



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting
February 02, 2026
01:30 pm – 3:00 pm CST

Present: President Sarah Milligan, Vice President Mark Cave, First Vice President Alissa Rae Hudson, Immediate Past President Troy Reeves, Council members: Francine Spang-Willis, Abby Perkiss, Anna Sheftel, Fanny Garcia, Executive Director Stephen Sloan, Associate Director Steven Sielaff, Program Associate Hailey Rowe

Others Present: Katherine Barbera

Members Absent: Adrienne Cain Darough

Minutes Prepared by: Program Associate Hailey Rowe

Agenda	Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
Welcome 1:32 PM	Opening Thoughts: Anna Sheftel, share what content warnings you have for yourself		
Present Business: Guest Introduction and Committee Chair Update	<u>Katherine Barbera, Chair - Membership Committee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3rd term as chair of the membership committee ● 7 members, great liaison in Abby and Troy ● Have been onboarding members over the last few months ● Been helping to roll out the membership survey and action plan survey, run the newcomer’s breakfast, had a “fireside chat” at the breakfast that got great feedback, working to help update the “welcome” message that members receive when they join the association, organized a peer mentorship program in 2023 that they decided not to continue based on the post-event survey results, provide general member support to OHA 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members would like to see an increased, support in regional OH programs/events - interest in starting a New England regional OH group 		
Consent Agenda	<p>Items on the consent agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting minutes (January) <p><i>Mark Cave moves to approve the consent agenda, Troy Reeves seconds. All approved at 1:54 pm.</i></p>	Post minutes to website	Hailey
Present Business: Reports	<p><u>Executive Office Update (Stephen):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-0 vote by council to approve the sign-on to the OAH statement on the freedom and slavery removal at Independence National Historical park, already notified OAH Master Cooperative Agreement with NPS, Sloan will do some training with people who are onboarding from the department of interior- task agreement Brown vs. Board Historical Site would like to do a project with Howard HS in Wilmington, DE - important site with an engaged alumni group Newsletter will go out soon, community bulletin will go out in March Met with OHA Development committee - exciting things going on with that Material from the action plan survey will be useful for future actions Talked about the Cuba trip - deadline for signing up is 60 days prior to the trip start date (Jan. 3) Financials - discussed new Vanguard investment account Everyone is coming to Portland - go to Oregon Jewish and Holocaust Museum on Saturday for that day's meeting - Sunday's meeting will take place in the hotel <p><u>Executive Office Update (Steven):</u></p>	<p>Crowdsource community bulletin recipients</p> <p>If interested in being a Cuba trip "ambassador," let Sloan know</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>148 on the Find an Oral Historian Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOH tool is now updated on the site, will update quarterly We're going to do some promotion about the FOH tool before the next update <p>OHA Archive information now on website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will start promoting to let people know more about it and what they can do with the resources <p>History Committee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached out to several people but struggling with lack of capacity - next step to put it on the next eblast - volunteers for new standing committee <p><u>Law and Ethics Task Force (Francine, Sarah, Troy)</u></p> <p>Kate Scott and Guha Shankar agreed to continue as co-chairs</p> <p><u>Committee Reports or Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the indigenous initiative research fund be added to the Committee Charge document? - only if there is a specific charge for the year that's different from the standing committee charge Development committee met at noon today and will benefit from the strategic plan discussions <p><u>Action Survey Review (Stephen)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like to focus on dissatisfied answers/feedback in the form - 2 for council communication from new members <p><u>2026 Annual Meeting update (Mark)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost Debbie as co-chair, Molly is doing great with programming and Teresa is doing great with local arrangements Keynote has been finalized and contract signed 	<p>Add call to next eblast</p> <p>Answer the questions at the bottom of Feb. meeting agenda</p> <p>Review Committee Charge document for possible update with IIA</p> <p>Remind committee chairs to submit reports</p> <p>Pull the dissatisfied feedback from the form and a data report to discuss</p>	<p>Hailey</p> <p>All</p> <p>Sarah and Francine</p> <p>All</p> <p>Stephen Sloan</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working on a contract with Heidi Hutner for a potential plenary and/or documentary screening ● Finalized the artwork for the cover ● Oregon Historical society is where we will hold the Presidential Reception ● Teresa has identified the tours and is making the arrangements ● CFP ends on 2/20 		
<p>Unfinished Business</p>	<p><u>Transparency on creation and release of statements (Troy) - discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah and Troy went through the strategic plan one-pager and found there's not an easy way for people to let council know that they'd want council to sign on to ● Advocacy created a document outlining the process involved with OHA council signing/not signing a statement ● When we voted originally, this document wasn't going to be a public facing document and needed to be reviewed in 2 years ● Statements policy may want to include the process for signing onto existing statements ● The public facing document will need tweaks to include less detail/timeline expectations <p><u>Community of Care conversations - continue? (Sarah) - discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance/interest went down from the first to the third one ● Payout for the amount of labor required is not worth continuing ● Idea to have them not as regularly but to have them when conversation/community is needed ● Community of care conversations could be more member driven 	<p>Request that Advocacy Committee look through the 2023 document with the purpose of making it public facing</p> <p>Check with Oral History Worker Collective to see if there is interest to co-sponsor monthly community discussion calls</p>	<p>Troy/Anna</p> <p>Fanny</p>

New Business	<u>2026 Symposium Update (Anna & Francine) - discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No famous speaker ● Invites have gone out to speakers ● Visual identity has been sent to Hailey ● Waiting to see who agrees to speaker’s invitations ● Request from committee: can speakers have free registration for the virtual symposium and annual meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to free registration for the symposium but no to free annual meeting registration 	Send speaker agreement spreadsheet to Hailey and Stephen Sloan Send speaker agreement template to Anna, Francine, Shanna	Francine, Anna, Shanna Hailey
Upcoming Midwinter Meeting	<u>Strategic Objective Planning (Sarah) - Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please review 2020-2026 Strategic Plan ● Please review proposed plan for drafting new objectives Review meeting packet ahead of meeting (material to come)		
	<i>Meeting Adjourned at 2:54 pm.</i>		