

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

July 17, 2024

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

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – Committee Chair Sherry Rampy at 10:01am
2. **Roll Call** – Sherry Rampy
Present: Janice Bryson, Amy Hartmann-Gordon, Sherry Rampy, Robert Ballard, Karrie Rumsower

Absent: Thomas Foster (removed from Committee due to passing)

Staff: Jason Mihalic, Vincent Bradley, David Turpie, Jaynie Adams, David Breeckner
3. **Minutes** - Discussion and action to approve the draft Minutes of the June 19, 2024 Outreach Committee meeting.
 - a. Motion by Janice Bryson, seconded by Karrie Rumsower; unanimously approved.
4. **Call to the Public** – Sherry Rampy
 - a. No members of the public present.
5. **Agenda Item**- Certified Historic Institutions (CHI) ~ Jason Mihalic and Jaynie Adams
 - a. Update on 2024 CHI membership and recruitment.
 - i. No updates provided.
 - b. Update on 2023 grant reports
 - i. 19 small grant reports received; 4 extension requests received (Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, Bullion Plaza, Los Descendientes del Tuscon, Heritage Square Foundation).
 - ii. No issues observed among the submitted reports; Jason is finishing closeout details (approved expenditures, final signatures, etc) with several grant awardees.
 - c. Update on 2024 grant timelines
 - i. New grant applications will be ready for Committee review at its August meeting. 35 grant requests received, representing over 50% of all CHIs. Estimates are between \$60-70,000 in total grant requests.
 - ii. AHS is awaiting response from IMLS in mid-August on a grant that would provide a 1:1 Federal match for new CHI grants (up to \$32,000).

- iii. Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked what is the total funding available for 2024 CHI grants. David Breeckner replied that he is working with Sebastian Alt (CFO) to reconcile State appropriations budget loadouts (Q1-Q4) to support the full disbursement of CHI grant funds by the start of Q2. The FY24 appropriations for CHI grants (“Field Services & Grants”) is \$65,400.
 1. Amy Hartmann-Gordon suggested that Committee members consider how to recommend reductions in individual grant awards, to accommodate a possible reduction in available funds by Q2. Jason Mihalic spoke to the possibility of developing a grading rubric to support considerations in the future.
 2. David Turpie suggested that, if the Committee needs to restrict awards to accommodate funding limitations, considering the likes of non-consecutive, multi-year applications.
 3. Sherry Rampy expressed her interest to further develop CHI grant funding to best grow the program and accommodate CHI requests. David Breeckner explained the “Field Services & Grant” appropriations line-item, introducing it as a targeted area for Legislative Outreach by the Outreach Committee.
- d. Possible Action Item ~ discussion and possible vote to add an affiliate category similar to CHIs.
 - i. Sherry Rampy and Amy Hartmann-Gordon asked about the possibility of creating a new category for non-museum or newly-created historical groups (“Affiliates”) based in Arizona.
 1. Janice Bryson suggested several requirements for inclusion:
 - a. Non-profit status
 - b. No brick-and-mortar location required
 - c. Regular meetings required
 - d. \$25-50 annual membership fee
 2. Jaynie Adams has developed a draft PDF which codifies much of Janice’s recommendations but also includes:
 - a. Must be a history-focused institution with an associated mission statement
 - b. Does not need to be a collecting institution
 - c. Must provide some public-facing service (education, research, publications, etc)
 3. Sherry Rampy asked Jaynie to share her draft with the full Committee for its review, comment, and vote in August.

6. Agenda Item- Al Merito Awards ~ David Turpie

- a. Ranked choices received from all Committee members; David Turpie aggregated scoring values and presented findings.

- b. Sherry Rampy requested Committee members consider expanding the Al Merito d in future years to include multiple categories, such as professional, volunteer, author, etc. Janice Bryson, Karrie Rumsowever, and Robert Ballard expressed their support.
- c. A discussion was had about grading criteria and evaluation of nominations as submitted. It was determined the Committee should review the content of a nomination as it describes the nominee, not the quality of the nomination in its presentation or arrangement. Evaluations should be based on the nomination as presented, without external considerations (e.g. personal knowledge).
- d. **Action Item** to review and make recommendations on Al Merito (Individual) Awards to the AHS State Board.
 - i. The Committee elected to recommend 3 individual awards.
 - ii. Motion by Amy Hartmann-Gordon, seconded by Janice Bryson; unanimously approved. Robert Ballard recused himself from one candidate's vote due to a known conflict of interest.

7. Agenda Item- Legislative Outreach ~ Dr. David Breeckner and Sherry Rampy

- a. Update: Historical League book return
 - i. The Historical League's cookbooks were returned on Friday, 7/12/24.
 - ii. The Eastern Arizona Museum shared a thank you letter to the Committee for their copies received.

8. Agenda Item- Board Updates ~ David Breeckner

- a. Update on the annual meeting date
 - i. A full report is scheduled for the Executive Committee and State Board meetings next week. AHS is presently looking at a date of Saturday, 10/26 in Flagstaff. Kaydi is finalizing budget estimates for review by the full Board on 7/26.
- b. Possible Action Item ~ update on the passing and plans to honor Tom Foster.
 - i. Sherry Rampy asked to add an action item at the August meeting to discuss the creation of a special award or memorandum in recognition of Tom Foster and recently-departed historians, alongside the Al Merito award.

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

- a. Sherry Rampy shared that Jana Bommersbach, historian and author of *The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd*, passed away on 7/17/24.
- b. Amy Hartmann-Gordon and the other Committee members expressed their sympathies and condolences to Karrie Rumsower on the passing of Tom Foster. Janice Bryson shared that she attended the candlelight vigil on 6/28 in Globe. A memorial service is planned for the first or second week of October.
 - i. David Breeckner shared that a discussion will be held at the July Executive Committee and State Board meetings to explore a recognition of Tom Foster at the October Annual Meeting.
- c. David Breeckner provided an update on the upcoming AHS transfer of properties in

Yuma. This transfer is scheduled for 9/14/24 to City of Yuma; a formal ceremony will be scheduled for later in the fall. AHS staff are on-track with their preparations.

- d. David Breeckner shared that the Flagstaff Discussion Group will be providing an update on its outreach efforts at the Executive Committee and State Board meeting next week (7/22 and 7/26).

10. **Adjournment** by Sherry Rampy at 11:03am

Dated this 25th day of July 2024

Arizona Historical Society

Sherry Rampy

Sherry Rampy, Outreach Committee Chair

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Outreach Committee Meeting Schedule
Virtual unless announced otherwise

	October 16, 2024
August 21, 2024	November 20, 2024
September 18, 2024	December 18, 2024