is in
68 danger of collapsing at one corner. El Centro has removed the subleases from the area.

69
70 **Douglas Williams House** – Jan Persidskis, AHS Building Maintenance Specialist, recently
71 visited the property. He noted that the exterior needs paint and there are electrical issues that
72 need to be addressed.

73
74 **Strawberry Schoolhouse** – Joe Meehan, AHS Curator, visited the property and reported that it
75 is in good shape, needing only regular maintenance.

76
77 **Sosa-Carrillo-Fremont House** is in good condition.

78
79 Woosley commented that maintenance is a huge problem given that there are no available funds
80 from the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Risk Management. She said staff
81 would meet with ADOA Construction Services to discuss acquiring stimulus dollars to assist
82 with maintaining the properties and the AHS museums. Woosley remarked that staff is working
83 very hard to take good care of the AHS facilities.

84
85 Certified Museum Program

86 Woosley said staff revised the guidelines for certification for review by the Community Outreach
87 committee. She said staff had also been very involved with reviewing grant proposals for this
88 year.

89
90 In response to a question, Woosley indicated the museum directory update was not done before
91 Jim Turner's retirement. She said Julia Arriola, AHS-Southern Curator, would work on creating
92 a new directory.

93
94 Activities and Programs

95
96 **Sandra Day O'Connor Exhibit** – In conjunction with the opening of the Sandra Day O'Connor
97 House, the AHS Museum at Papago Park will open an exhibit titled, *A Person for All Seasons*:

98 *The Enduring Legacy of Sandra Day O'Connor*, on October 21, 2009. Woosley stated the
99 O'Connor House would not be a house museum but rather would be used for scheduled
100 functions. The interpretation and large public events would be held at the AHS Museum at
101 Papago Park.

102
103 **Tucson Citizen Archive** – Woosley said the *Tucson Citizen* newspaper was established in 1870,
104 dating to the earliest years of the Arizona Territory. It ceased publication in April 2009. In
105 January 2009, AHS was approached by Gannett executives to see if AHS was interested in the
106 archives. The AHS response was yes, and Gannett asked AHS for a proposal for what it would
107 cost to move, contain, and process the archive. On June 16, 2009, Woosley, with the help of
108 staff, put together a proposal for Gannett that was reviewed by local Gannett executives. Since
109 submission of the proposal, there has been no response from Gannett, even after follow-up phone
110 calls and emails. The local Gannett executives, who are no longer employed with Gannett, put
111 together a call for support. Gannett has received responses from legislators, city council
112 members, county board of supervisors, the general public, and AHS members. Last Friday,
113 Woosley received her first response from Gannett indicating there are a lot of issues involved
114 with the *Tucson Citizen* archives. Gannett indicated the \$99,000 budget proposal from AHS was
115 too high. Woosley remarked that the budget included two archivists for six months and one
116 archivist for one year. There was discussion. Woosley said the archives are not just paper but the
117 entire collection that includes all original plates.

118
119 **Arizona Centennial** - Woosley has been working with Marilyn Parke, other members of the
120 Historical League, and Peter Welsh on two centennial applications: 1) A Sanctioned Centennial
121 event built around the 2011 Historymakers Gala. Since 1992, the Historical League conducted 55
122 oral histories of people from a variety of areas such as politics, sports, and business. The
123 February 2011 Gala would produce a special video that focuses on the Historymakers who were
124 leaders and helped shape Arizona. The Governors Centennial Committee has an events
125 subcommittee that reviews submissions for special sanctioned Centennial events. 2) A
126 Centennial Legacy Project would take the oral histories of all the Historymakers, digitize them,
127 and make them available on the website. It would have educational opportunities and shows the
128 influence of the Historymakers in many professions. The project has been submitted to the
129 Arizona Historical Advisory Committee.

130
131 **Sesquicentennial of the Civil War** - AHS was asked by the American Association for State and
132 Local History (AASLH) to coordinate and host the Western Region for this national project. The
133 theme for the Western region is *Transforming a Nation: Legacies of the American Civil War*.
134 AASLH is in the process of preparing a grant to the National Endowment of the Humanities.
135 The AHS portion of the grant is for \$325,000. Activities would include panels with historians
136 from throughout the nation. Woosley will provide the board with an outline of the proposed
137 activities when they are available. If the grant is not approved, the project would not move
138 forward.

139
140 **AHS Annual Meeting** – The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, November 14, in Tucson.
141 Guest speaker, Kristie Miller, will talk about her book, *A Volume of Friendship: The Letters of*
142 *Eleanor Roosevelt and Isabella Greenway*.

143 AHS News

144
145 Woosley said AHS has only 39 staff statewide and although the number of staff is limited, AHS
146 continues to do a lot. She distributed copies of some articles that highlight staff and an article by

147 Olberding from the *Capitol Times*. Woosley invited the board to visit the website and see the
148 new Education Division pages. She recognized the board for the help they provide staff.

150 **Committee Reports**

151
152 **Awards and Recognition** – No report.

153
154 **Collections** – Olberding reported that the committee received the quarterly collections report,
155 which is available for the board by request. She said staff produced a document for how to
156 donate to the AHS collections that the committee would review.

