

**APPROVED - Meeting Minutes of the
Outreach Committee of the Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society**

May 15, 2024

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – Committee Member Robert Ballard at 10:01pm
2. **Roll Call** – Robert Ballard
 - a. Present: Janice Bryson, Amy Hartmann-Gordon, Karrie Rumsower, Robert Ballard
 - b. Absent: Tom Foster, Sherry Rumpy
 - c. Staff: David Breeckner, Jaynie Adams, David Turpie, Jason Mihalic, Nikky D'Anzi, Vincent Bradley
3. **Minutes** - Discussion and action to approve the draft Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Outreach Committee meeting.
 - a. Janice Bryson motioned to approve, seconded by Amy Hartmann-Gordon. Unanimously approved.
4. **Call to the Public** – Robert Ballard
 - a. No members of the public present.
5. **Agenda Item** - Certified Historic Institutions (CHI) - Jason Mihalic
 - a. Update on 2024 CHI membership and recruitment.
 - i. Current lull on most CHI activities.
 - ii. Ajo Historical Society certification paperwork is still outstanding. Jason has been in contact with their staff and the materials should be submitted soon.
 - iii. The Arizona Military Museum in Phoenix has not yet reconciled with leadership at the Papago Park Military Reservation and remains closed to general visitation; AMM is open for special tours to guard members on-base. They have inquired about the impact of these closures on their future CHI status, and the qualifying nature of their special tours. Conversations are ongoing.
 - iv. David Breeckner added that AHS has connected with the new Director of Bullion Plaza (Phil Stewart), replacing Tom Foster, and will provide assistance as requested to support their continuity of operations and development of institutional resiliency.
 - b. Update on 2024 grant timelines.
 - i. 2023 small grant reports are now being received; all closeout reports due 6/15/24. One request for an extension has been submitted by Bullion Plaza.

- ii. Awaiting grant applications for the 2024 grant season, opens 6/1/24 and closes 7/15/24.
 - c. Update on Historical League cookbook donations to CHIs.
 - i. The League has completed its distribution of books, with several notable stories and photos to be shared. Books were distributed with a letter from Jason about the CI program.
 - 1. In total, around 40 CHIs received a case of books (10 each).
 - 2. Reports have been favorable; several non-CHIs were included due to an excess of books and may inspire future CHI applications.
 - 3. Jason shared that at least two CHIs (Snowflake and Superior) are developing their own regional cookbooks. This could be a new retail and/or outreach opportunity to explore and develop.
 - ii. The League is assessing its current inventory to determine if there are additional books to distribute.
 - iii. Robert Ballard asked if AHS was doing anything to recognize the efforts of the Historical League over the last year. David Breeckner replied that AHS will be recognizing the League with a certificate ceremony at the May 31 State Board meeting (hybrid meeting held at AHC Tempe)
 - d. Jaynie Adams was introduced as the AHS staff member who will be taking over the CHI program. This will be a phased transition of duties over the next several months. Jaynie has been with AHS for over 5 years, with experience working with NHD, AHS education, and the Journal of Arizona History. She is excited to begin helping other museums across the state do their best work.
 - i. Robert welcomed Jaynie and expressed his confidence in the team.
6. **Agenda Item** - Al Merito Awards - Dr. David Turpie
- a. Update on Al Merito timelines
 - i. Nominations: 4/1/24 - 4/30/24
 - ii. Review: 5/15/24 - 6/19/24
 - iii. Vote: 6/19/24
 - b. David Turpie asked for the Committee's readiness to receive completed nominations and reviewed the grading/scoring criteria to be used.
 - i. In total, 10 nominations have been received. This was less than last year, which was a 50th anniversary and had a higher response rate. The 10 nominations are extremely competitive.
 - ii. The Committee confirmed and David agreed to send all materials by EOD on Wednesday, 5/15/24.
 - c. Nikky D'Anzi was introduced as the new AHS Membership & Outreach Coordinator; Nikky was formally appointed to the role, having previously supported the role in her duties as an AA3 at AHC Tempe. Nikky looks forward to expanding the

statewide presence and engagement of AHS in her role.

- i. David Turpie recognized Nkky's recent success: signing 4 new members during a single AHS event.

7. **Agenda Item** - Legislative Outreach - Dr. David Breeckner

a. Update on Legislative Outreach halt due to 5% cuts.

- i. At the beginning of May, Governor Hobbs instructed all State agencies to provide plans to reduce their state appropriations budgets by approximately 5.5% for FY25; additionally, the Governor's team implemented new headcount caps for all State agencies. AHS' has been reduced from 49 to 36. These actions were made to help address the State's extant and future deficits, which are in excess of \$500m for FY24 and FY25.

1. The budget cuts have not yet been confirmed, but AHS is proceeding with plans on the assumption of their occurring. This would be approximately \$170,000 in cuts to AHS' budget for FY25.

2. No current staff positions were impacted. Only positions that were vacant at the time of the notice were cut; AHS can continue to refill vacancies within the 36 approved positions, and may request additional headcounts through a formal exemption request process.

- ii. Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked about the impact of the budget cuts and headcount caps on AHS operations.

1. David Breeckner answered that this has accelerated the schedule for reforms already underway by AHS through the closure of its Yuma facility and temporary, one-year closure of its Flagstaff site.

