



2024 ANNUAL MEETING
KENTUCKY OLD STATE CAPITOL
HOUSE CHAMBERS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024
11:00 A.M. EST

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Call to Order

President Cynthia Torp called the annual meeting of the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) to order at 11:14 a.m. EST on Friday, November 8, 2024.

President Torp recognized the outgoing governing board members in 2024. These included: Anthony Apro, Nicholasville, Ky.; William Alan Denny, Lexington, Ky.; Dee Alvin Davis III, Whitesburg, Ky.; and Alissa Keller, Hopkinsville, Ky. President Torp also recognized the current governing board and foundation board members present at the meeting.

II. Approval of 2023 KHS Annual Meeting Minutes

President Torp called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the 2023 KHS Annual Meeting. There were none. President Torp called for a motion to approve these minutes.

Motion by Dee Davis, Whitesburg, Ky., second by Tommy Druen, Georgetown, Ky., that the minutes of the 2023 KHS Annual Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

III. Reports:

a. KHS Executive Director's Report:

President Torp called upon KHS Executive Director C. Scott Alvery, Versailles, Ky., to give the operating report for the Society. Executive Director Alvey reported as follows:

- Since last November, KHS celebrated its 25th anniversary of the Thomas D. Clark Center; The Kentucky Military History Museum has also celebrated its 50th Anniversary; while Our Stories, Our Service has now surpassed 1 year of being open. KHS continues to collect items and Oral History from Kentucky Women veterans; and has also published the Our Stories, Our Service Teacher Resource Guide, which was hand delivered by KHS staff to all of the Kentucky School Districts.
- June 1st, 2024, KHS celebrated KY History Day, with activities throughout the campus, including concerts in the Old State Capitol House Chamber. During Ky History Day, KHS hosted the Kentucky History Awards, with 18 organizations and individuals receiving awards, and granting out over \$11,000 to organizations in 6 counties with the local history trust fund.

- KHS continues to see momentum in the America 250 activities, receiving many applications for the American250KY Grant Program which will grant out \$250,000 to eligible organizations. This year, staff worked with the locals from Harrodsburg, KY., to help celebrate their 250th anniversary and founding.
- The KHS historical resources division has installed 3 temporary exhibits: *Ties that Bind: The KY Mask Makers Quilt*, *Through Sleet's Eyes*, and the *Wade Braden Alliance Exhibit*. Two of which were located in the Old State Capitol.
- The KHS Learning Division hosted the Ky Council for Social Studies Conference which is a great momentum builder for helping put Ky History resources into the hands of teachers; had a video series on the 2024 civic season, leading into the 250th and talking about what democracy is and what the quest for freedom is like in Kentucky; and celebrated a National History Day 1st place award winner, Jack Gillis from Lexington, Ky., who captured the top position for his individual documentary, *A Theory, A Paper, A Turning Point: Claude Shannon's 1948 Mathematical Theory of Communications*, in the Senior Division.
- KHS hosted Peter Canellos and partnered with Attorney General Coleman to look at the US Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan's life and legacy, which appeared on CSPAN.
- KHS participated in a Ky History caucus panel at the KY General Assembly, where former Senate President David Williams, former House Minority Leader Richard Turner, and former Senate Chief John Cooper were present to talk about the changing relationships in politics.
- The KHS Research and Publications division continues its publication of *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* and produced the first joint issue with the Arizona Historical Society, thinking about how the histories of two states can be compared. The *Kentucky Chronicle Podcast* series continues to be filmed by Daniel Burge, to highlight the KHS fellows and the research done by them. The Research and Publications division continues its historical maker program, with 24 new makers this year, along with refurbishments, to continue the march toward uncovering marginalized histories and ensuring communities are engaged through the program.
- Kentucky's replica Liberty Bell has returned and been installed in the lobby of the KY History Center.
- Visitation for the Ky History Center and Museums is up 18% over 2023 and school field trips are up 12%. Throughout the year, visitors came from 47 states and 109 Ky counties. Social media and digital presence are also up and have continued growth, particularly through the Ky Ancestors Genealogy page. The KHS website usage has increased 109% and views have increased 70%.
- KHS currently has 60 staff, with 7 new positions about to open. This year KHS had a 3% salary increase for staff, making a 17% salary increase over the last 3 years.
- KHS has now finished the AAM Accreditation site visit. This process provided the opportunity to look over last 10 years and see significant changes that have

happened throughout the organization, and how KHS responded and continues to move forward. KHS has also made progress to develop a strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years.

