



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, October 17, 2025 – 1:00 P.M. EDT**  
**THOMAS D. CLARK KENTUCKY HISTORY CENTER, BROWN-FORMAN ROOM B**  
**In Person and Also via Zoom Teleconference**

**Minutes**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

In Person: Dr. Brian Clardy, Tommy Druen, Mel Hankla, Tommy Hines, Sheila Mason, Cynthia Torp, and Dr. Alicestyne Turley

Via video conference: Curtis Dame, Dee Alvin Davis, Dr. David Childs, Ryan Craig, Rusty Heckaman, Rhonda McCorry-Smith, Haley McCoy, Bobbie Smith-Bryant, Suzanne Wells Miell

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

In Person: Sebastian Kitchen (TAHC)

**KHS STAFF PRESENT:**

In-Person: Scott Alvey, Leah Craig, Stuart Sanders, Sarah McIntosh, Karen Marlowe, Kelly Brengleman, Kirsten Kindrick, Michael Cruikshank

Via video conference: Jonathan Noffke, Megan Sauter

**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 July 18, 2025, Board Meeting**

The minutes of July 18, 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 Sheila Mason, that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion unanimously carried.**

**III. Reports:**

**A. Committees/Commissions**

- a. Governance Committee- Board President and chair of the Governance committee, Cynthia Torp, stated that the Governance Committee has met since the last board meeting, and most recently at 11:00 AM prior to today's board meeting. Torp reported that in these meetings the committee has mainly discussed budget requests.

In addition, the Governance Committee has reviewed the

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Memorandum of Agreement with the Foundation board and suggested amendments to the agreement. President Torp stated that the committee voted to grant the board president the power to negotiate changes with the Foundation Board president, and asked that the Governing Board vote to approve this decision.

**Motion by Brian Clardy, second by Suzanne Wells Miell to approve that the board president have the power to negotiate updates to the Foundation Board Memorandum of Agreement with the Foundation Board President. The motion unanimously carried.**

- b. Nominating Committee- Nominating Committee member, Tommy Druen, presented the Nominating Committee report as prepared for annual meeting, including the 2026 board nominee slate provided in the board packet.
- c. KY Oral History Commission- Deputy Director, Leah Craig, reported that the Kentucky Oral History team has been working to digitize its county collection by January 2026, which features over 3,000 interviews from counties across the country. Additionally, the Commission has implemented revised guidelines for grant applications in fiscal year 2026 and is working to revamp the archival accreditation program. In December, the Commission will be voting on current grant applications.
- d. KMHM Committee- In place of a Kentucky Military History Museum Advisory Committee report, Director of Historical Resources, Jonathan Noffke, provided updates on the HVAC work at the Arsenal.
- e. KY 250 Commission- Director of Research and Publications, Stuart Sanders, reported on the current work being done to commemorate America250. He highlighted the objectives of the commission and shared that through the America250KY grant program KHS has been able to support other museums, libraries, and local history organizations across the commonwealth on projects and programs that will help to educate the public during the 250<sup>th</sup>. In addition, KHS is partnering with KET on multiple projects, taking part in roadshows across the state, and more.

Director of Learning Services, Sarah McInstosh, reported on the educational initiatives the Learning Team is working on as it relates to America250KY. She highlighted current teacher professional development opportunities, including partnerships with the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the National Constitution Center, and statewide organizations.

#### B. Executive Director

Executive Director, Scott Alvey, referred to the report provided in the board packet, highlighting KHS' submission to the Smithsonian USA Today activity guide and the agency's contributions being made on the national level. In addition, KHS worked with the Kentucky Legislature to celebrate Constitution Day, as well as the Governor's office to provide assistance during the New Capitol closure. The closure will also create increased



program and field trip requests. Alvey concluded by sharing that he recently met with the Mayor of Frankfort to discuss events related to the 250<sup>th</sup> in Kentucky that will take place in the city, as well as work being done with the cabinet to prepare for a statewide celebration.

