



**Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees Meeting
January 9, 2026 – 9:00 AM (Central Time)**

The Meeting was conducted in person and virtually via Teams

The public was invited to attend in person at:
Nebraska State Historical Society Capitol View Room,
1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
or virtually at: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3vn7mn>
Meeting ID: 245 145 287 067 49 Passcode: k52qy3Gn

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

First Vice President Jamesena Moore called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Roll Call – Quorum confirmed.

ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Mark Batt, Anna Castner Wightman, Bruce Clawson, Gail DeBuse Potter, Jamesena Moore, Shannon Smith, Bob Wickersham and Arlan Wine

ATTENDING ONLINE:

Laura Muñoz

ABSENT:

Jack Berg, Beverly Duran, and Nancy Faber.

Certification of Publication - Notification of Open Meetings Act

- The legal notice required by state statute was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on January 03, 2026.
- The meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act.
- A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the wall.

Welcome, Remarks, and Introduction of Guests

- Director Daryl Bohac outlined the addition of the virtual option to this meeting and how it meets the Nebraska Open Meetings Act requirements.
- New Board of Trustee member, Bruce Clawson was introduced. Bruce grew up in Lincoln and enjoys history and the great outdoors. Before his retirement he served as environmental legal counsel for Kiewit Corporation. Currently he also sits on the Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundation board and Nebraska Sierra Club – Missouri Valley Group board.
- One member of the public was present.

Reminder of the Nebraska State Historical Society Mission

The Nebraska State Historical Society mission was read aloud by First Vice President Moore.

Opportunity for Public Questions and Comments

No questions were asked or comments given.

Amendment to the August 1, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

After discussion by the Board the previously approved minutes will be amended in the Ad Hoc Committee Reports Section with the addition of: "Motion to table the Ad Hoc Governance Committee report until the October 2025 meeting. Motion by Castner Wightman. Second by Morrison. Motion passes." This was added after the Board Discussion and before the Motion to table this item until the October 2025 meeting sections.

Motion to approve the amended August 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by: WICKERSHAM

Second by: CASTNER WIGHTMAN

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Amendment and Approval of the October 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

After discussion by the Board the minutes will be amended in the Board President's Update section to reflect that Nick Walter took over the role as President one year ago and not four years as originally stated.

Motion to approve the amended October 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by: MOORE

Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: WICKERSHAM

Motion approved

2026 Officer Elections

Board of Trustee officer duties were reviewed. Daryl Bohac pointed out that the Board President also has a seat on the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Review Board. The historic

preservation staff is reviewing their bylaws and may amend the position to read the NSHS Board of Trustee President or their designee but for now the role remains with the President. Anna Castner Wightman nominated the following slate of officers:

President	Bob Wickersham
First Vice President	Laura Muñoz
Second Vice President	Shannon Smith

Other nominations were called for but none were submitted for consideration.

Motion to approve the Slate of 2026 Officers as Nominated

Motion by: CASTNER WIGHTMAN

Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Passing the Gavel

After the successful election of the 2026 Board Officers, 2025 First Vice President Jamesena Moore passed the gavel to 2026 Board President Bob Wickersham to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

Board Appointment to Replace Morrison's Elected Seat in the Second District

Motion to replace Jacquelyn Morrison's former seat in Congressional District Two until the end of December 2026 with Thomas Neal.

Motion by: SMITH

Second by: WINE

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER, MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Review of Board Roles and Responsibilities

NRS 82-101-02 and NRS 82-101-01 were reviewed along with a discussion on present and future Board bylaws that reflect current statutory roles and responsibilities. President Wickersham will solicit board members to form a committee to create the new bylaws to govern the Board in its current advisory capacity and plans to have a document ready to review at the April 2026 board meeting.

Motion to establish a committee to create new bylaws that reflect statutory roles and responsibilities.

Motion by: CASTNER WIGHTMAN

Second by: BATT

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Motion to establish a committee to review current Nebraska State Historical Society Membership categories.

Motion by: DeBUSE POTTER

Second by: WINE

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Per statutory requirements a member from each Congressional District must serve on the 2026 Board Member Election Nominating Committee. Volunteers were called for. The following board members will serve in that capacity for 2026:

First Congressional District	Gail DeBuse Potter
Second Congressional District	Anna Castner Wightman
Third Congressional District	Shannon Smith

Other nominations were called for but none were submitted for consideration. An updated board roster will be sent out to each board member. It will highlight members who will be rotating off or need reelection in 2027. Staff will forward a copy of the current NSHS membership list to the committee to assist them in selecting potential nominees.

Motion to approve 2026 Board Member Election Nominating Committee

Motion by: BATT

Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,

MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE
Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

The proposed Trustee and Board of Trustees Guidance and Code of Ethics document was discussed.

Motion to amend and approve the Legal Representation section in the Trustee and Board of Trustees Guidance and Code of Ethics document.

Motion by: MOORE
Second by: DeBUSE POTTER

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE
Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

The Board's role in filling its fiduciary responsibilities and definition of the term "fiduciary" was discussed. It was decided that the section should remain as stands.

Motion to approve the Trustee and Board of Trustees Guidance and Code of Ethics document.

