ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL MEETING

August 4, 2025
2 – 3:30 pm CDT
Zoom

Attendees

Council Officers: President, Troy Reeves; Vice President, Sarah Milligan; First Vice President, Mark Cave; Past President, Kelly Elaine Navies

Council Members: Shanna Farrell; Francine D. Spang-Willis; Abby Perkiss, Anna Sheftel
Absent: Nishani Frazier

Executive Office: Executive Director, Stephen Sloan & Associate Director, Steven Sielaff

Notes

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
CALL TO ORDER AT 2:03 PM CDT		
Opening Thoughts by Anna Sheftel	• Wild Strawberries. OH on Hist. Jewish Cemetery (East European Immigrants). AS given a tour to 2 profs, ground covered in Wild Strawberry & the effect it had on AS. Connected w/Indigenous Colleagues. • Robin W. Kimmerer: *Braiding Sweetgrass*. WS is a food that offers itself to us. AS read a quote from book.	
Consent Agenda	Approval of June & July's 2025 Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Reeves, Seconded by Cave. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).	• ~~Sloan (w/Troy & Sielaff's help) to create August minutes.~~
PRESENT BUSINESS		

Executive Office News/Updates (Sielaff & Sloan)	Program Associate update: Leslie did email to thank Council for letting her have this opportunity.
	
	• Sloan explained the why for teh change & that PD is up. Applicants will be reviewed starting by 8/11.
	• Shanna will help, but if others want to help let Sloan know.
	• Question: Is there thought of making it fully remote? There are good reasons for having it fully remote, but there are good reasons for the person to be onsite (ie in Waco).
	• Question: should we prioritize local folks? Perhaps.
	
	Feedback on Oral History: Defined, ie comments on google doc & next steps
	
	• Thanks for feedback.
	• Points of contention?
	  ○ Add additional context?
	  ○ Yes, Steven will draft.
	• Bibliography? Abby will draft
	• Revamp main paragraph? Who?
	• More than Western OH?
	• This page just an entry point?
	• Anna will help Sielaff.
	
	OHA retention policy/procedural document*: 1st look & next steps draft for for now. So, **review before next meeting.**
	
	OHR Contract*: any comments/feedback from Council?
	
	• Would like to finalize this contract soon, so comments by the mid-August.
	• Sloan offered feedback about the editorial team & Routlege's rep.
		• **Shanna:** Will work w/EO to review & interview PA apps/finalists.
		• **To all who haven't:** review OHR Contract by 8/18.
		• **Anna:** Work w/**Sielaff** to create new draft of OH: Defined webpage.
		• **Abby:** create bibliography (perhaps checking in with Pub Cmte?)
		• **All:** Review retention policy doc before Sept mtg.
		• **Sloan:** Will take Council ?s back to Cuba trip group.
		• **Sloan:** Will work to create an NPS Taskforce.
		• **Kelly Elaine & Mark:** work w/EO to review & interview Newsletter Ed apps/finalists.
		• **To all who haven't:** Once flight to ATL is booked, let Sloan know so hotel room can be reserved.
		• **To all:** If you're in charge of an outreach event, let **Sielaff** know the specifics, so he or the GA can populate the calendar.

	Proposal from Development*: Cuba Trip ● Guaranteed 5k from trip to OHA. ● 10-15 people (small group) ● Asked for feedback. ○ Cost of trip? ○ 5k for us, is that enough? ○ Conflict of interest? ● Is there a market for this? ● Is there a risk for us? NPS Master Cooperative Agreement finalized! ● Sloan will meet them soon. Now, Sloan will create a committee or taskforce. Newsletter Editor PD: Who will help review apps/help w/interviews? ● Committee: Steven, Stephen, Mark, and Kelly Elaine Bylaws update (w/Troy): 1st look & next steps. ***See below.*** Annual Meeting Logistics: confirming what's reimbursed & note about flight info. ● EO will book the room, just let them know when you'll arrive. ● Do we register (and pay)? Yes ● Membership/annual meeting? Vote!!!! Calendar! (Stephen shared link.) ● Who's updating the calendar?	
Closed Session	● After a brief discussion, this was TABLED to September.	● **To all:** Bring your thoughts about this to next month's meeting.

Committee & Taskforce Updates	**Membership** (Abby): instead of re-running last year's survey, plan is for a more targeted approach. **Advocacy** (Anna/Kelly Elaine): update previous statement instead of creating a new one. **Public Programming** (Troy for Shanna): Request to give an honorarium for 7/29 Lunch&Learn presenters. ● Because of budget and logistics, move towards giving them some type of gift. Gift card? Swag? And how to get it to them? **Diversity** (Francine): From the Accessibility Doc, committee offered 3 ideas. ● Include options for virtual programming and livestreaming of in-person events ● Provide training and tips to OHA members for creating accessible slides for in-person and virtual presentations. ● Making time and space for disability cultural competency training. This led to a robust discussion about what, related to the Acc Doc, will be happening at the Annual Meeting and how can we offer virtual programming at the AM for those who cannot or won't attend. **L&E Taskforce** (Francine & Sarah): Reminder of 8/13 virtual webinar, including reasons non-Indigenous folks should attend. **Publication** (Sarah): Committee working on two items. ● Template for White Papers, with creating a downloadable PDF of Principles & Best Practices as proof of concept.	● **Anna or Kelly Elaine:** Once statement is revised, send to Troy for next month's meeting documents ● ~~**Troy & Sloan:** What can we give the L&L presenters?~~

	• Template for reading lists, with list for 2026 Summer Symposium as proof of concept. Discussion here centered on the reading list idea, including previous similar lists created by the *OHR*. **Emerging Professionals** (Anna)**:** Committee has most members ghosting, including a co-chair, but just met. And those attending will work with EO to make sure their Annual Meeting events happen.	
Caucus (Troy)	Troy showed rest of Council the 1st draft of the Caucus FAQ Doc, which is an effort to help, before any proposed Bylaws change, clarify the Caucus system/process.	• **Troy,** probably tapping **Francine & Sielaff**, will work to enhance this document for future Council review.
July Programming	TABLED	
2025/2026 AM Update	TABLED	
Bylaws	Troy showed and offered an overview to the rest of Council the proposed Bylaws changes. • There's a time crunch here, because proposed changes need to be ready and presented to members by 8/31.	• **All:** continue to review & comment on document. **Troy & Sloan:** finalize it by 8/21 for Council review.
If time, Strategic Plan	There was no time, so TABLED.	
FUTURE BUSINESS		
	Next Council Meeting: 9/4, 2-3 pm CDT on Zoom. Opening thoughts: Nishani Frazier	• ~~**Nishani** will offer Opening Thoughts.~~
ADJOURNMENT AT 3:33 PM CDT		

Minutes prepared by the law firm of Reeves, Sielaff, & Sloan