



January 31, 2025

State Board

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Action taken:

- Approve the draft minutes of the December 6, 2024, AHS State Board meeting as presented. (Robert Ballard, Colleen Bryon. Motion approved unanimously.)
- Approve recommendations for deaccession. (Greg Scott, Colleen Byron. Motion approved unanimously.)
- Submit the Board's recommendation for its selected nominee to the Arizona Boards & Commissions. (No action was taken.)

1. Call to Order- Kelly Corsette at 12:02 PM

2. Roll Call- Linda Elliott-Nelson

a. Present- Kelly Corsette, Robert Ballard, Desirae Barquin, Jim Snitzer, DeNise Bauer, Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Colleen Byron, Greg Scott, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson

b. Absent- Rick Powers, Sherry Rampy, Wynne Brown

c. Staff- Dr. David Breeckner, Kaydi Forgia, Jace Dostal, David Nagelski, Vince Bradley, Vanesa Fajardo, Dr. David Turpie, Dr. Rebekah Tabah

3. Minutes - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the December 6, 2024 AHS State Board meeting. (Robert Ballard, Colleen Bryon. Motions approved unanimously.)

4. Call to the Public – Kelly Corsette

a. Guests- Jan Sgambelluri, Pat Loven, Gwen Groth, Shannon Benjamin, Charlotte Madden, Cathy Shumard, Duffie Westheimer, Elliot Foran

- No comments on presented agenda items

5. Collections Review Committee - Greg Scott, Rebekah Tabah

a. Action Item to approve recommendations for deaccession. (Greg Scott, Colleen Byron. Motion approved unanimously.)

- Dr. Rebekah Tabah shared that the board should have received a list of recommended deaccessions with their agenda. This was shared on the screen. Greg Scott, chair of the Collections Review Committee, shared that AHS has remarkable items in its collections and pointed out that the committee met on this and was unanimous about the recommendations for deaccession.

6. Chapters Discussion - Kelly Corsette

a. Kelly Corsette noted that the chapters' roles have been discussed over the past few meetings. There were some vacancies on the board, and some seats represent chapters. In 2022, the board policy manual was updated regarding chapters.

- Dr. Breeckner asked if there were any questions regarding the chapters. The first document looks at the historical nature of the chapters. There are five chapters: Central, Rio Colorado, Eastern, Northern, and Southern. AHS can have as many chapters as they want as long as there is at least one. In 2017, there were changes with the chapters under the Sunset Review. In 2018, the 1107 funds had to be pulled away from chapters. In 2022, AHS Governance updated policies and bylaws and introduced new language: what makes a chapter active or inactive. There is one active chapter, two inactive chapters, and two without communication. AHS should examine the relationship between AHS and the

chapters and determine if CHIs should be included. The 2022 bylaw update saw chapters as an outreach role, and AHS considers this a way to open dialogue on the role of chapters.

- Robert Ballard asked about the document and when it was sent. Kaydi Forgia will resend the document to the board. Dr. Breeckner said the third document was sent to the board on January 25, 2025. Robert thanked Dr. Breeckner for the explanation and added that this idea opens doors. Dr. Breeckner said that AHS has a small staff and that the need and impact of history is present.
- Dr. Colleen Byron mentioned consolidation and combining subject matter chapters and current chapters. She noted that subject matter chapters could attract individuals interested in those areas and added that she would be willing to work on a chapter where she is interested. Dr. Byron added that there are difficulties in some of the more rural areas with bringing together a chapter, but a subject matter area could help attract people interested in a particular topic.
- Dr. Breeckner thanked Dr. Byron for her interest and comments and added that chapters could support the larger organization since they create an AHS presence in a community. There is another bill involving AHS that has come out and involves chapters. This will be discussed during February's AHS Executive Committee meeting.

7. Eastern Chapter Board Seat - Kelly Corsette

- a.** Kelly Corsette shared that there is a nominee for this seat. This seat is vacant due to the passing of Tom Foster. Dr. Breeckner shared that the chapter seat needs to be recommended by the chapter; however, if there are 45 days in which the chapter has not brought forward a recommendation for an individual for the seat, the AHS Board can move forward with a nominee. Phil Stewart has expressed an interest in serving on the board and has asked if it is better to go through the board process now or after the impasse currently taking place with approving board members has finished. Currently, someone applying for the board can only serve for one year. After this year, they cannot serve on the AHS board again. Phil Stewart has asked the Board to determine if he should serve for one year now or wait until later when he could serve for a longer term. It appears that it will be two more years before there is any possibility of the situation changing with the board service timeframe.
- b. Action Item** to submit the Board's recommendation of its selected nominee to the Arizona Boards & Commissions. No action was taken.
 - Kelly Corsette thanked Dr. Breeckner for his description of the situation. Dr. Colleen Byron shared that if AHS continues with its current practice of not approving new board members, will the board end up with no members? Dr. Breeckner noted that current board members serve until they step down. The

initial appointment is the issue since it would only last one year. Dr. Byron said she would not like to limit Phil Stewart's tenure on the AHS board to one year.

