



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON

June 29, 2026

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

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

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Kelly Corsette at 12:01

2. Roll Call

- a. **Present-** Kelly Corsette, DeNise Bauer, Jim Snitzer, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Desirae Barquin, Robert Ballard
- b. **Absent-** Bruce Gwynn
- c. **Satff-** Melba Davis, KD Forgia, Jace Dostal, David Breeckner, David Nagelski, Rebekah Tabah-Percival, Sebastian Alt, Vince Bradley

3. Minutes - Motion to approve the draft minutes of the [May 18, 2026, committee meeting](#). (Jim Snitzer, DeNise Bauer. Motion passed unanimously.)

4. Call to the Public – Kelly Corsette

- a. No members of the public were present
- b. No public comments were submitted

5. Finance Committee update – Jim Snitzer, David Nagelski

- a. Jim Snitzer asked David Nagelski to give this report. David Nagelski shared that the draft of the FY28 budget was attached, and mirrored the one shared with the Finance Committee at its June meeting but with additional changes to the Payroll and ERE line items within. The total FY28 deficit is listed as \$390,000 in this copy. David Breeckner added that additional edits and work needs to be done before the budget's final presentation to the Finance Committee for its vote and recommendation in July - the deficit cannot exceed \$300,000 due to the anticipated balance of the Society's reserves at the end of FY27 (see FY27 budget notes in Item 5.C).
- b. DRAFT copy of FY28 budget for initial review
- c. No action required this meeting; the Finance Committee will issue its recommendation for the July Ex-Comm and State Board review and approval.
- d. FY27 budget passed by Legislature & signed by Governor Hobbs

- See pages 57, 97
- Includes 1.9% cut to AHS' prior-year appropriations (\$59,900)
- Includes access to an additional \$549,600 via State Parks Revenue Fund (one-time), BUT conditioned on AHS Non-restricted Donations Reserves falling below \$300,000.

6. Director's Update - David Breeckner

a. AHC shutdown & repairs

- Collections materials successfully moved to AHM for storage on Friday, 6/19/26
- Steele Auditorium flood repairs in final stages; the ADOA has finished its walkthrough of Steele Auditorium (completing and closing out 10 months of repair work).
- Vendors start preaction work on 7/6/26
- Capital Development solicitations underway

b. End of Year

- Closeout efforts underway, including CIP, EOY reports, gift shop inventory counts, etc
- New membership levels go into effect on 7/1/26

c. Events

- Virtual Talk: An Unlikely Springboard: Sandra Day O'Connor's Path from the Arizona Senate to the United States Supreme Court
 - 63 attendees
 - With an additional 12 views in the last 5 days since posting on [Youtube](#).
- Juneteenth
 - 216 attendees
 - Special attendance by Mayor Woods (Tempe), US Sen. Mark Kelly
 - Included Special Congressional Recognition award by Sen. Kelly to recognize AHS' work with Juneteenth
- July 4/America 250
 - Free day at Pioneer Museum, supported by NAPHS and volunteers with various activities/demonstrations
 - Special \$2.50 admission day at AHM
- Trivia Nights
 - Second trivia night at AHC on 6/26/26
 - Kelly Corsette commended Dr. Breeckner on the number of successful events at AHS. He added that he attended the trivia night and it was well done. Dr. Breeckner added that Dr. Jodie Decker also attended the trivia night.

d. Education & NHD

- Education staff traveled with students to Washington, DC the week of June 14

- Results still pending
- Preserve America Youth Summit high schoolers participated in a workshop at Pioneer Museum, consulting on what can be done to improve the museum ahead of its reopening. Core topics included:
 - Revenue/financial stability
 - Visitor experience & youth engagement
 - Preservation & accessibility
 - Community partnerships
 - Historical narratives & voices
 - Policy & funding
- e. Exhibits
 - Arizona250 exhibit at AHM (inspired by Jaynie Adams article in JAH spring issue)
 - Work continues for Rte 66 exhibit at Pioneer
 - America250 traveling panels on loan from State of Arizona for exhibit in Pavilion at AHC
- f. Staff accomplishments
 - Spring issue of the JAH featured an AHS artifacts highlights article by Jaynie Adams, supported by Collections & Archives. It's received much acclaim and follow-up press and interviews, inspiring the AHM exhibit (above) and a CHI exhibit, and will be featured in an Arizona Daily Star special section on the 250th next week
 - JAH Summer issue is now out. Chris Bradley's photo essay about what AHS did for the Bicentennial in 1976:
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/325/article/990923>
 - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) submitted to ADOA.
- g. Staffing Updates
 - Ella Breed's (AHM Archivist) last day is 7/10/26
 - New Facilities Manager (Skillbridge) filled; ETA July 2026
 - Second round interviews for Pioneer Education Curator underway
 - Flagstaff AA3 positions now posted for [applications](#)
 - Nicola Brownlee (AHS Accounting Team) last day is ***

7. **Announcements** and considerations in future board or committee meetings.

- a. Dr. Colleen Byron has resigned from the AHS State Board. Kelly Corsette commended her time of service on the board.
- b. Dr. Jodi Decker has joined the AHS State Board.
- c. Board Orientation is open to all AHS Board members as a refresher/ retraining.
- d. Next State Board is on July 31st at noon, and the next Executive Committee

meeting is on July 27th at noon.

8. Adjournment call by Kelly Corsette at 12:19 PM

a. Motion to adjourn. Jim Snitzer, Kelly Corsette. Motion passed unanimously.

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors
Kelly Corsette, Executive Committee Chair

DATE: June 25, 2026

Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Noon and virtual unless announced otherwise

February 23, 2026	August 31, 2026
March 30, 2026	September 28, 2026
April 27, 2026	October 26, 2026
May 18, 2026	November 30, 2026
June 29, 2026	December 28, 2026