

**The Arizona Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2009
Tucson, Arizona**

Present

Wayne Anderson
Jim Babbitt, Treasurer
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
Colleen Mathis
Jim Ronstadt, President
Bill Schafer
Oscar Schraml, Vice-president

Cynthia Schroeder
Richard Shaw
Michael Urman
Michael Wade

Absent

Susan Olberding
Don Prior
Ralph Smith

Staff

Anne Woosley, Executive Director
Carol Brooks, AHS-Rio Colorado Curator
Roy Goodman, Membership Coordinator
Kyle McKoy, Education/Outreach Div. Dir.
Deborah Ortiz, Executive Assistant
Bill Ponder, Chief Administrative Officer
Les Roe, AHS-Northern Div. Dir.
Peter Welsh, AHS-Central Division Director
Seth Willey, AHS-Central Events Manager

1 **Call to Order**

2
3 President Ronstadt called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

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5 **Roll Call**

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7 Roll was taken and Ronstadt declared a quorum present.

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9 **Approval of Minutes**

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11 **Schroeder moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2009, Board of Directors**
12 **meeting as presented. Babbitt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

13
14 **Introductions**

15
16 Woosley introduced staff and many guests in attendance.

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18 **Call to the Public**

19
20 Ronstadt made a call to public. None were heard.

21
22 **President's Report**

23
24 Ronstadt said AHS started the year with 59 employees and were down to 39. He commended
25 staff for what they have done this year to keep the Society going.

26
27 **Executive Director's Report**

28
29 Legislative Update

30 Woosley said no decisions had been made in the budget process. AHS was directed to provide
31 the Governor with a plan for a permanent 15% budget cut. Furloughs and other temporary
32 measures cannot be considered. She said in some ways it was an academic exercise because a
33 15% cut is not definite and the agency plan may not be followed whatsoever. The Governor's
34 budget office posted possible furloughs on their website for AHS, which caused staff concern.
35 Woosley wanted staff and board members to be aware of the discrepancies between the agency
36 response and what is posted on the Governor's website.

37
38 Agency Announcements

39
40 Woosley announced that AHS has received a \$10,000 grant from the City of Tucson to stabilize
41 the Charles O. Brown House.

42
43 Woosley reported the process to receive stimulus dollars to update the energy systems in the
44 Tucson and Tempe continues. Two companies submitted initial assessments for the two
45 facilities and interviews are scheduled in December.

47 Woosley worked with the Historical League on two applications for Centennial projects that
48 were both approved. One is a sanctioned Centennial Event by the Governor's Commission for the
49 2011 Historymakers Gala. This will be the first sanctioned event in that calendar year. The other
50 is a Legacy Project, "In Their Own Words," which is a Historical League project that collects the
51 oral histories of the Historymakers. This project was approved by the Legacy Project review
52 committee of the Arizona Historical Advisory Committee.

53
54 Woolsey remarked that the Sandra Day O'Connor exhibit, "A Citizen for All Seasons," opening
55 was a wonderful occasion. Justice O'Connor and her brother told stories of growing up on the
56 ranch. The opening was combined with the Historical League's annual membership drive.

57
58 Woosley stated that Oriana Ornelas, AHS Account Tech, had resigned and Robert Orser, AHS
59 Southern photographer, moved to Montana. She announced the retirement of Deborah Shelton
60 in mid-December. Staff will cover the division director responsibilities until AHS is in a better
61 fiscal situation.

62
63 Woosley asked the Board for their patience and trust on a matter that she cannot yet disclose to
64 them. She commented that it was awkward for her because her approach has always been
65 complete openness with them. She has been in discussions at high levels about an AHS directed
66 Centennial project. It is extremely delicate with many moving parts and may end up being the
67 State's main Signature Centennial project. Woosley said she was directed not to speak about the
68 project until later. This means that she needs the all of the board's patience because she knows
69 the chapter boards want to embark on planning activities and projects for 2010. Woosley
70 requested that chapter boards hold off and she would appreciate no new projects be identified
71 until further word is received. She commented that if the Centennial project comes to pass, the
72 staff, boards, and volunteers, would all need to be involved. She hopes to have something more
73 to report in January.

74
75 Woosley commented that the budget process is frustrating because AHS has to hold back dollars
76 in anticipation of further budget cuts and no one has any idea how much the cuts might be. She
77 noted that if the cut happens in January, AHS needs to be ready and therefore cannot fill vacant
78 positions.

79
80 Barrios said he is a co-chair of the Outreach subcommittee of the Centennial Commission. He
81 said they are visiting with county supervisors throughout the state and he would like to ask the
82 Board to participate when they meet in their counties. The subcommittee is putting together a
83 menu of potential Centennial events that cost little or nothing.