Director of Historical Resources, Jonathan Noffke, gave an update on the current Old State Capitol renovations, and the work being done to stabilize the plaster and ceilings in the House and Senate.

Deputy Director, Leah Craig, gave a personnel update, highlighting the promotion of Casey Castro-Bracho to Archives Administrator, the retirement of Linda Redmon after 32 years of service at KHS, and the open Registrar position.

Scott Alvey gave a KHS Foundation report stating that donation engagement is up and encouraged the board to attend the Harvest and Heritage donor luncheon on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### C. Finance

The Director of Finance, Karen Marlowe, referenced the finance report provided in the board packet prior to the meeting. She noted that revenue is currently lower than expected, but not enough to cause concern. She also explained that the budget includes a large request to the KHS Foundation, primarily intended to support the exhibits team in the Spring. Personnel expenses indicate that KHS is nearly fully staffed. Finally, she reported that maintenance and repair costs are over budget due to crating paintings at the Old State Capitol and painting work at the Arsenal.

Scott Alvey reported that KHS was asked to propose a 2 and 3 percent budget deduction plan, which can be done through operation costs and should not affect personnel salaries.

#### D. Membership

Marketing Administrator Kelly Bringleman reported that membership numbers are down, but it could be due to how numbers are being collected through the membership database. Donations are up, and the marketing team is working with Red7e on messaging to KHS membership.

**Motion by Brian Clardy, second by Tommy Druen, that the new and renewed memberships presented be accepted. The motion unanimously carried.**

### IV. Old Business:

#### A. KHS Strategic Plan

Deputy Director, Leah Craig referred to the one-page strategic plan document provided in the board packet, and highlighted some of the accomplishments already made relating to the strategic plan. Leah reported on the staff survey recently conducted, proposals for a classification and compensation study, work with Encore Interpretive Design for the new exhibit, growing relationships with KET, grant programs, and more.



B. Goal 2 Workgroup

Board President, Cynthia Torp, reported on the Goal 2 Workgroup, stating that this group is tasked to help define what a master plan looks like for KHS and create a roadmap for future priorities. Part of this process will include the creation of an interpretive plan, led by staff. President Torp stated that KHS will be seeking professional help and will engage with the KHS Foundation to make this plan a reality.

Scott Alvey added that the goal of this work is to make history relevant and accessible to the public.

C. KHS Brand Launch

Marketing Administrator, Kelly Bringleman, reported on all the hard work that led to the launch of the new logo and brand. Overall, there has been lots of positive feedback from constituents and media partners, additionally the marketing team has received an increased number of media requests. The brand change is still occurring and will happen slowly as signs outside and around the buildings continue to be updated. Kelly also reported that KHS recently secured a highly coveted sponsorship with KET, Finding Your Roots, that will provide a boost to the genealogy and research services at KHS.

V. **New Business**

A. Personnel Leave Policy Change

Deputy Director, Leah Craig, reported that the personnel cabinet has adopted a new personnel leave policy, and KHS has decided to reflect these changes in the agency leave policy upon board approval. This policy was effective on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Sheila Mason to approve and adopt the personnel leave policy changes as presented to the board in the board packet. The motion unanimously carried.**

B. KHS Biennial Budget Submission

Executive Director, Scott Alvey, referenced the one-page budget report provided in the board packet. He stated that the budget reflects KHS' priorities both in daily operations and strategic planning moving forward and how the financial resources will help to fulfill those priorities. Alvey explained the breakdown of costs as show in the budget submission, highlighting the fraction of overall funding leftover for programming and stressing the importance of the KHS Foundation. Alvey also reported on grant money being distributed through the Local History Trust Fund, Kentucky Oral History Commission, and America250KY Commission, showing the priority to help support communities across Kentucky. The budget request also includes site renovations to the Old State Capitol, campus wide security upgrades, and acquisition of the train depot. Alvey concluded by stating the need to diversify funding sources.

