ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL MEETING

June 2, 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. Sprang-Willis; Abby Perkiss, Anna Sheftel
Absent: Nishani Frazier

Executive Office: Executive Director, Stephen Sloan; Associate Director, Steven Sielaff; Program Associate, Leslie An

Notes

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
CALL TO ORDER AT 2:02 PM CDT		
Opening Thoughts by Abby Perkiss	• Communities that make up institutions. • Institutions are at their best when they cultivate the kind of mentorship and support found at last CSS meeting. • How do we lead with the intention toward change and responsiveness? Do we (communities in general—not OHA, specifically) risk stasis and echochamber? • Thinking about creating space for new people while also drawing on deep network when discussing nominees. • "Make new friends while keeping old."	

Consent Agenda	Approval of May 2025 Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Troy, seconded by Mark, and carried at 3:06 pm.	• ~~Leslie: Post the approved May 2025 minutes on the OHA website~~
PRESENT BUSINESS		

Advocacy/Strategic Plan Work	Community Support Space (CSS) & Regional Activity
	• Next CSS meeting set for June 30 at 1 PM CDT (Sielaff, Shanna, Troy).
	• Kelly Elaine requested Instagram posts for both the CSS and her June 7 Philly meetup.
	  ○ Prompted discussion on proactive publicity requests and Instagram as a hub for promoting oral history events.
	  ○ Suggested creating a shared document of upcoming events.
	• New Orleans meetup (Mark Cave): ~10 attendees; positive discussions on exhibitions, oral history, and the Atlanta meeting.
	• Meetup feedback: Kelly Elaine found Troy and Sarah's feedback helpful; asked Mark to share his for planning purposes. Troy requested a recap for the next newsletter.
	• Next CSS: Likely late July or early August. Council has 1 week to express interest in leading; if none, Troy will assign.
	
	OHA Statements
	• Kelly Elaine and Anna rescheduled their meeting w/Advocacy due to conflict; letter still pending.
	• Plan to incorporate feedback from June CSS.
	• Rob Perks contacted Sloan & Sielaff about whether OHS
		• ~~Leslie: Email Shanna (sfarrell1213@berkeley.edu) and Kelly Elaine (navies9@gmail.com) improved logo~~

	issued a statement in support of OHA.	
Executive Office News/Updates	IIRF Update ● Website language updated per Council feedback. ● Deadline clarified: July 1 at 11:59 PM. Future deadlines should specify time zone. ● Late applications: Up to committee discretion. DEFINED Page ● Among top 5 most-visited pages. Needs update. ● Sielaff to create a Google Doc of current content; Council feedback due August. Newsletter Editor Position ● Feedback incorporated into final position description. ● Tentative title of new publication: Oral History Community Bulletin. ● Position will be promoted in July. Help share internally and externally. Re-running 2024 Survey ● Past response rates were low. Council brainstormed engagement tactics: ○ Sticky note box, QR codes, small incentives (e.g., gift cards, candy, coupons for The Varsity + Tums). ○ Limited capacity for laptops/tablets. ○ Include survey messaging in program with QR code: “If you registered, you’re a member—we want to hear from you.”	● ~~Leslie: Build review panel in Memberclicks and give committee instructions on how to use it~~

	• Membership Committee had not reconvene to revise survey; fresh eyes from new committee members may help.
	• Consensus: distribute survey via QR code in program and at the conference.
	
	Rescheduling September Council Meeting
	• First Monday in September presents conflicts.
	• Sloan to send LettuceMeet for alternative dates.
	
	Accessibility Guidelines
	• Diversity Committee will advise on implementation priorities.
	• Advice expected by end of July, to be reviewed in August meeting.
	