Executive Director Alvey stated that he appreciates all of the work done in the past year and looks forward to the year to come.

b. President's Report:

President Torp presented her President's report. President Torp stated, "This has been an historic week in our country with the presidential election of our lifetimes. Not since the Civil War have, we experienced such an extreme difference amongst the beliefs of our citizenry for what it means to be America. In this very commonwealth of Kentucky, we find ourselves divided as well—particularly between the heavily populated areas and the more rural parts to the east and west of the central core... Our mission here at the Kentucky Historical Society is to 'educate and engage the public through Kentucky history in order to meet the challenges of the future.' We know the majority of our citizens believe that we at KHS have integrity, and it is our job to be the honest brokers of 'truth' and build bridges that connect our commonwealth's diverse histories... Our pride of place and belonging is what connects us, and our charge here at the Kentucky Historical Society is to bring us all together to celebrate our unique parts and pieces that create the color and texture that unite us into the exquisite patchwork quilt that makes us Kentuckians. I challenge each of you..."

IV. Old Business

President Torp stated that on July 19th, the KHS Distinguished Service Award was giving to Teresa Stivers. Ms. Stivers received this award in grateful recognition of the commendable devotion to the Kentucky Historical Society and the Commonwealth of Kentucky exemplified by the passion, care, and generosity shown to everyone she encountered during her 12 years of service as an ambassador and champion of the KHS mission and Kentucky History.

President called for any other old business. There was none.

V. New Business

a. Election of 2024 Governing Board Officers and Members:

President Torp called upon 2024 KHS Nominating Committee Chair Jennifer Brown, to give the committee's report. Chair Brown reported that the committee had placed into nomination the following slate for Governing Board Officers and board members which had been delivered to the KHS membership with the notice of the Annual Meeting pursuant to KRS 171.311:

2025 Officers:

President	Cynthia Torp, Louisville, Ky.
First Vice President	Sheila Mason, Frankfort, Ky.
Second Vice President	Dr. Alicestyne Turley, Clay City, Ky.
Third Vice President	Lora Suttles, Staffordsville, Ky.

Board Member Class of 2025-2028:

Dee Alvin Davis III, Whitesburg, Ky.
Suzanne Wells Miell, Harrodsburg, Ky.
Rhonda McCorry-Smith, New Concord, Ky.
Dr. Brian Clardy, Fulton, Ky.

President Torp accepted this report and discharged the 2024 KHS Nominating Committee from their committee duties.

President Torp then called for nominations from the floor for any additional nominees to the KHS Governing Board for 2024. There were none and nominations ceased.

President Torp then called upon Teresa Stivers, Bagdad Ky., to report on behalf of the ballot count. Ms. Stivers reported as follow:

This year's ballot counters were Kara Cundiff, Frankfort, Ky., and Wilma Cottle, Midway, Ky. Teresa Stivers served as Moderator, as a KHS member. The ballot counters met on Thursday, November 7, 2024. The ballot counters found the following results.

- A total of 186 ballots were received; 6 were disallowed as not being properly executed.
- 151 ballots were cast for the official slate as proposed by the KHS Nominating Committee.
- 29 members extended their voting proxies to KHS Executive Director Scott Alvey without casting a vote for the official slate.
- There were no ballots with write-in candidates.
- The ballots will be held in the offices of the Kentucky Historical Society until Thursday, November 6, 2025, and may be inspected by anyone wishing to do so.

President Torp accepted this ballot count report.

President Torp called upon Executive Director Alvey to cast his proxy vote, which was cast for the 29 members for the slate as presented by the Nominating

Committee. President Torp announced that the following persons had been elected by a majority of votes for 2025:

President	Cynthia Torp
First Vice President	Sheila Mason
Second Vice President	Dr. Alicestyne Turley
Third Vice President	Lora Suttles

Board Class of 2025-2028:	Dee Alvin Davis III
	Suzanne Wells Miell
	Rhonda McCorry-Smith
	Dr. Brian Clardy

- b. President Torp called upon the Honorable Phillip Shepherd, Franklin Circuit Court Judge, to administer the oath of office for the new Governing Board officers and members. All were present to take the oath.

President Torp called for any further new business to come before the membership.

There was none.

VI. Announcements and Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the membership of the Kentucky Historical Society, President Torp called the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Historical Society to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m. EST on Friday, November 8, 2024.