



71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Hosted by the Weston County Historical Society

Newcastle Methodist Church – Newcastle, WY

DRAFT

- I. Called to Order at 9:12 am by Cindy Brown, President.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Welcome by Cindy Brown, President and Mike Jording, Weston County Chapter.
- IV. Attendance - Executive Committee:

Cindy Brown - President

(E) Cheryl O'Brien – 1st VP

Jessica Flock – 2nd VP

Heidi McCullough – Treasurer

(E) Nancy Tabb - Secretary

Lucas Keeler

(E) Andrea Lewis

(E) Bud Alley

(E) Sandra Holyoak

- V. Chapter Roll Call

Albany

Johnson

Campbell

Laramie

Carbon

So. Lincoln

Converse

Natrona

Crook

Park

Fort Bridger

Platte

Fremont

Star Valley

Goshen

Weston

Hot Springs

A majority was established by the number of Chapters represented at the meeting, either in person or by Zoom / Video Conference. A quorum was established with 13 of 17 chapters present.

- VI. Approval of the Agenda

Linda Fabian moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mike Jording seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- VII. Approval Minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting, September 2023

Motion to approve the Minutes from 70th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Historical Society on September 9, 2023 was made by Sharon and seconded by Peggy Jording. Motion carried.

- VIII. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

HEIDI McCULLOUGH, TREASURER

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by Heidi McCullough, Treasurer was made by Linda Fabian, seconded by Lynn Houze.

Motion carried.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Outgoing President Cindy Brown reflected on her past two years as WHS President and thanked all fellow members for their time and dedication to the WHS. Her full report is included in the Annual Report.

X. FOUNDATION REPORT:

Linda Fabian, Secretary of the Wyoming Historical Foundation reported that due to the untimely passing of WHF President Jeremy Johnston, Ann Nobel moved from Vice-President to President, and Rick Robbins stepped in as Vice-President. Alena Wagner remains as Treasurer and herself as Secretary of the Foundation.

She reported that funds were raised this past year through the non-event event mailers that go out each fall and each spring. Monies given to the Foundation unless otherwise designated are re-invested in the Wyoming Community Foundation (WCF) Endowment as an irrevocable gift to the WCF. The 2025 goal is \$750,000 and an eventual goal of \$1 million. Approximately \$300,000 was lost over the last few years due to poor stock market performance.

Linda thanked Lucille Dumbrill and Mike Jording for their efforts in starting the Foundation many years ago.

The WH Foundation requested a motion from the floor to that the WH Foundation take the lead on the WyoGives Fundraising Campaign each July 10th.

Lynn Houze moved and Rick Robbins seconded. Discussion was held and motion carried.

Rick Robbins was nominated for a three-year term to the WH Foundation. Unanimously approved.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Aley Philp reported that there was a net gain of 150 members this year over a goal of 110. Membership as of October 2023 was 1089, and now sits at 1,239. Many outreach events were either held or attended throughout the year and many partnerships with other like-minded organizations and non-profits were either established or strengthened. Her full quarterly reports are available in the Annual Meeting Packet.

XII. Old Business

a. 2024 Annual Trek – Hot Springs County Report by Aley Philp, ED

- Attendance increased from 80 in 2023 to 152 in 2024.
- Over 7 different press articles were a result of the Trek in 19 different news outlets.
- 10 partners or sponsors for the event were secured

XIII. New Business

a. WHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Linda Fabian reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that Deb Davidson, Dean King, and Beki Speas had been elected to serve three-year terms each from 2024-2027 on the Wyoming Historical Society's Executive Committee. Unfortunately, last week Johanna Wickman had to pull out of the election as she was both elated and regretful to inform the Society that due to the Pony Express project that was unexpectedly awarded to Natrona County, she would no longer have the time needed to devote to the Society as she had originally planned. She hopes that when this project is complete, she can rededicate more time to the Society.

b. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Judy Musgrave moved to approve Amendment #1 as presented. Aley Philp seconded the motion. Discussion was held and the motion carried.

Bob Townsend moved to approve Amendment #2 as presented. Linda Fabian seconded the motion. Discussion was held and the motion carried.

Rick Robbins moved to approve Amendment #3 as presented. Mike Jording seconded the motion. The motion carried.

c. FY 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

The FY 2025 Budget was presented Heidi McCullough, Treasurer, with a few small changes upon recommendation of the Executive Committee to the Membership for approval.

