

**Nebraska State Historical Society
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 1, 2025 – 2:00 PM (Mountain Time)**

**Fort Robinson State Park
The Lodge – Dodd Hall
3200 Hwy 20
Crawford, NE 69339**

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

President Nick Walter called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mark Batt, Jack Berg, Anna Castner Wightman, Gail DeBuse Potter, Jamesena Moore, Jacquelyn Morrison, Nick Walter, Bob Wickersham, Arlan Wine

ABSENT:

Laura Muñoz, Shannon Smith

Certification of Publication - Notification of Open Meetings Act

- The legal notice required by state statute was published in the Chadron Record on July 24, 2025.
- The meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act
- A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available on the table.

Welcome, Remarks, and Introduction of Guests

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

Reminder of the Nebraska State Historical Society Mission

The Nebraska State Historical Society mission was read aloud by President Walter.

Board President's Update

Board President, Nick Walter, noted that the Board continues to trend positively, as it has been stabilizing following the legislative changes of the previous year, which significantly altered their role from a Governing Board to an Advisory Board.

Opportunity for Public Questions and Comments

No questions were asked or comments given.

Approval of the Minutes from the June 3, 2025 Board Meeting

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 3, 2025

Motion by: MOORE
Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
WALTER, WICKERSHAM
Nays: NONE
Abstain: BATT, BERG, MORRISON, WINE

Motion approved

Approval of the Minutes from the April 11, 2025 Board Meeting

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 11, 2025

Motion by: BERG
Second by: WICKERSHAM

Yeas: BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE
Abstain: BATT, MORRISON

Motion approved

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Report

Leslie Fattig, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Executive Director, presented the NSHSF Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and provided copies for all Board Members. She discussed fundraising efforts including \$365,000 raised for the Nebraska History Museum Timeline Exhibit, \$100,000 for the Children and Family Learning Center, and \$85,000 for the new equipment in Exhibits.

Upcoming events include an Army National Guard parachute drop at Chimney Rock on August 15 and the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center on October 17.

The NSHS Foundation is holding a fundraiser in Omaha called “One in Nebraska, the Great Nebraska Road Trip” on October 24, featuring a hard cider that has been developed as a fundraising project. A “Save the Date” mailing will be sent soon.

The Board asked questions regarding the anticipated level of support for the agency in the next year: Will this amount increase, decrease, or remain the same? Is the NSHS Foundation the exclusive fundraising arm, can the Nebraska Historical Society also conduct its own fundraising in the event of budget cuts?

As a result of questions and to provide clarity to NSHS Board Members, Leslie extended an offer to have the Board Members meet with the Foundation to receive an orientation. The best time to do this would be after the October elections and before the 2026 board meeting in January.

Nebraska State Historical Society Director's Report

Daryl Bohac presented the NSHS Director's Report, discussing the improved relationship with the Foundation after previous difficulties. He noted that the agency will face a budget cut of \$528,040 from general fund appropriations and confirmed that no staff would be laid off.

Daryl reported that federal funding uncertainty had been resolved, with FY25 funds released by the Office of Management and Budget and FY26 funds likely to be included in the mainline budget bill.

Daryl discussed museum exhibits, including a new, small exhibit called "New to View" and a 3D tactical representation of the mural from the Pershing Auditorium. He mentioned hiring consultants to help with two exhibits planned to be installed by August 2026.

Daryl reported on the Capitol Gift Shop, which now features products related to "Cameron the Cat" who frequents the Capitol.

RECESS

OUT: 3:26 PM

IN: 3:38 PM

Roll Call

PRESENT:

BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

ABSENT:

MUÑOZ, SMITH

President Walter thanked Leslie Fattig and the NSHS Foundation for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

Nominating Committee: Recommended Approval of Arlan Wine, from Congressional District Three, to be added to the nomination slate for the 2025 election.

Motion to consider the name of Arlan Wine for the board slate for 2026-2029

Motion by: MOORE

Second by: BERG

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM,
Nays: NONE
Abstain: WINE

Motion passes

Board appointment to replace Phil Clement

Motion to postpone indefinitely the board appointment to replace Phil Clement from Congressional District Two

Motion by: MOORE
Second by: MORRISON

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE

Motion passes

Board appointment to replace Ben Gray

Motion to replace Ben Gray from Congressional District Two until the end of the term in 2026 with Nancy Faber

Motion by: MOORE
Second by: MORRISON

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE

Motion passes

Board appointment to fill Jacquelyn Morrison's former seat

Jacquelyn Morrison explained that she was originally elected while living in Omaha, Congressional District Two in Congressional District Two, and then moved to Papillion, in Congressional District One and submitted her resignation at that time. A gubernatorial seat came open for Congressional District One and she applied and was appointed for this seat. Her former seat in Congressional District Two is up for board appointment.

Motion to postpone the replacement of Jacquelyn Morrison from Congressional District Two until the October 2025 meeting

Motion by: MOORE
Second by: WICKERSHAM

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE
Abstain: MORRISON

Motion passes

Board appointment to replace Dee Adams

Motion to approve Beverly Duran to replace the seat of Dee Adams in Congressional District
Three until the term ends in December 2026

Motion by: WICKERSHAM
Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE

Motion passes

Heritage Heroes Program Update

Bob Wickersham provided an update on the Heritage Heroes program, noting there were four recipients this year, which is lower than previous years, but still a good program for community recognition.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

The Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Governance document were discussed. The Board discussed three ad hoc committees (Advisory, Ambassadorship, and Governance) that were formed earlier in the year to establish foundational rules following legislative changes. There was discussion about the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Governance document.

Advisory Committee Update

Moore reported that the Advisory Committee met via email and recommend that the items below be inserted in the recently revised Governance Document
Under -
Responsibility and Structure -
Advising the Director -
Responsibility and Structure

- Trustees will advise in areas of interest to them.
- Trustees will provide feedback on statewide visibility and issues of public concern brought to them.
- Trustees will meet once a year with the NSHS Foundation and advise on collaborative efforts.

Motion to accept the Advisory Committee report and insert the recommended items into the Governance Document

Motion by: MOORE

Board Discussion

Motion to withdraw the Advisory Committee report and insert the recommended items into the Governance Document

Motion by: MOORE

Board Discussion

Motion to table this item until the October 2025 meeting

Motion by: WICKERSHAM
Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Board Discussion

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER,
MORRISON, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Abstain: WALTER

Nays: MOORE

Motion passes

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: WICKERSHAM
Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, BERG, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE,
MORRISON, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm

Minutes submitted by:

Daryl Bohac, Director

Nebraska State Historical Society