Mid-Winter Council Meeting
February 22 & 23, 2025
Crowne Plaza Atlanta – Midtown
590 W Peachtree St NW
Atlanta, GA
9:00am – 5:00pm EST (2/22)
8:30am – 11:00am EST (2/23)

Present: President Troy Reeves, Vice President Sarah Milligan, First Vice President Mark Cave, Immediate Past President Kelly Elaine Navies, Shanna Farrell, Nishani Frazier, Francine Spang-Willis, Anna Sheftel, Executive Director Stephen Sloan, and Associate Director Steven Sielaff

Members Absent: Abby Perkiss
Minutes Prepared by: Executive Director Stephen Sloan

Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: *Troy Reeves (chair) moved to approve the consent agenda (includes minutes from February 3, 2025 Virtual Council Meeting and Signing onto the joint AHA-OAH Statement on executive order relating to education and history). Sarah Milligan seconded the motion. Passed unanimously at 9:02am.*	Post minutes on website	Steven Sielaff
Membership Committee *with* Troy Reeves Discussion of report by Troy Reeves for Abby Perkiss (Council Liaison to Membership Committee). Discussing changes to Newcomers Breakfast suggested by Membership Committee.	Council will attend Newcomers Breakfast in 2025 and invite all OHA Committee Chairs, Program Committee co-chairs, Local Arrangements co-chairs, and Nominating Committee.	Executive Office Troy Reeves to Abby Perkiss for

Discussion of Membership Survey ● 13% response rate on fall 2024 survey ● Create a space at annual meeting where feedback could be shared ● Wall of post-it notes? ● QR codes for folks to share more – feedback?	Make pitch for Speed Networking Event, morning of sign-ups at Newcomers Breakfast Talk to Membership Committee about surveying options at annual meeting or resurveying	Membership Committee
Diversity Committee *with* Francine Spang-Willis (committee liaison) Committee requesting feedback on how they can assist with implementing items from newly approved Accessibility Guidelines.	Ask DC for feedback on elements to prioritize for implementation from Accessibility Guidelines	Francine Spring-Willis
Indigenous Caucus *with* Francine Spang-Willis Need to make updates to Indigenous Caucus page, including new leadership information.	Need to ask Indigenous Caucus for new leader info and ask to send to OHA Executive Office. Encourage them to reach out to other committees they'd like to work with.	Francine Spring-Willis
OHA History Task Force Report *with* Amy Starecheski (chair) Task force is ending with its final report making recommendations and offering resources for history work by the organization going forward. The policy documents have been created for retention and the retention subcommittee is working on procedural documents to be completed this summer. Many elements of the task force work will continue. Members of the task force would be interested in History Committee or perhaps Historian position if created from recommendations.	Council will revisit recommendations at a future meeting.	Troy Reeves

Atlanta 2025 Program Committee Report *with* Alissa Rae Funderburk (program co-chair) Bettina Love is coming as a keynote speaker to annual meeting. May do book club and book signing with this. Another block party is being planned. Educators workshop with be on Saturday for teachers. Two plenary ideas – one for *The Harvest* screening with Chuck Bolton and one on oral history as an organizing tool. Will have preconference workshops, including basic, something on OH and the law, one on tech. Will do something for Cliff Kuhn at conference. Will be meeting with AFS program committee on the Saturday events as the end of our conference overlaps with the beginning of their conference. At this point, 161 proposals submitted for conference.		
Diversity Committee (cont.) *with* Francine Spang-Willis (committee liaison) The Diversity Committee wants to offer a virtual brown bag Zoom meeting this summer.	Need to contact Public Programming to plan. The Executive Office would help promote and create Zoom.	Francine Spang-Willis (Diversity Committee liaison) Shanna Farrell (Public Programming liaison)
Strategic Plan, Part I *with* Troy Reeves Items from ACLS governance workshop in September 2024. Council to spend time thinking through what it means to lead organizations. ● What are external forces shaping OHA? o Fundamental stresses impacting membership – jobs, life stress o Political divide – not all groups feel welcomed o Regional pressures – need intentional representation in leadership ▪ Annex additional areas? ● What are internal forces shaping the OHA? o Big tent – a lot of ideas on direction o Volunteerism o Fundraising o Culture of accountability		

● Duty of Council Members
  o Duty of Care
  o Duty of Obedience
  o Duty of Loyalty
● Council provides oversight, sets strategy
  o "noses in, fingers out" – role of Council
● Many voices in meeting, but Council speaks with one voice		