- Desirae Barquin asked when the holdover status might end. Dr. Breeckner said that for now, currently held board positions last into perpetuity.
- Jim Snitzer asked if those interested in serving on the board could attend meetings as a member of the public. Dr. Breeckner said that he could provide introductions to committees and shared that Phil Stewart's background includes museum operations.
- Kelly Corsette observed that it would be a good idea to engage those individuals interested in serving on the board in the future. At present, it might be best to take no action on this item for now, and see if Phil Stewart could attend some meetings.
- Dr. Breeckner shared that Boards and Commissions will escalate the situation if boards arrive at a situation where they no longer have enough members to make a quorum.
- Robert Ballard asked if the ruling that if board members can only serve a year, where that ruling is housed. Dr. Breeckner said that this is housed in a statute.

8. Board Priorities(s) - Kelly Corsette

a. Kelly Corsette brought forward suggested priorities for the AHS Board: the reopening of the Pioneer Museum with funding in place, chapters, outreach (Robert Ballard is the new chair of the Outreach Committee), and popular history to rebuild relationships with the public.

- Dr. Colleen Byron expressed her support for the popular history course and how this could involve the subject-matter chapters with this. Greg Scott shared that other agencies could be involved and that people attend popular history events. Greg said he would be willing to work on this. Vanessa Fajardo said that there is a permanent exhibit in Tucson called Arizona 101 and encouraged board members to reach out to discuss this. Dr. Byron suggested that AHS bring in Marshall Shore who would be very helpful in creating programs and in sharing what is currently popular in Arizona history. Desirae Barquin added that it would be great to see something more popular and less academic for the general public. Jim Snitzer said that he had proposed a calendar in the past that could be done. Jim also recommended Dakota Livesly who writes little vignettes on history. Kelly Corsette asked the board to compile this information and send it to him.

9. Arizona Legislative Update - David Breeckner

a. SB-1017: Funding for Pioneer Museum

- Dr. Breeckner spoke about SB 1017 and commended the letter-writing

campaigns encouraging SB 1017 to move forward. Legislatively, there have been eight legislative meetings so far with party chairs and caucus chairs plus Senate President Peterson. So far, legislative support has been positive and in support of SB 1017. There are also meetings scheduled with committee chairs. Senate sees this as a funding priority through how SB 1017 was submitted. Once it is known when the bill will be discussed, AHS will let the board know. It looks like it will be a fairly neutral budget year regarding funds. Providing SB 1017 clears, it will look at July 1, 2026, as a date when the funds are available. AHS is looking at what preparations will be needed if the bill is passed. Kelly Corsette reiterated his thanks to individuals in Flagstaff, Coconino County and their Board of Supervisors for their efforts to push this bill forward. Dr. Breeckner described SB 1017 as a 2 part format: Part A) makes an appropriation for 2026 and Part B) continues this funding into the future. AHS is supporting both parts of the bill. This amount represents 0.002% of the state budget. Facilities need to be ready and positions need to be staffed. The bill includes \$259,000 for staffing and \$100,000 for operations. AHS still goes to Flagstaff monthly to do maintenance. AHS needs to wait until the formal passage of SB 1017 before starting activities. Kelly Corsette reiterated that maintenance is still going on, but that the issue in the past was hiring staff for the positions at the Pioneer Museum. Dr. Breeckner stated that AHS is trying to frontload activities to be ready and is working on position descriptions.