2. AHS is currently redeveloping its strategic plan to reflect these realities, with the vision of becoming an organization with two physical museum sites in Tempe and Tucson and one that supports statewide history through its programs and resources (e.g. CHIs, NHD). The Outreach Committee will be essential in supporting and informing these statewide efforts.

- a. Amy Hartmann-Gordon offered that the Committee members could assist with rebuilding stakeholder relationships and providing introductions for AHS staff. She recognized the good representation of Tucson-community members among the Committee and Outreach staff, and existing opportunities in the area.

3. Due to AHS' reforms in Yuma and Flagstaff, the budget cuts should not present any substantial and negative impacts to operations, but numbers are still being calculated. A full impact will first be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 5/21/24. Vince Bradley added that the removed headcount positions will create vacancy savings to combat appropriations reductions in FY25.

4. The headcount cap does eliminate previously-available headcounts

that could have supported a reopening of Pioneer with new AHS staff. AHS went from 49 available positions to 36. At present, this has cemented AHS' plans and will inform new efforts in Flagstaff. AHS will be pursuing headcount exemption requests to grow beyond 36, but this is not yet a certain thing that will be granted. Currently, AHS is able to hire for 2 openings: Facility Rentals Coordinator and Tucson Archivist. Collections and exhibits staff are presently most affected and in need of a commensurate scaling of duties and expectations. Headcount exemptions are required to be able to refill existing vacancies among these teams and are the greatest priority.

5. AHS is assuming the headcount reductions will be recurring across future years; AHS will need to adapt its business model to suit current staffing levels.
- b. Possible action item - vote on what to do with books for legislatures or storage (currently at home of Sherry Rampy).
 - i. Due to the fiscal realities of the State, David Breeckner spoke with Sherry Rampy and it was decided to suspend the current legislative outreach effort to request an additional \$1.45m to AHS' FY25 appropriations budget. To continue otherwise would have been at odds with current messaging from the State. The books continue to be reserved for the time being; efforts would resume in FY26.
 - ii. A follow-up discussion and vote by the Outreach Committee will be required at its June meeting to confirm the revised plan.
 - iii. Robert Ballard agreed to postpone any possible action item until the next Outreach Committee meeting to include Chair Sherry Rampy in the discussion.
 - c. Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked about the current status of AHS' Sunset Review.
 - i. David Breeckner shared that the 2-year recommendation proposed by Sen. Hoffman as HB2632 has cleared the Senate but is waiting in the House. A counter bill seeking to restore the original 8-year recommendation has been proposed by Rep. Dunn as HB2613 and has cleared committee in the House. Neither has received a vote at this time; AHS is awaiting any updates from its Policy Advisor or the bills' proponents.
 1. Unlike HB2632, which lumps multiple state organizations into a single bill and all with a 2-year recommendation, HB2613 is one of several smaller bills that recommendation an 8-year continuation. HB2613 only covers AHS and Prescott Historical Society; it is not yet clear whether the split increases or decreases AHS' prospects for a longer renewal.
 - ii. At this time, the best that the Committee can do is direct individuals to advocate for HB2613.

8. Agenda Item - Board Updates - Dr. David Breeckner

- a. The State Board voted to hold the Annual Meeting on Friday, 10/18/24 in Flagstaff.
- b. Staff are currently investigating a site to host the meeting and details concerning costs for the venue and food/drink. More information will be shared during the June Executive Committee meeting.

9. **Announcements** and other matters for the Good of the Order.

- a. Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked to add an agenda item for the next meeting to explore new ways to promote and participate in the America250 celebration in Arizona in 2026.
 - i. David Turpie added that 2025 is also the 250th anniversary of Tucson. He and Jaynie Adams will be sharing ideas with AHS staff shortly and have a good series of events planned over the next several years.
 - ii. Amy Hartmann-Gordon requested an update by Jaynie on AHS' efforts in Tucson at the next Committee meeting.
 - iii. Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked about the timing of AHS' FY25 and FY26 budgets and their submission. David Breeckner responded that AHS submitted its proposed FY25 budget in August 2023, and will submit its proposed FY26 budget in August 2024. However, these proposals are subject to change between the time of submission and their going live on July 1. This is currently the case with AHS' FY25 budget. Amy suggested that AHS consider including an item for special funding for the America250 celebration in its FY26 and FY27 budgets.
- b. David Breeckner shared that the Historical League's Historymakers Committee will start its nominations for its next 2025 class in fall 2024. An announcement event is scheduled for February 2025. David asked for the Committee's support and outreach for the Historymakers statewide nomination search.
- c. David Breeckner updated the Committee on a news article series that recently ran in the Yuma Sun concerning AHS' upcoming transfer of property and the state of past and future collections stewardship in the region. David said he would share those articles with the Committee members after the meeting, and that he and David Turpie are designated Points of Contact for any questions.

10. **Adjournment** by Robert Ballard at 10:50 am

Dated this 20th day of May 2024

Arizona Historical Society

Robert Ballard

Robert Ballard, Outreach Committee Member

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Outreach Committee Schedule: Every Third Wednesday at 10 am.

Virtual unless announced otherwise.

Click the date to register for the meeting

All meetings are live-streamed via Zoom.

[June 19, 2024](#)

[July 17, 2024](#)

[August 21, 2024](#)

[September 18, 2024](#)

[October 16, 2024](#)

[November 20, 2024](#)

[December 18, 2024](#)