Caucus and Committee Discussion *with* Troy Reeves Background for the creation of OHA Caucuses in 2020-21. Emerged from interest around affinity groups. Essentially, a way for Council to recognize a Caucus (10 members in good standing, purpose statement). Have no formal responsibilities to association but would welcome input from them. How does a Caucus relate to Council? How should we handle specific asks – space for meeting at annual meeting, food, funding, etc.	Need list of co-chairs and roster for the caucus before the annual meeting. Need requests in writing. Communicate expectations to Caucus groups on relationship with OHA. Give parameters for how requests are handled, a protocol for this. Indigenous Caucus will submit proposal for funding for consultant to talk to them on publication issues.	OHA Caucuses OHA Council Francine Spang-Willis
Emerging Professionals Committee Discussion *with* Ann Sheftel Just had first meeting. Have new co-chairs but need additional members.	Will work to get additional committee members appointed.	Troy Reeves
Education Committee Discussion *with* Kelly Elaine Navies	Will let Education Chair know to contact	Kelly Elaine Navies

Have new chair and have met to discuss plans for 2025.	Steven Sielaff for website updates.	
Advocacy Committee Discussion *with* Nishani Frazier Committee work just now starting. Asked about sharing resources on post-disaster oral history on the website. Statement on Palestine on hold.	Remind them to do one-page meeting summary report to Council.	Nishani Frazier
***Oral History Review* Discussion with Holly Werner-Thomas (editor, *OHR*)** Updated numbers on downloads from T&F – 47,255 downloads in 2024 (growing each year). Mission statement for *OHR* has expanded, bringing in more practice-based work. One is a survey-type of article on work in particular global regions or disciplinary fields. In production for spring issue – special section on OH and Disability. Will also be using unique cover on new upcoming issue. Developing a special section on OH and AI. Working with two guest editors to produce special issue on Indigenous oral history in 2026. Doing classics revisited in *OHR* book reviews. *OHR Extra!* is up and running. Fall issue is well underway. Have worked on staggering and spreading out editorial process. Sent a student to AHA conference in January to scout possible articles for Indigenous OH. Working to have 4 editorial board meetings per year. Are creating documents to understand Scholar One for transition to new team at some point. Want to thematically bundle articles to share with members. Editors frustrated with changes with AI and Taylor & Francis. Feel like we should put notice on *OHR* article submission page. Suggestion of throwback Thursday that mentions article from past *OHR* archives. Idea for podcast being developed. They want to start building on foundation laid in the first year of this editorial team.	Talk to OHR Team about folding some content for *OHR* into social media communications plan.	Executive Office
OHA Ombudsperson Discussion *with* Anne Valk		

Annie is a past OHA President who is serving as current OHA Ombudsperson. She is the first in this new position and has been a part of the last three conferences. It has been a learning process with each case brought forward. Figuring out what we do with cases is the hardest part. Not a one-size-fits-all solution. Council needs to think about different kinds of follow up could happen after reports are filed. A challenge to getting word out about the function and availability of this function to membership. First year, no reports. Second year, extra conference issues related to working groups or committees (undervalued or exploited in work, abused by others on committees, issues of seniority and ageism). Our egalitarian values not playing out in groups. One member told they could not participate in working group. In third year, one conversation about someone feeling underappreciated for the work they had done for association. Has found some training materials, but most around sexual harassment. Generally working with complainant and Executive Office to try to address situation.	Need to work to add a layer of formal and informal complaints and also create a brief report that can be done annually to Council.	Executive Office *with* Anne Valk
Executive Office Report *with* Steven Sielaff How does the OHA think about grant ideas being offered on behalf of the OHA? How should that happen? What should the process be? Would be good to materialize sometime this year. Documentation shared on the online metrics for OHA website. Top 100 pages for 2024. Spikes of usage around annual meeting and AI and OH Symposium. Also have reports on social media usage. Discussion about transitioning offer X/Twitter. *Nishani Frazier moved to for OHA to begin the process of exiting the X/Twitter social media platform. Troy Reeves seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.* We will be doing work in 2025 to update the member portal on our MemberClicks website. Discussion by Council on elements to include on membership portal	OHA Executive Office take steps to archive content, notify membership, and exit X.	OHA Executive Office

(resources for training, updating images, promotion and resources for partners).		
Executive Office Report *with* Stephen Sloan "OHA Guide to Volunteer Leadership" draft discussion with the hope of revisions/input before the next Council meeting in April. OHA Day is March 21st, the anniversary of the formation of the Oral History Association on 3/21/67. Will be giving towards and sharing about OHA. A lot of virtual programming ideas mentioned that were good. Some of this will perhaps come from the work of Oral History and the Law Task Force. Council subcommittee to be created to explore the idea of creating an online, asynchronous oral history introductory course to be offered by OHA that would be taught by OHA member instructors. Some discussion about an OHA podcast. Possibility of emerging effort connected to Anna Sheftel's work and possibility with Francine Spang-Willis.	For Volunteer Leadership Guide -Anna, Kelly Elaine, Mark and Francine will review and comment on pgs. 1-17, Shanna, Sarah, Nishani, and Abby will review and comment on pgs. 18-33. Indicate interest or disinterest in helping with this effort to Troy Reeves by 3/1. Subcommittee formed by April and will want report by annual meeting.	All OHA Council OHA Council
Discussion of LA Fires Response *with* Troy Reeves Challenges of responding to these sorts of situations, but desire to answer as an organization to our members in the area. There are plans at UC Berkeley to do oral history workshop in partnership with other local organizations in CA. Wanted to connect to community-informed, specific needs. Discussion of when we do and when we do not respond to these occurrences. What is our role as the Oral History Association, what is "in" or "out" of our lane? How do we address these situations that call for statement/response? Discussion of current US political situation, how to respond. We need to stop being so reactive. Perhaps consider expansion to include Canada. Need to check-in with membership. How do we highlight how our everyday work is		