- Kelly Corsette asked any members of the public if they would like to comment on this agenda item. Dr. Breeckner said that the press release went out earlier and the call to legislators will be going out soon. Desirae Barquin asked what else the Coconino County area could do to make this happen. Dr. Breeckner said that the energy should be focused on the legislature and that Kaydi Forgia has a list of committee members at the legislature. These contacts and information will be provided to the board by Kaydi Forgia to encourage people to see SB 1017 as a priority. The caucus chairs and party chairs will be the focus for now. A physical presence during committee meetings will be very helpful to show support. Dr. Breeckner thanked Shannon Benjamin for representing state parks with this activity. Kelly Corsette thanked those individuals who attended today's meeting and thanked Dr. Breeckner and his staff for their work on this.

b. 1/15/25 - S.O.S. Fontes visit to AHC Tempe

- Dr. Breeckner noted that Secretary of State Fontes visited the Tempe facility on January 15, 2025. Kelly Corsette was able to be present. The Secretary of State was able to see the Dusty Trails exhibit and hear about the various activities of AHS; he was very engaged and supportive of AHS and its activities. Dr. Breeckner commended Dr. Tabah for her work and presentations during this

visit.

c. FY26 budget updates

• 1/17/25 Executive budget

- Base appropriations unchanged: \$2,978,700.
- Statewide Employee Retention increase: \$51,700
- CIP Building Renewal funding: \$338,900 (one-time)
- Gov. Hobbs released her Executive Budget on January 17, 2025. This is the first of several draft budgets that the State will consider before a final Statewide budget is released in concurrence with the Legislature by the end of the session (May-June 2025). Presently, it is only a recommendation but gives an indication of the Governor's funding priorities for the next fiscal year. The appropriation level for AHS was unchanged. The funding requests made by AHS were not given attention. Two new funding initiatives came forward. An additional \$51,700 to retain employees was included in one of the initiatives. The CIP was submitted for FY27 for about \$70 million.

10. Director's Report - David Breeckner

a. Dr. David Breeckner said that the report sent covered November and December 2024. If board members can serve as judges for National History Day, they are encouraged to spread the word or serve as judges. AHS is doing another loan with the City of Yuma, a large ship's wheel that will be exhibited at the Yuma City Hall. There will be a trip to Yuma on February 10, 2025. The Journal of Arizona History is a quarterly publication. Project Muse has over 16,000 users, higher than the total number in the past two years. There was an Animal Jam weekend last fall, and AHS will continue developing public events. Statehood week will be held February 8-16, 2025, with complimentary attendance at AHS facilities. Annual giving this year is over \$66,000, which exceeded the goal—credit to the facilities team, which is getting repairs done. The MOU with the Time Capsule Foundation was signed. The Friends of AHS Board will be meeting on February 4, 2025. The Historical League will be doing historical events. Kaydi Forgia has sent out emails to AHS board members asking if their contact information can be shared with the Historical League.

- Dr. Rebekah Tabah shared information on the National History Day events where judges are needed. National History Day Competitions: Saturday, Feb. 22nd- East Valley; Saturday, March 1st- West Valley; Saturday, March 22nd- North; Saturday, March 29th- Southern.
- National History Day Volunteer/Judge information link:
<https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/education/national-history-day-arizona/#Judges-and-Volunteers>
- Dr. Breeckner welcomed new staff. Alex Bushman was on-boarded as

Communications Manager, Sebastian Alt returned to full-time in November, and Emily Hahn is the new Tempe Educator. There were some departures. Nikki D'Anzi accepted a new position, and Isabel Canaraz resigned. These positions will be posted. Dr. Tabah added that those vacant positions can be posted quickly and do not need approval from ADOA.

11. Director's Evaluation - Kelly Corsette

- a. Kelly Corsette thanked Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson and Robert Ballard, who agreed to serve on the Performance Review, and asked if any other board members would like to serve on this task force. Kelly asked about the timeframe. Dr. Elliott-Nelson shared that this process should be complete by late March or early April.

12. Announcements and considerations in future board or committee meetings.

- a. National History Day (NHD)
- b. HistoryMakers (Historical League)
- c. Tom Foster Day (1/18/25)
 - Dr. David Breeckner announced that there was a Tom Foster Day on January 18, 2025, in Miami, Arizona, at the Bullion Plaza, which included an exhibit that focused on Tom Foster and honors and recognizes his work in this area. Dr. Breeckner shared photos of this exhibit and Bullion Plaza on the screen.

13. Adjournment- Kelly Corsette at 1:52 PM

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors

DATE: January 31, 2025

Kelly Corsette

Kelly Corsette, AHS Board President

2025 AHS State Board Meeting Schedule

At Noon and virtual unless announced otherwise

January 31, 2025	July 25, 2025
March 28, 2025	September 26, 2025
May 30, 2025	December 5, 2025