VI. **Announcements/Adjournment:**

- A. Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet update by Sebastian Kitchen.
- B. Kentucky Museums & Heritage Alliance update by Leah Craig.
- C. Annual Meeting Date: Friday, November 7, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m. EDT



D. 2026 Board Meeting Dates: January 16, April 17, July 17, October 16

With no further business to come before the KHS Governing Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Kindrick



## 2025 Donations to the Kentucky Historical Society (07/15/2025 – 10/15/2025)

Accession #	Donor	Description of Gift
2025.19	William Hamilton	1. Collection of documents and photograph relating to Maude Davis Kash Hamilton and William Clifton Hamilton
2025.20	Aiken County Historical Museum	1. Pages and ephemera taken from an 1816 Bible owned by the Clark family. Contains genealogical information about the family and their enslaved.
2025.21	Jane Simpson	1. Material from a scrapbook album relating to Claude H. Simpson and his service in India during WWII. Includes photos, empty envelopes, telegrams.
2025.22*	Anthony Poor	1. Collection of digital photographs and drone video footage showing the flooded areas of Frankfort on 04/06/2025 and 04/07/2025
2025.23	Hanna Klaus	1. One album of photographs taken by Oscar Klaus, largely in Louisville, KY in the 1940's and 50's. 2. Two notebooks with recipes handwritten by Oscar Klaus. At least some of them were gathered in Vienna before he emigrated.
2025.24	Richard Ross	1. Letter dated 1930 to Roy Steinfort from inmates of the Kentucky State Reformatory
2025.25*	KCHEA	1. Six video oral history interviews in .mp4 format.
2025.26	John Carlton	1. Acclamation signed by Gov. Andy Beshear paying tribute to the Lafayette Bicentennial Celebration "to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's historic visit to the Commonwealth."
2025.27*	Deborah Moulton	1. 1937 Flood picture album 2. Female Red Cross uniform, 1937
2025.28	Timothy Abel	1. Archival collection relating to George Oakley Taylor and his steamboat, the Brownie
2025.29*	Randall Dwayne Sweeney	1. Kentucky National Guard Softball Jersey
2025.30*	EKU Libraries	1. 41 oral histories on cassette tapes
2025.31	Constance Alexander	1. Transcript of an oral history interview with Thuston Duncan conducted by Constance Alexander on 1/28/1999.
2025.32*	Susan Hatfield	World War II items belonging to Jack Schoulthies 1. A4 flight jacket 2. Flight helmet and goggles 3. Khaki flight suit 4. US Navy issued suitcase for officers 5. Aviator glasses and case 6. Flight scarf 7. Garrison cap 8. Dog tags 9. Archival collection
2025.33	Hazeleen Brewster	1. Quilt, Log Cabin pattern with Barn Raising variation, 1875-1900

**\* 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 – July 15, 2025 – October 15, 2025**

### **Outgoing Loan Report**

**The Division of Historic Properties** has borrowed three oil landscape paintings to hang in the Governor's formal office in the Old Governor's Mansion.

### **Outgoing Loan Renewals**

A loan to **Lexington History Museum, Inc.**, has been renewed for another year. A hemp brake from the KHS collection is on display in their main exhibit.

Two loans to the **Division of Historic Properties** have been renewed through March 2026. One covers a series of paintings on display in the Governor's Mansion and the other covers pieces from the USS *Kentucky* silver set which are also in the Governor's Mansion.

A loan with the **Kentucky Center for African American Heritage** has been renewed for another year. The loan includes items from the Ed Hamilton barbershop collection.

### **Outgoing Loan Returns**

**The Office of the Attorney General** returned the Justice John Marshall Harlan portrait in preparation for their move to new offices during the Capitol renovations. The portrait is currently with a painting conservator from McKay Lodge Conservation Lab.

### **Incoming Loan Report**

**The General Federation of Women's Clubs Kentucky** has loaned the Kentucky First Ladies in Miniature collection to KHS for the duration of the State Capitol renovation project. The collection is currently on display in Commonwealth Hall.