	Additional Updates
	• Website Analytics:
	  ○ Rachel migrated to Fathom Analytics but discovered WordPress still uses cookies.
	  ○ She will apply her Fathom subscription to OHA, saving $150/year.
	  ○ $50/year for automatic alt text remains; alt text and voice remain editable.
	• Graduate Assistant (Stephanie):
	  ○ Scanned all newsletters; now working on archival programs.
	  ○ Plan to promote archive access.
	• Journal Contract (Taylor & Francis):	

	○ T&F offered 2% more on the royalty. Sloan successfully negotiated $15,000 to support the editorial team (up from $10,000), while maintaining 45% royalties. →Expected royalty increase of ~$5,000/year VS $1,000 in royalties this year. ○ Anticipate revenue from AI deal with T&F. Rights & Permissions royalty income is up about $6,000 from last year. ○ Royalty performance and OHR journal trending upward. ○ Troy & Sloan decided to send one editor to attend IOHA, funded from OHR budget. ○ Relatedly, editorial team contract renewal conversations underway.	
General Updates/Discussion **1: Candidates for 1st VP/Council & Nominating/Common Comms (Troy & Mark)** **2: Committee, Caucus & Taskforce Talk** **3: 2025 OHA Annual Meeting (Sarah)**	Candidates: ● 1st VP & Council Candidates: ○ Shanna and Alissa Rae running for VP; four Council candidates confirmed. ○ Bios/photos submitted. Announcement in next newsletter and news blast. ○ Election to close mid-August. ○ Bylaw clarification needed: membership status required at nomination or election? Mark to draft revisions for Sloan & Troy. ● Committees: ○ Nominating Committee drafting a list for future leadership	

	opportunities; to be shared with Troy for Committee on Committees outreach. ○ Renee Alexander (suggested by Kelly Elaine) was not contacted in time but remains interested. Kelly Elaine to send more suggestions; Troy to verify membership status. ○ Troy has 3 candidates per committee; still needs 4 more. ○ Avoided outreach to long-lapsed members. ○ June 20 newsletter deadline. ● Scholarship Committee: ○ Kelly Elaine to forward Education & Diversity reps. Francine emailed co-chairs and will follow up with Sloan. Committee, Caucus & Taskforce Talk ● Law & Ethics Task Force / Public Programming ○ Two webinars planned; speakers confirmed. Awaiting bios/descriptions for promotion. ○ Second webinar scheduled. Cost structure established. ○ Brainstorming doc created to collect programming ideas from liaisoned committees. ○ Discussion on scope of Public Programming Committee: ■ Should focus on its own programming, not serve others.	

	■ Office/Council can support external efforts directly. ■ Two anticipated programs this year: education initiative and pre-conference networking. ■ Standard honorarium: ~$200. Can ask speakers for rate to ensure equity. ■ Upcoming programming likely virtual. ■ Brainstorm doc may help facilitate partnerships between committees. ● Education Committee: ○ Reviewing and advising on website content (not rewriting). ○ Also researching K–12 oral history curricula. ● History Task Force ○ Final report proposed creation of OHA Historian role and/or History Committee. ○ Committee creation prioritized due to budget implications of formal position. ○ Initial charge may include: ■ Records management and archival strategy. ■ Implementing Midwinter Toolkit. ■ Collecting and telling OHA's own story.	

	■ Crowdsourcing Annual Meeting content. ■ Assigning archival research at UNT ■ Oral histories with elder members/leaders. ○ Troy and Sloan to review bylaws and next steps. OH 101 Visioning Group ● Troy, Shanna, and Sielaff met last month. ● Will circulate a one-pager outlining how to conduct asynchronous training at the Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting Planning ● Schedule: Alissa Rae is finalizing the schedule for Leslie. ● Proposals and offsite programming still under review. ● Sponsorship outreach has begun; suggestions welcome (especially new exhibitors). ● Workshops/tours in development: ○ Shanna & Kelly Elaine offered possible tours.. ● Council obligations: ○ Tuesday evening dinner. ○ Wednesday all-day meeting. ○ Possible Saturday meeting. ● Meeting logistics: ○ Hotel rates to be published on Annual Meeting page before official announcement. ○ Sarah holds OHA member registration code for AFS but uncertain how to use and prevent misuse.	

	● External trends: ○ Sarah noted membership attrition and in-person conference challenges in other organizations. ○ Sielaff discussed insights from Broadcast Educators Association on virtual/hybrid tools like Sched and avatar-based platforms—relevant with possible applications to OHA networking and mentoring events. ○ International travel/visa issues to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.	
FUTURE BUSINESS		
	Next Council Meeting: 7/7, 2-3 pm CDT on Zoom. Opening thoughts: Francine (substituting for Anna)	● ~~Francine: Prepare opening thoughts for next Council Meeting.~~
ADJOURNMENT AT 3:31 PM CDT		

Minutes prepared by Leslie An