157
158 **Development** – Ronstadt said the committee is working on the development plan and that it
159 would be presented to the Board in September.

160
161 **Executive/Personnel** – Ronstadt said the committee would conduct the annual review of the
162 Executive Director in October.

163
164 **Exhibits & Education** – No report.

165
166 **Community Outreach** – Cunningham recognized staff for their work on the grant applications.
167 He thanked Joe Meehan, Julia Arriola, Carol Brooks, and Deborah Ortiz, along with the
168 committee members.

169
170 Cunningham provided an overview of some of the 38 grant applications that were received. He
171 said the committee made recommendations for funding 28 applicants. Of those, 12 received the
172 maximum allowed of \$2,000. He noted there were projects that did not meet the parameters of
173 the program. Woosley indicated that the Douglas Williams House grant application for repairs to
174 the house needed to come from monies other than the certified grant program because it is a
175 property of AHS.

176
177 Action item 10-A was moved forward in the agenda.

178
179 **Lacy moved to approve the Community Outreach Committee recommendations for the**
180 **2009-2010 small grant awards for the Arizona Historical Society's certified museums and**
181 **historical organizations as presented (see attached). Barrios seconded. Motion passed**
182 **unanimously.**

183
184 **Finance** – Ponder said the committee met and discussed the agency's budget that would be
185 submitted September 1, for fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The committee reviewed how
186 AHS is functioning with the \$147,000 budget cut. He said the current year budget is over
187 \$500,000 less than last year given the ongoing reductions from last year that roll over into this
188 fiscal year. AHS is trying to cover the budget cut from non-appropriated funds and not filling
189 vacant positions. Ponder distributed the budget being submitted September 1 that the committee
190 approved. He said the committee also reviewed the proposed development plan and that Michael
191 Wade, Development Committee chair, would update the plan to include board input.

192
193 Schraml commented that the Agriculture Department won their lawsuit against the State of
194 Arizona for funds that were swept. There was discussion.

195

196 Shaw requested that the board approve the budget being submitted on September 1 at the next
197 board meeting. There was discussion.

198
199 **Governance & Policy** – Shaw shared some statistics about AHS from the research he has
200 conducted.

201
202 **International Affairs** – No report.

203
204 **Legislative Affairs** – Prior thanked the board for contacting the legislature on behalf of AHS.
205 He shared an editorial that was written by Lloyd Clark in the *Daily News Sun* about the
206 Governor’s proposed budget that would have eliminated appropriated funding for AHS over five
207 years. Prior said after the first of the year, when there are new legislators, the board would be
208 asked again for their help.

209
210 **Membership** – Barrios reviewed the current membership report.

211
212 **Nominating** – Beaver said the committee met today to consider officers for next year. She
213 developed an anonymous summary of board member suggestions for the committee to consider.
214 Beaver said the committee was not prepared to provide recommendations of officers. She
215 explained that the overwhelming response for president was for Ronstadt but that he is not
216 eligible to serve as president under the current bylaws. Beaver stated that Shaw, Governance
217 Committee chair, had been invited to the meeting to discuss possible options with the committee.

218
219 Shaw explained two options. The first would be to amend the bylaws to add a provision to
220 suspend the rules, which is a normal provision in most bylaws. Ronstadt could serve as president
221 under the suspension rule. Second would be to amend Article 6, Section 3, so a director could
222 extend their term by one year to serve as president and if reelected, could serve one additional
223 term as president. Shaw said both of these amendments could also be considered.

224
225 Lacy said the current bylaw requires a 30 day notice for a bylaw change. Shaw said he could
226 prepare the amendment language in time for distribution to the board for the September meeting.

227
228 **Property & Building Management** – Loven announced that the electrical system in the Pioneer
229 Museum was being updated.

230
231 **Publications** – Haak reviewed the AHS book sales handout that the Publications Division
232 provided.

233
234 **Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning** – Schraml said the committee would meet in
235 September.

236
237 **Items Scheduled for Board Discussion and/or Action**

238
239 A. Discussion and action regarding the Community Outreach Committee recommendations for
240 the 2009-2010 small grant awards for the Arizona Historical Society’s certified museums and
241 historical organizations was considered under the Community Outreach Committee report.

242
243 B. Discussion and approval, if any, regarding the Nominating Committee recommendations for
244 2009-2010 Board of Directors nominees for the November ballot, to fill first-year terms, first

245 three-year terms, and second three-year terms was not considered.

246
247 C. Discussion regarding the Nominating Committee recommendations for the 2009-2010 Board
248 Officers was considered under the Nominating Committee report.

249
250 **Announcements and Other Matters for Consideration at Future Board Meetings**

251
252 Holm invited the Board to hold a meeting in Nogales next year.

253
254 Ronstadt reviewed agenda items for the September meeting: nominees for the Board of Directors
255 November ballot; approval of the budget being submitted September 1; consideration of a bylaw
256 change.

257
258 The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 25 at the AHS Museum at Papago Park in
259 Tempe.

260
261 **Adjournment**

262
263 The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

264
265
266
267 Signed: _____ Date: _____
268 Jim Ronstadt, President