

Council Meeting
August 03, 2026
01:30 pm – 3:00 pm CST

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

Others Present:

Members Absent: Adrienne Cain Darough, Vice President Mark Cave, Francine Spang-Willis

Minutes Prepared by: Program Associate Hailey Rowe

Agenda	Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
Welcome 1:41PM	Opening Thoughts: Fanny invited Council members to reflect on moments, objects, or places that have created a sense of belonging or connection to family, community, or ancestry.		
Consent Agenda	Items on the consent agenda: June meeting minutes <i>Troy Reeves moves to approve the consent agenda with a correction to the time zone listed for the June meeting adjournment, Abby Perkiss seconds. All approved at 1:53pm.</i>	Correct the June minutes to reflect the correct Central Time adjournment and post minutes to the website.	Hailey

Present Business: Reports	<u>Executive Office Update (Stephen):</u> Election Results ● Farina King, elected to First Vice President; Elena Foulis elected to Council; Dave Caruso, Ricia Chansky, Leyla Vural elected to the Nominating Committee; Jennifer Bartlett, Mary Larson, Sarah Rodriguez elected to the Committee on Committees ● New terms will begin following the Portland Annual Meeting Update on virtual public programming ● Submissions for virtual programming have stalled ● Oral History & the Law and Ethics Task Force proposals have been suspended for now, looking to revisit sometime in the fall ● The AI transcription Lunch & Learn is publicly available on Youtube ● Registration continues for Trauma Informed Interviewing symposium recordings. Approximately 250 people have registered, and additional survey responses are being solicited. ● A conversation with Jason Steinhauer is scheduled for September 30 at 2:00 PM EDT and will focus on advocacy and social media strategies. ● The Cuba trip interest meeting can be added to the OHA events calendar ● OHA business meeting will be held virtually on September 15 from 3-4:30pm CDT Budget to Actuals ● Stephen went through the budget to actuals Oral History Review editorial team searches ● OHA will conduct searches for a new managing editor and copy editor. NPS task agreement ● NPS task agreement is in place for a multi-year oral history project involving a	Continue encouraging committees to submit virtual programming Add Cuba trip interest meeting to OHA calendar Develop and launch OHR Managing and Copyeditor searches Report back to Membership Committee on upcoming summary in Newsletter	Liaisons Steven Sielaff Executive Office Abby
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	historically Black high school in Maryland. • OHA will issue a CFP for the project • Task force was appointed last year for the NPS master cooperative agreement - they will help to review applicants Action Plan Report • The Membership Committee's summary and analysis of the member Action Plan Survey will be included in the upcoming newsletter <u>Executive Office Update (Steven):</u> WP Engine -> DreamPress Migration Complete! <u>Committee Reports or Discussion</u> Brief update on Scholarship Committee (Alissa Rae) • Selections have all been made for presenters and nonpresenters • The committee observed significant use of AI in some applications and raised the question of whether OHA should develop guidance or a policy regarding AI use in future scholarship applications. • The committee also recommended revisiting the current \$500 maximum scholarship amount, noting that it provides limited support toward travel costs • Sarah and Alissa Rae will continue discussing the issue, potentially for further consideration at the September meeting Membership (Abby) • Noah will put the survey report in the newsletter Oral History 101 Asynchronous Course (Alissa Rae) • The review of applications is complete. • The committee identified candidates for five of the six proposed modules. • No applications were received for the Legal and Ethical Issues module - could		
		Plan and proposal for further discussion on scholarship amounts	Alissa Rae and Sarah

	be considered for a future course or programming opportunity. • Council agreed to move forward with the five selected modules rather than delay the course while reopening the call. • One selected applicant may require additional outreach because contact information was not provided; a second-choice candidate is available if needed. <u>Update on 2026 annual meeting (Sarah on behalf of Mark)</u> • Preliminary program is live • Registration is strong for this time of year • Due to the number of film submissions, a film festival will run concurrently with other conference sessions • Julian Brave NoiseCat is the new keynote speaker • Land acknowledgement is being reviewed now • Mark has reached out to 160 organizations, 34 has promised gifts, 10 exhibits have expressed interests, only 3 have paid so far • A Dungeons & Dragons event is also being developed as part of the Annual Meeting programming <u>2026 Symposium (short) debrief (Anna, Francine, Abby)</u> • Organizers were happy with how it went, waiting on survey results before building report		
Unfinished Business	<u>Strategic Objective Planning: 2027-2030 strategies and benchmarks</u> Inclusive Engagement and Participation: The OHA is a transparent, inclusive, responsive, and valued resource with a growing body of diverse leaders and practitioners. (Alissa Rae and Fanny) • The discussion considered ways OHA can broaden participation, strengthen pathways into leadership, recognize	Review proposed language and provide feedback and suggestions	Council members

	different forms of service and engagement, and make participation in the organization more accessible. Ideas included examining barriers to participation, providing clearer pathways for members to become involved, recognizing volunteer and leadership contributions, considering badges or other forms of recognition, and continuing to strengthen opportunities for engagement beyond the Annual Meeting		
New Business	<u>Legacy Planning information sheet draft review</u> - Sarah and Stephen presented a draft of a legacy giving campaign tentatively titled Pay It Forward - The initiative would encourage longtime members and others to include OHA in their estate planning or make qualifying contributions, with funds directed to the endowment. - The current document is intended as a one-page public-facing informational piece rather than the full administrative structure of the program. <i>President Sarah Milligan moved to approve funding for Annual Meeting registration costs for standing committee chairs. Fanny Garcia seconded. All approved at 2:59 PM.</i>	Provide editorial feedback	Council Members
Upcoming Meetings	Strategic objective planning - developing 2027-2030 language September: Programming	Provide annual meeting attendance dates to Hailey	All
	<i>Meeting Adjourned at 3pm.</i>		