resistance? How do we learn from communities that have experienced resilience?		
Discussion on Additional Virtual Programming *with* Stephen Sloan Taking content from annual meeting, doing alternating virtual events every other year. "Best of" from conference to roll out to other audiences from Public Programming committee. Discussion of piloting virtual spring meeting for membership in 2027. Council will be looking at Atlanta conference for potential content to reuse for virtual programming in 2026. Symposia being more curated than a virtual conference.	Appoint Abby Perkiss to serve as Council rep on the Scholarship Committee.	Troy Reeves
Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm		

Discussion & Decisions	**Action Required**	**Responsible Party**
Troy Reeves began the meeting by talking about the importance of work and the importance of asking for help. Asking Council to commit to both of those things.		
2026 Meeting *with* Mark Cave Work beginning on both the program and local arrangements. Suggested meeting with current group for ideas.		
2027 Meeting *with* Stephen Sloan We are looking at places for a joint meeting with the American Folklore Society for 2027. Several sites being considered.		
2026 Virtual Symposium Discussion The theme will be centered on oral history and trauma. Discussion of a pre-conference paid workshop for those who want to do trauma-informed		

oral history. Will be a four-day virtual symposium. Discussion of making it international in scope. Hope is to put together a committee, will include discussion among Shanna Farrell, Anne Sheftel, and Francine Spang-Willis. Promises an update by Council meeting in October.		
Law and Ethics Task Force Update *with* Troy Reeves The group wants to bring an expert for some public programming around law and ethics for virtual program offered by OHA in 2025. There is a hope to do an oral history and the law pre-conference workshop at the annual meeting in Atlanta. The IRB survey prepared by Linda Shopes needs to be reviewed and distributed.	Review, edit, and launch IRB survey	Review by Sarah and Francine, Executive Office do final edit and administer survey
Nominating Issues *with* Troy Reeves Preliminary discussion of a slate for the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Committees that Council needs to develop. Slate needs to be discussed at April meeting.	Come with list of names for possible nomination. Create Google Doc for names to consider.	All Council Members Troy Reeves
International Committee *with* Shanna Farrell The roster has been reconciled and finalized. The biggest driver in scholarships decision is financial need. They like to seek gender balance and geographic diversity of conference goers. How central is oral history in their paper presentation? They do not do partial scholarships. The criteria will be outlined in a usable way. What do we see the future work of the International Committee for the OHA? Need to work toward putting co-chair in place.	Outline criteria that have been used to grant international scholarships.	Shanna Farrell
Publications Programing *with* Shanna Farrell Destiny Crawford is new chair. Shanna had discussion with her of what committee's work will look like. They need to be activated with the many ideas in place circulated in discussions about possible public		

programming. They have been encouraged to develop programming.		
Committee on Committees *with* Troy Reeves We will be checking in with all committee chairs on needs and active members on their specific committee needs before the call for volunteers goes out. How is work? What are needs? Need this check-in.	Check-in with Committee on Committees and design summer check-in.	Troy Reeves and OHA Executive Office
Executive Office Report *with* Stephen Sloan Discussion of position of OHA Newsletter Editor and that publications role and function in the communications plan of the OHA. We will continue discussion of role and how Council might view it going forward. There is an interest in having a person in place to assist with transition by the annual meeting in Atlanta. OHA's NPS Task force on hold right now as we wait on arranging Master Cooperative Agreement with the NPS. Discussion of candidates for new Program Associate at OHA. Francine, Anna, Steven, and Sloan reviewed applications, Anna, Steven, and Sloan conducted online interviews, and shared top three candidates with Council. Will be making offers this week. Troy noted some by-law changes that are needed for the OHA Business Meeting. Council discussed a date/time for the online fall Business Meeting. The date was set for September 30, 2025, from 2:30pm to 4:00pm CST. Discussion of F&B budgets for conferences over the last three years, working to bring those totals down. Challenge of AV Budgets that are escalating for annual conferences. We are still renegotiating with Taylor & Francis to hear about a new contract. Added ten OHA		

Life Members last year and Mark Cave is our newest Life Member. The Find an Oral Historian Tool has been updated by Steven Sielaff, 120 members on their now.		
Closing Thoughts *with* Troy Reeves Will be sending out follow-up email for Council for action items. Will be touching base with Abby Perkiss. Review the Volunteer Document and think about people to suggest for Nominating Committee and Committee on Committees slates. Will also be finalizing the Oral History 101 Visioning Committee.		
Meeting adjourned at 10:35am.		