



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025
THOMAS D. CLARK KENTUCKY HISTORY CENTER, BROWN-FORMAN ROOM B
and Via Zoom Teleconference**

Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Person: Dee Stivers Allen, Brent Bjorkman, Ryan Craig, Curtis Dame, Dee Alvin Davis, Tommy Druen, Mel Hankla, Tommy Hines, Lora Suttles, Hutchinson, Scott Keadle, Sheila Mason, Suzanne Wells Miell, Cynthia Torp, Alicestyne Turley

Via video conference: Bobbie Smith Bryant, Rhonda McCorry-Smith, Haley McCoy,

GUESTS PRESENT:

In Person: Amanda Matthews (KOHK), Sebastian Kitchen (TAHC), Kevin Gough

KHS STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Alvey, Leah Craig, Stuart Sanders, Jonathan Noffke, Dana Zinger, Kathy Golightly-Sanders, Kirsten Kindrick, Chuck Welsko, Michael Cruikshank.

I. Call to Order/Welcome

President Cynthia Torp called the meeting of the Kentucky Historical Society governing board to order at approximately 1:06 PM EDT. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2025, Board Meeting

The minutes of April 17, 2025, governing board meeting were presented to the board in advance electronically and with a copy in the board meeting packet. President Torp called for any additions or corrections. There were none.

Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Ryan Craig, that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

III. Reports:

A. Committees/Commissions

1. Governance- Board President and chair of the Governance Committee, Cynthia Torp, stated that the Governance Committee met on July 1st, 2025, to discuss the expansion of personnel and how KHS compares with other institutions regarding personnel salary and benefits. Along with this the committee discussed the capitol budget request.

history.ky.gov

100 West Broadway
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-1792





Deputy Director, Leah Craig, spoke on the addition of Charles Duke as the new HR administrator and the role he will play to help with staff resources and onboarding.

2. Nominating Committee- Executive Director, Scott Alvey, stated that the Nominating Committee is ahead of schedule and has received positive feedback from the board prospects that are being considered for the upcoming Governing Board slate. Alvey stated that the prospect list is strong this year that the committee will work to find ways to keep all individuals involved even if they are not able to join the Governing Board.
3. KY Oral History Commission- KY Oral History Commission Chair, Amanda Matthews, reported on updates for the commission. Matthews reintroduced the new Oral Historian for KHS, Micheal Kilmore, and the role he will play within KHS and the Commission. Matthews continued, stating that the last KOHC grant cycle received 14 grant applications from counties across Kentucky. The commission voted to partially fund 6 of the grants. Subcommittees have been established within the commission to review the archival accreditation process and review grant guidelines.

B. Executive Director

Executive Director, Scott Alvey, requested feedback on the Director's report provided in the board packet, and asked that board members let him know what information they would like to be reported on a more frequent basis. Alvey called on members of the senior leadership team to provide updates on recent KHS activities.

Director of Research and Publications, Stuart Sanders, reported on America250KY, stating that KHS has based the commemoration around four pillars: signature events, education, heritage tourism, and legacy projects. KHS took part in the national America250 event in April, Two Lights for Tomorrow, and continues to travel to counties across Kentucky with the America250KY roadshow. The America250KY commission continues to fund grants around the state with \$250,000 granted last year and an additional \$250,000 to be granted this coming fiscal year.

Deputy Director, Leah Craig, gave an update on Kentucky History Awards, and thanked the Governing Board for participating and helping to make it happen.

Director of Learning Services, Sarah McIntosh, gave an update on Kentucky History Day and the partners from agencies across the state that helped to make it happen. McIntosh highlighted some of the professional development opportunities that KHS is providing for teachers in Kentucky.

Director of Historical Resources, Jonathan Noffke, updated that the KY Military History Museum is still closed due to HVAC maintenance work, and preparations are being made in the House and Senate of the Old State Capitol for ceiling and plaster repair. Along with this, the Historical Resources team is working on content for the upcoming exhibit: *From Revolution to Statehood*.



Foundation Director, Kathey Golightly-Sanders, gave an update on the Foundation including funds raised for KY History Day, as well as funding acquired through the Spring mail appeal. The Development and Engagement committee as been created and is working to find key donors and reengage individuals who have lost connection with KHS. Golightly-Sanders finished her report by stating that the Foundation approved their budget at the last Foundation Board meeting in June.

C. Finance

Executive Director Alvey presented the KHS FY25 4Q Finance Report as found in the board packet. Alvey spoke on key points, stating that the fiscal year concluded with \$1.4 million in funds that were not utilized. This is largely due to positions that were not filled and several projects that were not completed before the end of the fiscal year. Alvey shared that one of the major projects that was completed within the FY25 fiscal year was the installation of the Liebert units that help to regulate the humidity and temperature levels for archival storage. Alvey stated that some of the funds can be carried over and utilized in the next fiscal year.

D. KHS Historical Marker review

Civil War Governors of Kentucky Project Manager, Chuck Welsko, presented 13 new historical markers for Governing Board approval.