84
85 Woosley said AHS, the Arizona Department of Administration, and Office of Tourism, have
86 been discussing Centennial project ideas that would reach into the counties throughout the state.
87 Karen Churchard, Director of the Arizona Centennial and Deputy Director of Tourism, has held
88 meetings to identify ways for communities to commemorate statehood. There is an idea for a
89 Centennial Marker Program. Communities would be encouraged to look at their local history,
90 events or persons, and to erect a historical marker in their community. Woosley commented that
91 Jay Van Orden had offered to coordinate the marker program. She noted the project could be
92 linked with the Outreach subcommittee. Barrios said their next subcommittee meeting is

93 scheduled for December 3 and 10:00 a.m. and he invited board members to attend using the
94 video conferencing at each AHS museum. Ronstadt asked Barrios to notify the Board whenever
95 there are Outreach subcommittee meetings.

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97
98

Committee Reports

99 **Awards and Recognition** – No report.

100

101 **Collections** – No report.

102

103 **Development** – Wade said a special meeting would be held at a later date. Ronstadt said once
104 the budget is settled, the Board would have a special meeting to focus on development. Wade
105 reported that over \$12,000 had been raised from the AHS license plate program. Woosley
106 remarked that the Centennial Commission is working on a Centennial license plate.

107

108 **Executive/Personnel** – Ronstadt said the committee met and conducted the annual performance
109 review of the executive director. He stated the committee unanimously commended Woosley for
110 everything she does and that they were very impressed with her work.

111

112 **Exhibits & Education** – No report.

113

114 **Community Outreach** – Cunningham said the committee had reviewed the application forms
115 for certification and grants and the committee should be ready to present them soon.

116

117 **Finance** – Babbitt said the committee would meet in January. Bittrich reported that AHS is
118 running slightly under budget in anticipation of budget cuts.

119

120 **Governance & Policy** – Shaw said there had been a break through on the Oro Belle property
121 and hoped it would be resolved soon. He indicated the Church of Latter Day Saints may decide
122 to give the property to AHS. Shaw said recently he was invited to a dinner with Sandra Day
123 O'Connor who told him she was "robust" about the exhibit. He shared with her the article he
124 wrote about AHS and O'Connor's response to AHS being both a 501 (c) (3) and a state agency
125 was "it doesn't make sense to me."

126

127 **International Affairs** – Holm said the committee is working to bring in folks from Mexico
128 interested in history across the border.

129

130 **Legislative Affairs** – No report.

131

132 **Membership** – Barrios reviewed the current membership report that shows AHS is losing
133 members. He said this coming year the committee would need to come up with innovative ideas
134 to increase membership.

135

136 **Nominating** – Beaver noted she is terming off and remarked she has enjoyed working with the
137 board and staff. She reported she found Art Fox to fill her vacated seat on the board to represent
138 La Paz County.

139 **Property & Building Management** – Urman said the committee recently met and reviewed
140 AHS properties. He said he hoped the contact with the Church of Latter Day Saints would move
141 AHS forward to a resolution with the property. Urman said the committee had discussed options
142 for who should own the Douglas Williams house, currently owned by AHS. The Douglas
143 Historical Society operates the house as a museum and AHS provides funding for maintenance.
144 Urman reported that he spoke with the Cochise County Administration about the property. Shaw
145 noted the description of the Museum at Papago Park is incorrect and Urman said the committee
146 would update the document.

147
148 **Publications** – Haak showed the Board the newest AHS publication “A Volume of Friendship:
149 The Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt and Isabella Greenway, 1904-1953,” edited by Kristie Miller
150 and Robert McGinnis.

151
152 **Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning** – No report.

153
154 **Items Scheduled for Board Discussion and/or Action**

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156 A. Woosley reminded the Board that a presentation was made at the last meeting about the
157 Culturekeepers program. **Beaver moved to approve a partnership with Culturekeepers.**
158 **Lacy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

159
160 *The board recessed at 10:30 a.m. to attend the Annual Meeting and reconvened at 12:20 p.m.*

161
162 B. **Schroeder moved to approve the officers for 2009-10 as presented: Jim Ronstadt,**
163 **President, Oscar Schraml, Vice-president; Jim Babbitt, Treasurer; and Frank Barrios,**
164 **Secretary. Cunningham seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

165
166 **Announcements and other Matters for Consideration at Future Board Meetings**

167
168 Ronstadt said a meeting schedule for 2010 would be set and distributed in December. He will
169 also work on committee assignments for the upcoming year.

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171 **Adjournment**

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173 The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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175

176 Signed: _____ Date: _____
177 Jim Ronstadt, President