



March 28, 2025

State Board

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Action Taken:

- Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the [January 31, 2025, DRAFT MEETING MINUTES](#). (Robert Ballard, Wynne Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.)
- Motion to approve the Collection Committee's recommendations. (Dr. Colleen Byron, Wynne Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.)
- Motion to move to Executive Session. (Kelly Corsette, Robert Ballard. The motion was approved unanimously.)

1. Call to Order- Kelly Corsette at 12:01 PM

2. Roll Call- Linda Elliott-Nelson

a. Present- Kelly Corsette, DeNise Bauer, Jim Snitzer, Robert Ballard, Wynne Brown, Dr. Colleen Byron, Bruce Gwynn, Richard Powers, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson

b. Absent- Sherry Rampy, Greg Scott

c. Staff- Dr. David Breeckner, Cody Taylor, Melba Davis, Jace Dostal, Jose Rodriguez, KD Forgia, Vince Bradley, Kristen Rex, David Nagelski, Dr. David Turpie, Dr. Rebekah Tabah, Sebastian Alt

3. Minutes - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the [January 31, 2025, DRAFT MEETING MINUTES](#). (Robert Ballard, Wynne Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.)

4. Call to the Public- Kelly Corsette

a. Cathy Shumard- No comment

5. Collections & Archives Committee - Greg Scott, Rebekah Tabah

a. Review of recommended items for deaccession.

- Review of recommended items for deaccession. Dr. David Breeckner and Jace Dostal shared the items that are recommended for deaccession on the screen. In general, these are bits and pieces of items that would attach to other items. Kelly Corsette asked the board if there were any questions. There were no questions.

b. Action Item to approve Committee's recommendations.

- Dr. Colleen Byron, Wynne Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Director's Evaluation Committee Update – Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson

a. Executive Session to discuss findings.

- Motion to move to Executive Session. (Kelly Corsette, Robert Ballard. The motion was approved unanimously.)
- Executive Session start: 12:08 PM
- Executive Session end: 12:23 PM

7. Finance Committee Update - Jim Snitzer, Sebastian Alt, David Nagelski

a. Revenue, Expenditures, YTD

- Revenue: \$2,779,786.29 (planned \$4,471,422)
- Expenditures: \$2,712,528.55 (planned \$4,955,431)

- David Nagelski shared that AHS is 8 months into the budget year. Revenues are running 62% of budget; expenses are 55% of budget. The largest pickup has been on payroll. We are running 115% of budget on repairs and maintenance. There is a new sub fund where funds can be moved around to pay as needed.

b. FY27 budget

- Finance Committee to begin planning for FY27 budget at its April 2025 meeting. Anticipated timeline:
 - April – Discussion by Finance
 - May – Review & updates by Finance
 - June – Vote to recommend by Finance; advance it to ExComm
 - June – First review by ExComm
 - July – Final review by ExComm, advance it to State Board
 - July – Vote by State Board
 - August – Preparation & submittal to state
 - September/October – Response & updates (as needed)
 - Dr. Breeckner shared that AHS is beginning to look at the budget for the next year. This will be introduced at the Finance Committee meeting in April. There will be a draft for the Executive Committee Meeting in June 2025.

c. Update: Investment Fund update

- Staff are actively working to incorporate and activate Investment Reserves to cover additional costs in FY25, especially overruns on necessary Facilities & Maintenance projects.
 - AHS is utilizing the investment reserves to cover the difference in repairs and maintenance. The buildings in Tempe are 30 years old and the repairs are adding up. There is an effort to ask the state to match expenses on repairs.

d. Update: 18-month planned Facilities projects & budgets

- AHC facility shutdown for HVAC repairs is currently scheduled for 3 weeks, running 5/5 - 5/24

8. Outreach Committee Update – Robert Ballard

a. CHI (re)certification period closed 1/15/25.

- 68 CHIs for 2025 cohort (+9 growth).
 - Robert Ballard shared that this committee met and commended Dr. Breeckner and staff for their assistance in helping this committee be productive. There is a goal to grow this committee. Robert encouraged the board to consider serving on this committee and asked them to email him and Dr. Breeckner if they are interested in serving. Dr. Breeckner compiled a list of Certified Historical Institutions, and they are looking at

representation around the state. There are opportunities for more CHIs being added to the list. Kelly Corsette volunteered to be part of this committee.

b. Call for new members.