Motion by: DeBUSE POTTER
Second by: CASTNER WIGHTMAN

Yeas: BATT, CASTNER WIGHTMAN, CLAWSON, DeBUSE POTTER,
MOORE, MUÑOZ, SMITH, WICKERSHAM, WINE
Nays: NONE
Abstain: NONE

Motion approved

Recess

OUT: 10:07 a.m.

IN: 10:20 a.m.

Roll Call

ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Mark Batt, Anna Castner Wightman, Bruce Clawson, Gail DeBuse Potter, Jamesena Moore, Shannon Smith, Bob Wickersham and Arlan Wine

ATTENDING ONLINE:

Laura Muñoz

ABSENT:

Jack Berg, Beverly Duran, and Nancy Faber.

Heritage Heroes Program Update

In 2025 four people were nominated for the Heritage Hero program. Three presentations have been completed. Bob Wickersham and Anna Castner Wightman will work together to get the presentation in Ashland made in the near future. Reviews of each presentation were given with potential program improvements to ensure the program's success. Previous winners were listed on the NSHS website and a marketing team request to get the 2025 winners included has already been submitted.

Currently Wickersham has another four nominations from the Franklin County Historical Society, Tarnov Heritage Museum, Dawes County Historical Society Museum and Pierce County Historical Society. NSHS staff are working on creating presentation materials for each. Mark Batt volunteered to take over as program chair as Wickersham is the new Board President. He will work with staff to get the forms and presentation materials updated. Arlan Wine requested copies of the updated nomination forms when they are available as he would like to approach some groups in his local area.

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Report

Roger Lempke, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Vice President, presented the Foundation's September 2025 Financial Statements. Numbers continue to trend in a positive direction, and they are particularly proud that their total current assets have recently surpassed \$20 million. They are pleased with the increased interaction in 2025 to fiscally support Society. They are also working to offer more statewide and local historical grants. The Cottonwood Society program continues to grow. They have members at all participation levels and have added 38 new memberships to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Orlando Garcia has been hired on a part-time basis to assist with the Cottonwood Society. Wander Nebraska trip offerings have been released for 2026.

The NSHS Foundation orientation for new (and interested old) board members planned for January 8, 2026 was postponed due to the illness. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Nebraska State Historical Society Director's Report

Daryl Bohac started the NSHS Director's Report by thanking the Foundation for all of their support in the last year, supporting all requests except one and reiterating the importance of a strong relationship between the Society and the Foundation. A staff update was given highlighting filling open positions and bringing HR functions back in-house. The Capitol Gift Shop is doing well. At the next meeting more financial information for each retail location will be shared.

Plans are proceeding for the museum's America 250 and Statehood Exhibits. Staff will be setting up a meeting with Foundation staff to review and identify the appropriate resources for each. A brief recap of the Society's role in the Capitol building 5th Floor historical exhibit space was given as the Society is serving in an advisory role in historical events and potential source of artifacts.

A brief summary of this year's budget execution and departmental review process was given. Building repair projects update was given for Fort Robinson, Kennard House, Abbott Center at Chimney Rock, Neihardt Study and Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center.

Two Legislative Proposals initiated by the Society will be addressed in the current session. 1.) Senator Dan Lonowski will introduce a bill to amend the Open Meetings Act to allow more boards and commissions to hold more than one-half of their meetings by means of virtual conferencing. 2.) The State Historic Preservation Office is asking for technical corrections/provisions to the Civic and Community Center Financing Act and the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program that will streamline review processes and reduce an inflexible regulatory burden when a community has found a building or property to have ended its useful life.

History in the Making, the Society's internal newsletter, is changing its publication schedule and board members will be notified when details are finalized. Appreciation for David Bristow's Nebraska's History Moment was expressed by the board and staff.

2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Director Bohac proposed a date change for the July meeting that will still allow adequate notice for the meeting to occur within the 120-day deadline before the board elections. He will also work to determine the Board and Annual meeting dates in October.

- First Quarter, January 9, 2026 – Lincoln, NE
- Second Quarter, April 10, 2026 – Grand Island, NE
- Third Quarter, July 17, 2026 – Northeast Nebraska, exact locations TBD. Interest expressed to visit to the Neihardt Study in Bancroft, NE, Neligh Mill in Neligh, NE and Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Memorial Hospital in Walthill, NE.
- Fourth Quarter 2026 – Lincoln, NE Date TBD (Board Meeting)
- Fourth Quarter 2026 – Lincoln, NE Date TBD (Annual Meeting)

Other Business & Trustees Roundtable

University of Nebraska- Lincoln Historic Textile and Costume Collections The University recently decided to eliminate the Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design program. DeBuse Potter has heard interest expressed in having the Society accession the current extensive costume collection so it can be preserved. It has been past policy that the Society has accepted other discontinued departments' historical items and as some programs have been reinstated the items have been returned to their original departments. Director Bohac will inquire to see if anyone in the Collections department has more information.

Semiquincentennial Commission Update Director Bohac gave a quick update on his role on the Commission, on the recent Governor's press conference and noticed interest levels across the state.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement (NADC Form C-2A) and Contractual Interest Statement (NADC Form C-3) President Wickersham urged all board members to review both documents and file as instructed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Wickersham at 11:57 am

Minutes approved by:

Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees

April 10, 2026