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ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:  
*Committee Charges 2025-2026*

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Besides each committee's stated mission and their 2025-26 specific charges, all committees should ask themselves if their work during the year aligns with the OHA's Mission Statement. Specifically, as your work unfolds this year, does it **connect, inspire, and support** our current (also thinking about our future) membership?

*The COMMITTEE on COMMITTEES recruits and assigns members to serve on the appointed committees of the Association, including Awards committees.*

\*This task is accomplished by facilitating an annual open call for volunteers and through ongoing recruitment activity to ensure that candidates reflect the scope and diversity of OHA membership.

In addition to this mission, for 2025-26 the Committee on Committees is charged with the following:

- With the assistance of the OHA executive office, the Committee on Committees will develop and implement a plan for consistent transparency and communication related to committee recruitment and participation. This should include a method to recruit and fill mid-term appointments as they arise.
- The Committee on Committees will recruit chairs for vacant positions of the existing awards committees.
- The Committee on Committees will communicate with all of the Committee chairs to schedule 3-4 virtual all committee chair check-ins throughout the year. Communications should include Committee liaisons, but meetings can be scheduled independent of their availability.
- The Committee on Committees will complete (by end of May 2026) and implement (ahead of the 2026 annual meeting) a recruitment plan to determine how many committee members will renew expiring terms and how many new appointments each committee will request. This plan will include communication with committees (through liaisons or direct communications where appropriate) to determine the anticipated needs and a communications plan implemented with the EO.

*ADVOCACY COMMITTEE guides Council and the Association in their role as an advocate for the field of oral history and issues of concern to the Association and its membership. The committee coordinates public statements relating to our principles and best practices, and the rights of oral historians and narrators. More broadly, they advise the OHA in our efforts to support a more equitable, just, and democratic world; defend marginalized voices and peoples; and protect the process of free inquiry.*

In addition to this mission & remaining work from 2023-24, for 2024-25 the Advocacy Committee is charged with the following:

- Work on collecting and publicizing what resources already exist within the organization and outside it on matters of advocacy
- Work on articulating, demonstrating and publicizing oral history as a field's connection to questions of advocacy that face us today

*DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE oversees the association's fundraising campaigns and other efforts to support the growth of the endowment in accordance with the strategic plan and the mission of the association.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the Development Committee is charged with the following:

- Work with OHA Executive Office Leadership & Council liaison to finalize annual fundraising plan for 2025-26
- Discuss & continue to improve on endowment fundraising through OHA Day, Day of Giving, and other initiatives, including potential for major capital campaign
- Advise on strategy to communicate about importance and use of endowment, including learning about the 2025 change to the endowment's asset allocation
- Continue discussion, including working with President, Council Liaison, and Executive Office Leadership, to find new funding sources, like large non-profit foundations, to build the endowment

*DIVERSITY COMMITTEE supports the Association's work with regard to diversity and equity within the membership, leadership, annual meetings, and in the field more generally. The committee works independently and collaboratively with other committees to foster inclusivity and promote the meaningful involvement of historically-marginalized populations, in particular those based on race/ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, gender, sexuality, class, education, and ability. The committee also advances the inclusion of unaffiliated oral history activists and practitioners.*

In addition to this basic mission for 2025-2026 the Diversity Committee is charged with the following:

- Work with OHA 2026 Annual Meeting leadership to think through & create practices or policies around:
  - OHA's engagement with and lasting impact on the conference host cities and communities.
  - Exploring concurrent or complementary virtual offerings related to the annual meeting programming.
  - Active participants in the planning process for the Diversity Committee reception.
- Collaborate with the Advocacy Committee in exploring efforts focused on supporting OHA members experiencing hardships due to current DEI policy attacks and broad funding cuts in the culture and memory worker fields.

- Host quarterly virtual gatherings for OHA members highlighting the work of members developing innovative, community-rooted oral history work, broadening networking opportunities outside of the annual meeting.

*EDUCATION COMMITTEE promotes the use of oral history in the classroom and works to ensure the Association meets the needs of educators. The committee creates and maintains networks of educators to facilitate communication; promotes excellence and innovation in oral history education; and provides professional development resources for educators at all levels.*

In addition to this mission, for 2024-25 the Education Committee is charged with the following:

- Convene meetings throughout the year to & orient new and continuing members to committee's mission
- Review OHA website for the following:
  - Identify existing OHA online resources for all educators--community, K-12, and college
  - Discuss what, if anything, is missing (or needs updating)
- Work, when needed, with Council & Advocacy Committee, with strategies to support educators faced with freedom of speech and diversity curriculum challenges

*EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE ensures the Association is welcoming and professionally relevant to new professionals entering the field (including students, interns, early-career oral historians, and oral historians seeking their first professional jobs). The committee helps create an inclusive and nurturing community within the Association by providing resources, advice and mentorship initiatives, networking opportunities, and by advising Council on policies and procedures to advocate for new professionals within OHA and the public sphere.*

In addition to this mission, for 2024-25 the Emerging Professionals Committee is charged with the following:

- Convene meetings throughout the year to & orient new and continuing members to committee's mission
- Continue to organize annual meeting events--Call for Mentors/Mentees, Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet, and Speed Networking
  - Work with Executive Office and Program Committee to ensure that these events are well-integrated into annual meeting planning
- If time, consult with the Membership Committee, re: their efforts to evaluate last year's Peer Mentoring Program. (Note: this program started as a joint effort between both committees.)

*FINANCE COMMITTEE oversees the finances of the Association and provides information and advice to the officers and Council on their fiduciary responsibilities with respect to OHA income, expenses, and investments. To promote an informed and transparent decision-making process, the committee reviews the annual budget and audit, and ensures the executive office maintains appropriate financial records.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the Finance Committee is charged with:

- Working with the Executive Office, enact a rebalancing plan for the Endowment's asset mix, which will take place over the course of 6 months.
- Incorporate consistent rebalancing plan into the 2025 adopted investment policy.

*INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE fosters and maintains relationships with oral history programs, organizations, and practitioners beyond the United States. The committee maintains open communication with these constituencies and advises the association as it seeks to support and advance the practice of oral history abroad and enhance the presence of non-U.S. practitioners within the membership. The committee serves as the liaison to the International Oral History Association and encourages the reciprocal participation of members of both in the others' organization, annual meetings, and publications.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the International Committee is charged with the following:

- Utilize the rubric to review and make award recommendations for the internal scholarship application
- Produce a selection of video interviews with past scholarship winners for presentation at the Portland 2026 annual meeting which will demonstrate the value of OHA's International scholarship awards to OHA members and the larger oral history community

*MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE promotes the mission of the Oral History Association by ensuring the growth of a dynamic and diverse membership. The committee maintains membership data, conducts membership drives, and promotes efforts to enhance membership benefits and involvement in the association.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the Membership Committee is charged with the following:

- Supporting OHA with the action plan survey
- Organizing and hosting the annual newcomers breakfast at the 2026 annual meeting
- Reviewing and updating OHA's membership messaging, as needed
- Continue this committee's strong, collaborative ethos & in conjunction with the Executive Office to devise ways to maintain & build OHA membership.

*NOMINATING COMMITTEE nominates members of the Association for election to Council or as officers of the association, subject to the approval of Council. The committee seeks nominees reflecting the diversity of our membership and the inclusion of those historically marginalized within the profession and collaborates with the Diversity Committee and others to fulfill its charge and promote clear pathways toward leadership within the OHA.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the Nominating Committee is charged with the following:

- Put forth nominees for First Vice President and two Council Members.
- Implement the appendix created for the soon-to-be approved Volunteer document, which details the timeline & processes for implementing charge #1

- Sub-goal: interrogate the document particularly as it relates to the 2020-21 document created by this committee in regards to:
  - Being transparent and inclusive in identifying nominees and running elections.
  - Developing inclusive pathways and pipelines to OHA leadership and service.

*PUBLIC PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE sponsors and hosts a yearly program of events, workshops, and other gatherings relating to oral history and aligned with the needs and interests of the membership of the Association.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26 the Public Programming Committee is charged with:

- Develop and implement, with support from the Executive Office, 2 virtual programming events. Consider drawing from popular or well attended sessions at the 2025 annual meeting or soliciting a lecture or virtual panel focused on a trending topic in the field. Programs should be scheduled at least 1 month in advance of the production date to give the Executive Office time to promote the event. Consider scheduling events at least a few months apart.
- Develop, with support from the Executive Office, processes and workflows for future OHA events, including making sure events align with our new accessibility guidelines document in addition to timing for pitching, promoting, and, and implementing virtual programming. Producing a calendar of work that can be passed forward to future committees by the end of the Committee work year (October) is requested.
- Communicate and collaborate (where it makes sense) with other committees developing programming during the year. At the minimum, working to stagger synchronous programming efforts to develop a robust calendar of scheduled events throughout the year.

*PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE develops and implements a comprehensive and professional publications program for the Association that reflects the diverse and varying interests and needs of the membership and broader public. The committee reviews and solicits publications both in traditional print and electronic formats, including white papers and pamphlets produced by segments of the OHA.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26, the Publications Committee is charged with:

- Review OHA documents to determine which of them should be updated into the OHA publication template developed by the 2024-2025 committee.
- Develop a process for creating OHA topical “reading lists” that can be shared on the OHA website. As a pilot for this process, work with the OHA VP and Program Committee co-chairs to develop a reading list that fits with the theme of the 2026 annual meeting. This could include communicating with scholars in areas of oral history and an identified special topics, developing a comment period for OHA

membership for process transparency and inclusion, and could also include reaching out to the public program committee for possible collaboration on a reading group or invited virtual author talk related to the list and the annual meeting theme.

- Explore possibility of programmatic possibilities focused on oral history publications (recent article or book award winners, for example) or exploring and presenting LLM developed themes from OHR over the course of its publishing history.

*Indigenous Initiative Research Fund Award Committee is charged with reviewing applications for this research award on an annual basis through a consistent and transparent process of review guided by the call for application guidelines.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-2026, the OHA Indigenous Initiative Research Fund Award Committee will:

- Evaluate the Application Guidelines and suggest any changes or additions by the end of January.

*The OHA History Committee is charged with collecting, preserving, interpreting, and activating the history of the OHA through engagement with oral history practitioners and with the OHA's archives at the University of North Texas. History work should document both the more formal, institutional, and centralized business of the OHA, and the more informal, personal, and decentralized experiences of oral historians, including both long-standing members and practitioners with other relationships to the organization.*

In addition to this basic mission, for 2025-26, the OHA History Committee will be:

- Consult on and facilitate oral histories created for the OHA's archive, using the OHA's Oral History Toolkit. The committee might also choose to create and execute new oral history interviews or projects.
- Create at least one outreach and engagement event each year. This might be online and/or at the Annual Meeting, and might include activities like crowdsourcing stories or metadata, or collaborative timeline construction.
- Highlight the collection by curating or showcasing existing archival holdings in some way at least once a year. These might be small, focused efforts or larger, more ambitious efforts.
- Support and/or lead efforts to augment OHA's archives to include the collections and perspectives not included in the current archive, which to date has mainly been built through donations of collections created or held by the Executive Office or Executive Secretary's offices. Specifically, we should actively collect materials in the private collections of OHA leaders and members.
- Work with UNT to continue to build the finding aid(s) for the collection and facilitate access.