9. Legislative Update - David Breeckner

a. [SB-1017 \(Pioneer\)](#)

- Bill passed Senate Appropriations with unanimous, bipartisan support on 2/25/25.
- Currently pending a review by Sen. Hoffman and the Senate's Committee on Government; it is uncertain if the bill will advance out of his Committee or what his reasons are for holding it.

b. [SB-1459 \(Yuma Collections\)](#)

- Bill dropped to support a non-Legislative solution with YCHS and City of Yuma. Details of AHS' offer to YCHS/City of Yuma:
 - 60-90 day fulfillment window for new loan requests (still under discussion).
 - Quarterly meetings with YCHS, City of Yuma to discuss upcoming exhibits & current loans.
 - Quarterly guided tours of AHS storage facility in Yuma.
 - Willingness to table at (when available) Yuma culture events & showcase items from storage.
 - Willingness to explore additional in-Yuma storage for oversized objects, if qualifying space becomes available.
 - Waive transport cost of artifacts on loan (excepting oversized) through FY26.
 - Willingness to prioritize processing of Yuma collections for the online catalog, if financial/material support provided by Yuma (as per current SOPs).
- First meeting scheduled for 4/7/25.

c. [HB-2339 \(AHS Chapters\)](#)

- Bill passed House following amendments by AHS; transmitted to Senate on 2/27/25.
- Currently pending a review by Sen. Hoffman and the Senate's Committee on Government; it is uncertain if the bill will advance out of his Committee or what his reasons are for holding it.
- This bill would create Chapter-driven financial funds to support building maintenance and development.

10. Federal Updates - David Breeckner

- a. [3/7/25 – Executive Order: Restoring Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\)](#)
 - This order redefines the parameters for specific non-profits to qualify as PSLF employers.
 - Despite recent industry confusion, this does NOT affect AHS and (most) other museums. AHS still qualifies as a PSLF employer.
- b. [3/14/25 – Executive Order: Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#)
 - This order eliminates the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), barring statutory exceptions to specific duties and functions. No transition or assumption of services by another agency is described.
 - IMLS provided \$24.6m in direct grants to 460 AZ museums and libraries between FY11-16 (last year of available data).
 - Arizona currently has ~350 museums across the state. Most are smaller nonprofits with few paid staff, if any.
 - Grants provide direct operational support and also provide the bulk of funding for developmental improvements (new exhibits, collections care upgrades, etc).
 - AHS has NO current grants with IMLS and has not yet committed resources toward future applications.
 - The Museum Association of Arizona (MAA) is leading statewide communication to its members regarding Federal updates and outreach options.
 - Focus, beyond advocacy against the 3/14/25 EO, surrounds preparation for a statewide reduced-funding environment.
 - Future development is expected to include workshops on grant-writing, education on local/state resources, and donor/sponsor solicitation.
 - AHS has NOT issued a comment in response to the Executive Order. It is exploring what services and solutions it may provide should a reduced-funding environment occur.
 - AHS' CHI program issued \$33,900 in grants in 2024. With additional state support, this could become an expanded resource.
- c. Although there has been speculation, there are as-yet no published major actions, constrictions, or reductions announced for other supporting Federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
 - NEA has announced the cancellation of its 2025 Challenge Grants for rural communities, following the restoration of other Federal grant programs.

11. Director's Report - David Breeckner

- a. Mission update: Arizona history & community groups
 - The AHS Mission has not changed, and will continue to look for opportunities as

they arise to work with local groups and peoples in its exploration of their contributions to Arizona's history.

- b.** All regional NHD contests completed – State Contest on 4/12/25!
- c.** New staff: Emily Hahn (AHC Educator), Taylor Kyle (AHM Educator)
- d.** New temporary exhibit: Proud to Serve (AHM Tucson)
- e.** Upcoming events: Arizona History Convention (AHC, 4/4/25) and Clements Symposium (AHC, 4/26/25).
 - Vince Bradley added that the Arizona History Convention is sold out. The opening reception is not sold out. If board members are interested in attending the opening reception, they can purchase tickets to attend. AHS is doing outreach through invitations. He asked the board to reach out to Dr. Turpie if there are contacts that would benefit from attending. There is also a speakers series planning for this summer that would be a virtual series focusing on the Spanish Colonial period. There are 9 talks planned.
 - Symposium (AHC, 4/26/25). Dr. David Turpie has been working with staff on putting these together. Rethinking the Indian Wars will be occurring at the end of the month. Dr. Turpie encouraged the board to attend these events and to spread the word. The symposium on April 26th has speakers coming from around the country.

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

- a.** Dr. Breeckner mentioned that the trees lining the Heritage area were removed.
- b.** Wynne Brown missed the January meeting and asked about the update on the status of AHS board members whose terms have concluded. Dr. Breeckner has talked with the policy advisor with Gov. Hobbs. There might be movement towards recruitment of new board members. Every AHS board member is in holdover status except for two board members. Kelly Corsette said that he appreciates the time that each AHS board member offers to serve on the board.
 - David Breeckner- Board members at AHS serve at their discretion and can continue to serve on the Board in a 'holdover' status, regardless of previous term expiration dates."
- c.** Kelly Corsette- The next Full State Board meeting is scheduled for noon on Friday, May 30, 2025.

13. Adjournment- Kelly Corsette at 1:06 PM

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors

DATE: March 28, 2025

Kelly Corsette

Kelly Corsette, AHS State Board President

AHS Full State Board Meeting Schedule

Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

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