



WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Annual Membership Meeting
 September 9, 2023 - Cody Wyoming

Present	Name	Office	Present	Name	Office
X	Cindy Brown	President	X	Andrea Lewis	SW Rep
X	Jane Gebhart	2 nd Vice Pres, AL	X	Sandra Holyoak	NE Rep
X	Cheryl O'Brien	1 st VP NW Rep	X	Jessica Flock	At Large
X	Alena Wagner	Treasurer, AL		Bud Alley	Out of State Rep
X	Heidi McCullough	Secretary, SE Rep	X	Linda Fabian	Exec. Secretary

Call to Order: Cindy Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged the past presidents in attendance.

Chapter Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Minutes Approval: Rick Robbins moved to approve the minutes of September 2022, Mike Jording seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Alena Wagner, Treasurer gave the treasurer's report. Investment accounts are doing well, they are up around 3%. Our donations were higher than budgeted. Our expenses were somewhat higher than expected including rent, payroll and postage.

President's Report: Cindy Brown spoke on how busy we were this past year and recapped the strategic planning session. Transition of Executive Secretary to Executive Director and then hiring a new Executive Director were priorities that came out of the strategic planning session. Cindy introduced Aley Philp to the new Executive Director. Aley spoke about her excitement in taking the role and shared some ideas she has for growing the Society. Cindy discussed the need to rework and consolidate the committees. How to increase attendance at the annual meeting was discussed, as there was initially not a majority of chapters present. An unaccounted-for chapter made themselves known and a majority was found to be in attendance. Board/Director/President visitation to chapters would help!

Nominating: Election Results: Bud Alley Signal Mt TN, has agreed to continue as the out of state rep, Lucas Keeler and Nancy Tabb are the new board members, they were not in attendance.

Wyoming Historical Foundation: John Waggoner gave the Foundation report. Investments are looking good. John acknowledged the Foundation board and all of their hard work. The foundation does two main fundraisers, spring and fall campaigns, called "Non Events". Fall requests will be arriving in mailboxes in October. Balance of the Foundation account is \$581,000. There has been a \$50,000 since spring. Sales of the Dave Pauley Wyoming in Art book and prints is another fundraiser for the Foundation. There are many members that are leaving the board. John Waggner, Charlene Busk and Judy Musgrave are all leaving the board. Jeremy Johnston, Linda Fabian, and Lucas Fralick have agreed to fill positions. Need one more board member.

Nominations from the floor: Alena Wagner volunteered

Charlene Busk moved to elect Jeremy Johnston, Linda Fabian, Lucas Fralick and Alena Wagner to serve on the Wyoming Foundation Board, Jane Gebhart seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Linda Fabian reported that day-to-day operations are going well, tremendously busy, with implementing the new logo, hiring and training the new Executive Director, strategic planning, and hiring of an office assistant. One of the challenges has been the transition of the office space as Linda moves out and Aley moves in.

Committee Reports:

Award report: Jane reported on the awards, please read the awards manual carefully. Make sure all submissions, including events and books are in the correct calendar year, there were nominations that were disqualified as they were from previous years. Please make all entries clear and legible. No entries in pencil, typed is best to be able to read the applications. There were lots of kids awards this year, 51 other awards. She thanked the committee as this was her last year.

Constitution, Bylaws, & Resolutions: Sandy Holyoak read recommendations for minor changes to the bylaws. Changes were published in newsletter

Larry Steensland moved to accept changes to bylaws. 2nd by Lynn Houze, motion passed unanimously

Financial: Alena discussed the proposed budget for 2023-2024. It is preliminary at this point. \$17,7671 is the proposed income, \$14,572 profit would include cashing in \$50,000 CD. This was part of the plan to hire an executive director. Cindy discussed due's structure, more strategic planning is needed to make a decision. The option to receive digital newsletter and annals was discussed, it would be on an "Opt-In" basis, those who prefer to receive paper would have that option. The preliminary budget was approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 8, 2023. The final budget will be proposed after the final numbers are submitted at the end of the fiscal year.

Historic Preservation: Andrea Lewis reported that there was only one Maurine Carley nomination and one for outstanding preservation. Both were awarded and forwarded to the award committee. They will be presented at the Award Luncheon.

Legislative: Cindy reported that legislative bills have not been printed yet. A bill we are watching involves adding the Cheyenne arboretum to the state parks. There was an article in the Casper Star Tribune about a group from Colorado who wishes to set up a historic district for all of Southern Wyoming, National Forest Service and BLM. This is something else to watch. The Humanities Council held a history confab meeting last year, and invited history groups and organizations from all over the state. The hope was to foster partnership and to join forces to affect the legislature so our voice can be heard.

Management and Oversight report: Mike Jording reported that this committee was busier than usual this year. He introduced the committee and explained the purpose of the committee, which is to review contracts, evaluate positions and participate in planning activities. This year they helped with the transition from Executive Secretary to Executive Director and the hiring of the new Executive Director. Part of their focus was to determine what the duties would be and how they would change. They also participated in the search and review of applications for the new position and made recommendations for salary and benefits.

Oral History: Linda reported on the committee, they are working on a project called "Women of Wyoming then and now". They are conducting oral history interviews via zoom with prominent women around Wyoming. They have received a Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$3000 for editing.

Projects report: Cheryl O'Brien reported that the projects committee worked hard on streamlining the Homsher Grant application process. She went through the grant recipients and their projects. Some of the changes to the process include clarification of the application rules and recipient responsibilities. New guidelines are now in place.

Publications: Charlene Busk reported that it was a quiet year, the new editor Carl Halberg has done a terrific job on the Annals of Wyoming they are on track with publishing them. Linda and Aley do a great job on the newsletter, Linda reported that the October newsletter will be on time. A new group worked on the calendars this year, Linda Fabian and Mike Jording solicited small museums around the state for photos. Previously photos came from the Wyoming State Archives or the American Heritage Center. They are welcoming ideas for themes for future calendars. Books are doing well; Wyoming History in Art is still available. We can also provide frameable prints from the book for a fee.

Website: Tom Rea reported that the new websites are launched! Upgrade funded by Covid grant funds. There is a state-wide event calendar.

WyoHistory.org: There are regular emails of articles and blog posts that go out to all members. There is an upcoming project in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence. There is hope that a film about what was happening in Wyoming at the time will be part of the celebration.

Wyoming History Day: Cindy reported on Wyoming History Day as she helped with the program, Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, The American Heritage Center and the Wyoming Historical Society all collaborated to make it a successful event. The report submitted is in the handouts for the meeting.

Old Business: Mike Jording reported that last year it was requested that Wyoming Historical Foundation use their reinvestment monies for Society, rather than reinvest. It was discussed that normally 40% of the distribution is reinvested by the Foundation and 60% goes to the Society for their use.

Lucille made the motion to request that the Wyoming Historical Foundation contribute the full 100% of the 2024 distribution to the Wyoming Historical Society, Tom Rea Seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Business:

Membership Taskforce: Heidi talked about the merchandising campaign and showed examples. We have a shop on teespring.com to sell Wyoming Historical Society items. There is no inventory or overhead. The hope is to promote the merchandise, and it will help raise our visibility and solidify our brand and logo. Membership drives were also something that will be planned over the next year. Heidi McCullough and Aley Philp, along with the rest of the task force will be working on new ideas and welcome any input from the membership.

Future treks & meeting

2024 Trek Hot Springs County

2024 annual meeting Weston County

2025 trek host needed

2025 Annual meeting host needed

Adjourned 11:54am

Lynn Houze moved to adjourn, Heidi McCullough seconded, motion carried unanimously