Motion by Brent Bjorkman, second by Alicestyne Turley that the new Historical Markers recommended by the review committee, be approved as presented in the board packet. The motion unanimously carried.

E. Membership

Director of Marketing and Communications, Dana Zinger, reported that KHS is on a downward trend with membership but has seen an overall increase in donors. Part of the strategic planning process has been discussing how to revamp the membership program and turn transactional members into relational members.

The governing board was presented the new and renewed KHS memberships for the past quarter, as found in the board packet.

Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Lora Suttles Hutchinson, that the new and renewed memberships presented be accepted. The motion unanimously carried.

F. Marketing Communications

Director of Marketing and Communications, Dana Zinger, reported that the marketing department is still in the rebranding process with a slight delay due to website development. A launch date will be announced soon. Zinger directed the board to the Marketing Communications report that was emailed out prior to the board meeting.

IV. Old Business:

A. Old State Capitol site renovation

Kein Gough, from Champlin and EOP architecture, presented on future site renovations for the Old State Capitol.



B. KHS Strategic Plan update

Executive Director, Scott Alvey, gave an update on the current stage of the Strategic Plan and provided an example of the action items and tactics that staff are working to create for each goal.

C. Ethics Policy

President, Cynthia Torp, shared that the Ethics Policy that was adopted by the board at the July 19, 2024 board meeting needed to be resigned by all board members. Board members were asked to read and sign the ethics policy and turn in the document at the end of the meeting.

V. **New Business**

A. KHS FY26 Operating Budget

Executive Director, Scott Alvey, presented the FY26 Operating Budget.

Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Suzanne Wells Miell to approve the FY26 operating budget as presented in the board packet. The motion unanimously carried.

B. Deaccession proposal

Director of Historical Resources, Jonathan Noffke, presented the collections committee recommendation for deaccession (see attached).

Motion by Suzanne Wells Miell, second by Dee Stivers Allen to approve the deaccession proposal as presented in the board packet. The motion unanimously carried.

C. Telecommuting Policy revisions

Deputy Director, Leah Craig, presented the proposed revisions to the agency's telecommuting policy, revised to mirror the recent changes made in the Personnel Cabinets policy.

Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Curtis Dame to approve the telecommuting policy revisions as presented in the board packet. The policy unanimously carried.

VI. **Additional Reports:**

- A. Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet update by Sebastian Kitchen.
- B. Kentucky Museums & Heritage Alliance update by Tommy Hines.

VII. **Announcements/Adjournment:**

- A. Next Governing Board Meeting Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m. EDT

With no further business to come before the KHS Governing Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Kindrick

2025 Donations to the Kentucky Historical Society (04/15/2025 – 07/15/2025)

Accession #	Donor	Description of Gift
2025.15	Robert Schick	1. Four piece blue dress - skirt, bodice, capelet, detachable train 2. Black skirt 3. White petticoat 4. White blouse 5. Black mesh overlay
2025.16*	WKU Special Collections Library	1. 200 2x2 slides pertaining mostly to the 1980s restoration of the Governor's Mansion
2025.17	Rachel Gatliff and Andrew Scott	1. Oil painting, Gov. James Garrard, artist unidentified 2. Oil painting, Elizabeth Mountjoy Garrard, artist unidentified
2025.18*	Ethan Sharp	1. Oral history interviews with recovery and harm reduction advocates from Central Kentucky and Louisville

** Designates a signed deed of gift has not yet been returned, meaning the collection is not yet considered accessioned.*

The Kentucky Historical Society 2025 Loan Report – April 15, 2025 – July 15, 2025

Outgoing Loan Report

Lexington History Museum, Inc. has borrowed 7 objects for their Lex250 exhibit, which will run through July 2026. Borrowed items include a portrait of Colonel David Barrow and his haversack, a garrison cap and spurs belonging to Dr. Charles C. Garr, a University of Kentucky basketball jersey and game program, and an autographed baseball.

The William Whitley House in Lincoln County, Kentucky, has borrowed 7 items relating to William Whitley (rifle, powder horn, three spoons and two julep cups) for their open season. They will return to KHS when the house closes for winter, in December 2025.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum has borrowed the Battered Offenders Self Help group quilt for an upcoming exhibition, *State Fairs: Growing American Craft*. It will be on display in Washington, D.C., through September 2026.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C., has borrowed the portrait of Dennis Doram, Jr., for the exhibition *Fighting for Freedom: Black Craftspeople and the Pursuit of Independence*. The portrait will return to KHS in February 2026.



Outgoing Loan Extensions

A loan of two costumes to **The Kentucky Derby Museum** has been extended through September 2025 to accommodate an extension of their costume exhibition, *See & Be Seen: 150 Years of Derby Fashion*.

Incoming Loan Renewal

KHS has renewed the loan of the 1963 Chrysler Imperial LeBaron with **Steve Reeder**, which is currently on display in A Kentucky Journey. The loan has been renewed through June 2026.