

American Association for State and Local History
2020 Meeting of the Membership
Virtual Conference
Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Meeting Called to Order at: 3:04 p.m. ET

I. Call to Order and Welcome (Fleming, Chair)

A. Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. ET

II. Minutes from the 2019 Meeting (Bailey, Secretary)

A. Acknowledgement of minutes sent out. Asked if there are any proposed changes

B. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2019 Meeting of the Membership

1. Motion - Brent Ott
2. Seconded - Norman Burns
3. **Motion carried** - unanimously

III. President & CEO's Report

- A. Tomorrow begins the 81st annual conference. People are looking to the past as they think about resilience and answers to today's challenges
- B. AASLH - moved to a fully online format; given the lower expenses for the virtual format, we kept the registration fee low. As of a few minutes ago, we are currently at 2,145 people registered for the conference this week.
- C. Membership - currently 1,536 individuals and 3,191 institutions; NEH Chairman's Grant as well as a PPP Loan
- D. AASLH - Expanded our online offerings; HLI online workshop (July-September); StEPs program is being relaunched this week, after a two-year enhancement effort, in a new form
- E. Current/ future priority being a focus on small museums; completing a census of history institutions; visitor visitation survey; Mellon Foundation - a report will be coming out next month; emphasis on AASLH's four Strategic Priorities
- F. AASLH intention to align our recovery from the pandemic with the buildup leading to the 250th anniversary to promote the inclusive and relevant work our institutions do. We will assert that history organizations and history education are vital to the nation's fabric - free societies demand honest, open, and critical engagement with the past. Call for support of AASLH.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. Results for FY2020 (not yet audited)
- B. Statement of Financial Position - total assets at \$2,439,418 with total liabilities at \$681,773 for a Total Liabilities & Net Assets equaling \$2,439,418.
- C. FY2020 Budget: actual revenue of \$1,919,580 vs. \$1,977,488 budgeted; actual expenses of \$1,864,436 vs. \$1,958,385 budgeted; so an actual revenue surplus of \$55,144 vs. budgeted surplus of \$19,103.
- D. The Council approved using the surplus to establish a cash reserve fund of \$40,000.
- E. Building the Endowment - Endowment Corpus = \$1,520,584; FY2020 Endowment Value = \$1,897,380. This means that the endowment is no longer under water and that we, in fact, have gains.

V. Retiring Council Members

- A. Brent Ott, The Henry Ford
- B. Melanie Adams, Anacostia Community Museum
- C. Mari Carpenter, Ringling Museum
- D. Kim Fortney, National History Day
- E. Scott Wands, Connecticut Humanities
- F. Katherine Kane, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, emerita

VI. 2020 Election Results (Bailey, Secretary)

- A. Election results read for Council Members as Officers of AASLH
 - 1. Burt Logan, Ohio History Connection, as Vice Chair
 - 2. Dina Bailey, Mountain Top Vision, as Secretary for a second term
 - 3. Rebekah Beaulieu, Florence Griswold Museum, as Treasurer
- B. Election results read for AASLH Council Members
 - 1. Michelle Banks, African American Firefighters Museum
 - 2. Jeff Harris, Magoffin Home State Historic Site
 - 3. Sarah Zenaida Gould, Museo del Westside
 - 4. Gina Vergara-Bautista, Hawaii State Archives
- C. Election results read for Leadership Nominating Committee Members
 - 1. Gailyn Lehuanani Bopp, Brigham Young University-Hawaii Archives
 - 2. Kevin Cabrera, College Park Aviation Museum
 - 3. Cristin Waterbury, Dubuque County Historical Society/National Mississippi River Museum

VII. Chair's Address (Fleming, Chair)

- A. Closing Remarks - first virtual meeting with over 2,000 participants registered. Over the last several months people have been working remotely; we've had to rethink a number of things as part of the COVID pandemic. That said, we've made substantial progress on a number of fronts.
- B. NEH, IMLS, Mellon Foundation relationships; have made stronger alliances
- C. Museum Advocacy Day; Inclusive History Handbook
- D. Were able to close out the year with a surplus, which speaks to our good financial systems
- E. We have witnessed what seems to be an increase in the brutal murders and woundings of Black people by police officers (civil unrest)
- F. Our theme this year - our present is connected to our past (reference to the 1619 Project) Black Lives Matter movement forcing us to make decisions for the present and the future - What kind of ancestor will you be?

VIII. New Chair's Comments (Burns, Incoming Chair)

- A. We are a giving organization and one that has admitted mistakes of the past and will continue to be transparent in the future
- B. Reference to the most recent statement by AASLH - <https://aaslh.org/aaslh-examination-of-history-statement/>
- C. Great moment for us to use our superpower of history; we must stand up and be ready.
- D. 2020 has been a tough moment for our field, and history institutions in particular
- E. We must be inclusive - pledge to build upon the leadership of John Fleming

IX. Questions (Burns, New Chair)

- A. Question about an update on History Relevance Campaign
- B. Question about endowment growth - endowment campaign for 2020 was put on hold; would like to get through the summer/fall to see the climate for fundraising
- C. Question about how PPP is reflected in the budget
- D. Question about equity in the museum and public history fields
- E. Question about Yom Kippur and that AASLH was able to move almost all of the sessions from Monday to Wednesday
- F. Question about how AASLH is thinking about investment choices given current crises of climate, health, economics and equity - do we use a socially-responsible investment approach or have a plan to do that at any point?
- G. Question about what AASLH is doing to welcome more of the entire history field, not just museums

X. Adjourn (Burns, New Chair)

- A. Meeting adjourned at: 4:03 p.m. ET

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:03 p.m. ET