Linda Fabian moved to approve the proposed budget with changes. Lynn Houze seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Nominations from the floor for 3 members of the Nominations Committee for FY 2025

Cindy Brown, Lynn Houze, and Linda Fabian were nominated, and each accepted their nominations to the Nominations Committee for FY2025.

e. UPCOMING MEETINGS

2025 Trek	Converse County Historic Society (Douglas)
2025 Annual Meeting	Fort Bridger Historical Association
2026 Trek	Laramie County Historical Society (Laramie)
2026 Annual Meeting	SEEKING AN INVITATION

XIV. Committee Reports:

a. Awards

JESSICA FLOCK

- No verbal report – this meeting is followed by the Awards Luncheon.

b. Constitution, Bylaws & Resolutions

RICHARD KNIGHT

- Worked on the three amendments that were just voted on.
- Recognize the need for a “deeper dive” into the Bylaws with a large overhaul to have them work better for Society. Will be working on that in 2025.

c. Financial

HEIDI McCULLOUGH

- Key Activities and Achievements:
 - Looked into investment opportunities for the Society
 - Clarified current accounts and availability of funds.
 - Developing long-term funding of the WHS Staff and operating expenses.
- Challenges and Solutions
 - Reduction in membership over the years has financially impacted the Society. Continuing to work on growing membership will be a priority.
 - Unpredictable funding from the State is a concern. Searching for grants and alternate funding will need to be a focus in the future.

d. Historic Preservation

ANDREA LEWIS

- Maurine Carley Memorial Historic Preservation Award – Jim Gatchell Museum on the preservation of their building, an original Carnegie Library
- Outstanding – Kristen Trumbull and Shelly Trumbull for the Anna Swanson Recognition and Memorial Ceremony Project

e. Legislative

ROBIN EVERETT

- No Report Received

f. Management & Oversight

MIKE JORDING

- No Report Received

g. Nominating

LINDA FABIAN

- Previously given regarding Officer Elections

h. Oral History

JANELLE MOLONY

- No Report Received

i. Projects (Homsher)

CHERYL O'BRIEN

- Committee goals to continue to improve the Homsher Grant application, review and reporting process include:
 1. Check to make sure the rules posted for Lola Homsher Endowment Fund Rules for Research Grants and on the Lola Homsher Research Grant page are accurate and updated as needed.
 2. Develop specific tracking, review and follow-up procedures for handling of the required final project reports.
- The Projects Committee awarded five awards this year totaling \$7,000. They are:
 - i. Patrick M. Pace, Cheyenne, WY- "Dissertation Research: Hellenic Cohesion: A Historic Approach to Transnationalism, Particularism and Cosmopolitanism in the Greek Immigrant Communities of Wyoming." (\$1,500)
 - ii. Karen Spragg & Angeline Hutzenbiler, Lovell, WY- "Lovell-Kane Area School Research." (\$1,500)
 - iii. Brian Beauvais, Cody, WY – "Thomas Jaggar Rephotography Project" (\$1500)
 - iv. Ian Strahn, Burggasse, Austria- "From William F. Cody to Winnetou: American Frontier Representation in the German Cultural Imagination." (\$1,000)
 - v. Tina Hill, Rawlins, WY- "Names Behind Bars: An Alpha Roster of Former Inmates from the Wyoming Frontier Prison." (\$1,500)

j. Publications

ALEY PHILP

- Over the course of the FY 2024, the Publications Committee worked with the Executive Director to find the most reasonable and cost effective solutions for all of our printing needs. This resulted in a cost savings year-over-year of approximately \$34,000 overall.
 - i. \$23,812 savings in Annals Printing
 - ii. \$721 savings in Newsletter Printing
 - iii. \$6,452 savings in "other" printing (now done in house)
 - iv. \$3,165 savings on the Calendar Printing
- In August, it was secured that the State Parks and Cultural Resources department of the State of Wyoming will take on the Graphics Design and Layout of the *Annals of Wyoming* as an in-kind support of the publication. This represents \$6000 savings to our Annual Budget.
- A major change that will happen in 2025 is the anticipated retirement of the editor of the Annals, Carl Hallberg, in the spring of 2025. State Parks and Cultural resources will be working the Society on next steps.
- The Publications Committee greatly misses the loss of its chair, Jeremy Johnston, due to his passing. His insight and humor will be sorely missed.

- k. Website TOM REA
- The website is doing well.
- l. WyoHistory.org TOM REA
- Tom Rea is officially retiring as of October 1, 2024. The new Editor of WyoHistory.org is Kylie McCormick – however, due to the birth of her first child, Tom Rea will be filling in for her part time as she works part time until the beginning of 2025.
- m. Wyoming History Day BRYCE MIDDLESTAT / JACKIE DOROTHY
- Wyoming History Day Coordinator Bryce Middlestat gave a brief introduction of himself and encouraged everyone to reach out to their local schools to encourage participation in Wyoming History Day.

XV. Chapter Reports

- Reports were received from the following Chapters, and will be included in the Society's archives:
 - a. Albany
 - b. Carbon
 - c. Converse
 - d. Fort Bridger
 - e. Fremont
 - f. Johnson
 - g. Laramie
 - h. Natrona
 - i. Park
 - j. Star Valley
 - k. Weston

- XVI. Motion to Adjourn was made at 11:48a by Arlene Robbins, seconded by Bob Townsend. Motion carried.