Council Meeting
September 14, 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: Adrienne Cain-Darough, Fanny Garcia, Anna Sheftel, Francine Spang-Willis, Executive Director Stephen Sloan, Associate Director Steven Sielaff, Program Associate Hailey Rowe
Others Present:
Members Absent: Abby Perkiss
Minutes Prepared by: Program Associate Hailey Rowe

Agenda	Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
Welcome 1:34PM	Opening Thoughts: Mark invited everyone to share majestic animal encounters		
Consent Agenda	Items on the consent agenda: ● August meeting minutes *Mark Cave moves to approve the consent agenda, Francine Spang-Willis seconds. All approved at 2:06pm.*	Post minutes to the website.	Hailey

Present Business: Reports	<u>Guest Introduction</u> Elissa Stroman, chair of Publications Committee ● The Publications Committee focused on developing topical reading lists, including the new Oral History and the Environment list. ● Future ideas include another reading list, book talk, publisher session on how to get published, and a possible oral history/AI resource. ● *OHR* is also developing reading lists/article bundles and may collaborate with the committee. ● Elissa will begin conversations with publishers in Portland about a publishing program. <u>Executive Office Update (Stephen):</u> ● Portland registration is around 400 and expected to exceed 500. ● *OHR* Managing Editor search is underway, with more than 20 applicants. A copyeditor search will follow. ● Abby Perkiss is working on a new version of Oral History and the Law. ● End-of-year giving efforts are underway. ● The Cuba trip has been postponed, likely until January 2028. ● Executive Office search work is progressing. ● A forthcoming approximately $104,000 NPS partnership will support an oral history project at a historically Black high school in Delaware. <u>Executive Office Update (Steven):</u> Phishing and Website Updates ● Website email addresses have been further masked to help address phishing attempts AI use complaint -> Policy Need ● A complaint regarding an AI-generated Annual Meeting promotional image		

	prompted discussion of the need for an OHA AI policy. ● Council will discuss potential AI guidelines further in Portland. ● Committee end-of-year reports are due October 1. Hailey sent the reporting link to Council liaisons. <u>Update on 2026 annual meeting (Mark)</u> ● Final program has been sent to the printer. ● Julian Brave NoiseCat will participate in place of Nepia Mahuika. ● Sponsorship is approaching the $30,000 goal, with 37 sponsors and 12 exhibitors committed. ● Annual Meeting preparations are progressing well.	Share committee report link with committees	Liaisons
Unfinished Business	<u>Annual meeting scholarship review and discussion of updates (Alissa Rae) *</u> The current $500 presenter scholarship maximum is increasingly insufficient given rising travel costs. Proposal to increase the presenter maximum to $750 while keeping the non-presenter maximum unchanged. **Alissa Rae Funderburk moves to update the maximum scholarship award amount for presenters to $750, Troy Reeves seconds, all approved at 2:33pm** <u>Strategic Objective Planning: 2027-2030 strategies and benchmarks (see strategic planning folder for past documents)</u> Programming: The OHA develops relevant, accessible, and innovative programming that enhances practitioners' ability to do meaningful oral history work. (Anna and Adrienne) ● Consider quarterly deadlines for programming proposals.		

	● Potential programming includes highlighting oral history centers and reading groups. ● Provide clearer guidance to committee chairs developing programs. ● Gather feedback on the virtual programming proposal process. ● Council will finalize strategic objectives during the October meeting.	Gather feedback from committees on the virtual programming proposal process	Liaisons
New Business	<u>Items for Business Meeting (Anything you want to make sure to include?)</u> ● Action Plan Survey follow-up ● 2027 Chicago Annual Meeting preview The 2027 joint conference with AFS will have the theme "Call and Response: Stories, Movements, and the Living Traditions We Carry."		
New Business	<u>Principles and Best Practices Review</u> ● OHA will begin planning the next review of the Principles and Best Practices, last finalized in 2018. ● A task force and co-chairs will be recruited, with work expected to begin around early 2027. ● Council also discussed updating the Archives resource and potentially developing guidance on oral history and AI.		
Upcoming Meetings	Annual Meeting On-Site Council Meeting		
	Meeting Adjourned at 2:54pm.		