



ARIZONA  
**HISTORICAL**  
SOCIETY

FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON

---

**May 30, 2025**

---

**DRAFT- MEETING MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**ACTION TAKEN:**

- Motion to approve the [March 28, 2025, State Board meeting minutes](#) as presented. ((Robert Ballard, Dr. Colleen Byron) Motion approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve the resignation of Wynne Brown and Sherry Rampy. (Kelly Corsette, Dr. Colleen Byron) Motion approved unanimously.

*The Arizona Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the administration of its program and services as prescribed by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter or alternative formats, by contacting AHS Administration at 520-617-1169. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.*

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Call to Order by Kelly Corsette at 12:00 PM**

### **2. Roll Call- Linda Elliott-Nelson**

- a. **Present-** Desirae Barquin, Kelly Corsette, Jim Snitzer, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Robert Ballard, Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Colleen Byron
- b. **Absent-** Wynne Brown, Greg Scott, Sherry Rampy, Rick Powers
- c. **Staff-** Dr. David Breeckner, Vince Bradley, Jace Dostal, KD Forgia, David Nagelski, Dr. Rebekah Tabah, Vanessa Fajardo, Kennedy Mesebrink, Melissa Baskin, Jose Rodriguez, Kristen Rex

### **3. Minutes - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the [March 28, 2025, State Board meeting](#). (Robert Ballard, Dr. Colleen Byron. Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.)**

### **4. Call to the Public- Kelly Corsette**

- a. Cathy Shumard- Listening for the National History Day update. No comment.

### **5. President's Updates - Kelly Corsette**

- a. Outreach & Development
  - Kelly asked the board for feedback on moving forward with information on Arizona history. He shared that there are community members who are interested in being involved with sharing Arizona's history. The concept would be a history series that would be open to anyone who is interested. Dr. Colleen Byron shared that she thinks it is a fabulous idea and we could partner with KJZZ that already has a history quiz on their website. This would give AHS the ability to promote Arizona's history and grow interest. Dr. Breeckner added that AHS received feedback from a poll from the CHIs who expressed interest in this idea. He added that AHS is still trying to fill a membership position on the staff. Kelly added that there is a challenge with this idea, but that 4 or 5 sessions of one hour each could be done. The curriculum could be developed during 2025 and launched in 2026. Dr. Byron shared that her job at Northern Arizona University was program and course development and teaching those courses in a hybrid format and volunteered to help engage in this process if asked. Kelly thanked her for stepping up. Robert Ballard said that he liked the idea and linking this to the 250th anniversary of the United States. He added that this is a staff-generated project.
- b. Growth & Public Engagement

- Kelly Corsette brought forward the board's role in engagement and asked the board how this could be formalized. Board members could be asked to contact a number of Certified Historical Institutions (CHIs) so that these relationships could be strengthened. This could be a list of expectations for board members. Robert Ballard said that this was a great idea and had been done in the past. Some activities had been dropped during COVID. Jim Snitzer added that this is a great idea and shared that having talking points on a paper would be helpful and would give us an opportunity to increase membership. Kelly said he would bring something back in writing to the board for consideration. Dr. Byron suggested running this information by the Governance Committee.

## 6. Board Updates - Kelly Corsette

- a. Sherry Rampy has resigned from the Board, effective 4/3/25.
- b. Wynne Brown has resigned from the Board, effective 5/23/25.
  - Desirae Barquin asked if the AHS Board has a minimum number allowed. Dr. Breeckner noted that the statute notes a simple majority for the AHS Board, but does not require a minimum number on the AHS Board. The Board now stands at 10 members, requiring 6 for quorum purposes.
  - Dr. Byron said that Wynne Brown and Sherry Rampy were very instrumental to this Board and requested that a thank you note be sent to both Board members. She volunteered to help write the note. Kelly thanked her for this suggestion. Motion made to approve these two resignations from the Board.
- b. **Action Item** to accept the resignations of Sherry Rampy and Wynne Brown - (Kelly Corsette, Dr. Colleen Byron) Motion approved.

## 7. Finance Updates - Jim Snitzer, David Nagelski

- a. Revenue, Expenditures, YTD (See attached CSB April Report)
  - David Nagelski to shared information previously shared with the Finance Committee. David said that 83% of the fiscal year has been reached and that it looked like the deficit expected is occurring. Tribal and local grants are coming in light. Certain expenses are also light. Rental expense has been somewhat high. The overall result is per plan. Jim noted that there are no immediate red flags, although there are some long-term sustainability concerns, such as repair and maintenance, payroll and utilities. Dr. Byron asked about the budget for next year. Dr. Breeckner said AHS is one month away from next year's budget. The budget for FY27 will be run by the board in June. The FY26 budget will be

given in section 8 of this meeting.

1) Revenue: \$3,816,644.75 (planned \$4,347,800)

2) Expenditures: \$3,454,694.76 (planned \$4,557,129)

b. FY27 CIP

c. FY27 Budget- Initial budget draft is in the process of being finalized.

## **8. Legislative Updates- David Breeckner**

a. Legislative updates

- No changes in AHS' previous bills; awaiting release of budget for news on Pioneer funding
- Current discussion of recession & shortages in State budgets
- FY26 State budget anticipated between 6/16-6/27

b. Federal updates

- IMLS, NEA, NEH grant programs cut – **\$8.2m** annual loss to Arizona
- Proposed changes to Federal taxes would negatively impact NPO finances & States (see attached document)
  - Temporary increase to standard deduction
  - New limits on itemized deductions for wealthy donors
  - New, 1% cap on corporate giving
  - New taxes on estate giving and gifts
  - Increased taxation of “assets” held by Foundations
  - Removal of Federal Medicaid & SNAP support

## **9. Director's Report - David Breeckner**

a. Draft AHS FY27 budget shared with Finance Committee at its May meeting; first vote anticipated at their June meeting.

b. AHS has its second inter-agency meeting with other State leaders on 5/21 to discuss and plan Statewide resiliency against uncertain budgets and funding.

c. NHD State contest completed; upcoming is the winners' trip to Washington, DC for Nationals.

d. AHC shutdown was unable to complete needed HVAC repairs due to issues with the vendor and material availability. AHS is exploring a second, 3-week shutdown in July or August to complete the work.

a. **3** new staff in April: Kiel Posner (AHC Preparator), Kennedy Mesenbrink (AHC Registrar), Melissa Baskin (AHC Registrar)

b. 3 events scheduled at Pioneer Museum in June: Wool & Fiber Festival, Folk Festival, and Craft Brewers Guild Festival.

c. Juneteenth event at AHC still planned for Saturday, 6/21.

## **10. Announcements and considerations in future board or committee meetings.**

- a. Dr. Breeckner shared that the Director’s reports would be sent to the board next week. Kelly Corsette shared that the next Board meeting will be July 25, 2025, and asked board members to let him know in advance if they cannot be present.

**11. Adjournment called by Kelly Corsette at 1:04 PM**

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors

DATE: May 30, 2025

*Kelly Corsette*

Kelly Corsette, State Board President

State Board Meeting Schedule

Noon and virtual unless announced otherwise

<a href="#">March 28, 2025</a>	<a href="#">September 26, 2025</a>
<a href="#">May 30, 2025</a>	<a href="#">December 5, 2025</a>
<a href="#">July 25, 2025</a>	