



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 – 1:00 P.M. EDT  
THOMAS D. CLARK KENTUCKY HISTORY CENTER, BROWN-FORMAN ROOM B  
In Person and Also via Zoom Teleconference**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81224990672?pwd=Ats148NmKKDWSSb1uhPoBWrghDXCfL.1>  
**Password:** 915388

**Minutes**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

In Person: Mary Berry, Tommy Druen, Mason Dyer, Tommy Hines, Rusty Heckaman, Sheila Mason, Lora Suttles Hutchison, Dr. Alicestyne Turley, Jack Mazurak, Suzanne Wells Miell, Scott Keadle, Tina Wei Smith

Via video conference: Dee Alvin Davis, Ryan Craig, Rhonda McCorry-Smith, Bobbie Smith-Bryant

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

In Person: Maggie McAdams (KMHA)

**KHS STAFF PRESENT:**

In-Person: Scott Alvey, Leah Craig, Kathey Golightly-Sanders, Stuart Sanders, Sarah McIntosh, Karen Marlowe, Jonathan Noffke, Dana Zinger, Kirsten Kindrick, Michael Cruikshank

**I. Call to Order/Welcome**

President Sheila Mason called the meeting of the Kentucky Historical Society Governing Board to order at approximately 1:03 PM EDT. A quorum was present.

President Mason welcomed all attendees and presented newly elected Governing Board members with their certificates of appointment.

**II. Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2025 Board Meeting**

The minutes of the October 17, 2025 Governing Board meeting were distributed to the board in advance electronically and included in the meeting packet. President Mason called for any additions or corrections. There were none.

**Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Suzanne Wells Meill, that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion unanimously carried.**

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**III. Reports:**

**A. Committees/Commissions**

- a. Governance Committee- Executive Director Scott Alvey reported that at the December 30 meeting, the Governance Committee focused on planning for the biennial and capital budgets, as well as building support for ongoing projects, including the Old State Capitol Project.
- b. KY Oral History Commission- Director of Historical Resources Jonathan Noffke reported that the Commission received 10 grant applications this fall from across Kentucky and out of state. This year the Commission has \$30,000 available to grant in two cycles. This fall, the Grant Review Committee awarded \$11,556, leaving the remaining balance for spring grants. Noffke encouraged board members to promote these grant opportunities within their communities. He also noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Kentucky Oral History Commission, which will be celebrated throughout the year in conjunction with A250KY events.
- c. KY 250 Commission- Director of Research and Publications Stuart Sanders reported that the A250KY Commission continues to do great work as we get closer to July 4<sup>th</sup>. The 250 funds provided by the state legislature have been used for grants to help fund organizations across the state including libraries, museums, local history organizations, and other history related non-profits. Funds were also distributed to state agencies such as the Heritage Council for preservation projects and the Department of Parks for restoration of historic sites. Sanders noted the positive statewide impact of this funding and expressed hope that similar grant programs will continue beyond the 250th anniversary. He concluded by highlighting upcoming events, including the Liberty Tree Project. Board members will be notified of events in their areas.

**B. Executive Director**

Executive Director Scott Alvey referred to the report included in the board packet and invited feedback on improving future communication about KHS programs.

Foundation Executive Director Kathey Golightley-Sanders reported on efforts over the past year to build a fund development program and outlined key initiatives for 2026. These include launching a women's leadership giving group, developing a grant funding roadmap aligned with KHS priorities, and hiring an additional fundraising staff member.

a. Finance

Director of Finance and Support Services Karen Marlowe referred to the financial report in the board packet, noting no significant concerns. She highlighted that the personnel budget is on track, and no large lapse is anticipated.

b. KHS Strategic Plan

Executive Director Scott Alvey reported on progress toward the Strategic Plan, including the hiring of an HR Administrator. He noted that development of performance metrics is ongoing and hopes to have updates at the next meeting.



Deputy Director Leah Craig provided an update on Goal 1, reporting that a staff survey conducted in the fall achieved 75% participation. KHS is also evaluating its classification and compensation plan and has partnered with the American Association for State and Local History to conduct a national survey of history professionals; results are forthcoming.

c. Deaccession proposal

Director of Historical Resources Jonathan Noffke reported that the planned deaccession proposal has been withdrawn but provided an overview of the deaccession process for future reference.

**IV. Old Business:**

A. State Budget Requests

Karen Marlowe updated the board on the biennial budget submission process and referenced the report in the board packet, noting a significant difference between KHS's request and the executive branch budget.

Scott Alvey stated that the executive branch reduced the request by approximately \$4.1 million, providing no funding for programming and operations. While funding was included for portions of the Old State Capitol project, other requests, including renovations, security upgrades, and acquisition of the train depot and lot, were not funded. Alvey noted that the budget is not final and additional funding may still be included in the House budget.

President Sheila Mason emphasized the importance of board members proactively contacting legislators and developing strategies to advocate for increased funding.

B. Old State Capitol Project

Scott Alvey reported that initial plaster stabilization work has been completed, but additional roof work is needed. Capital requests have been submitted for a full renovation of the Old State Capitol, annex, and grounds.

Board members met with Representative Petrie regarding the funding request and reported a positive discussion.

C. Membership

Director of Marketing and Communications Dana Zinger reported a slight decline in membership this year but expects growth with the launch of the Red7e campaign.

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

**V. New Business**

A. Committees

Scott Alvey reviewed the proposed 2026 board committees and workgroups included in the board packet, emphasizing the use of committees to increase board engagement and providing guidance work done at KHS.



Board members were asked to review the proposals and provide feedback. A survey will be conducted to gather interest in committee participation.

B. Board Retreat

Scott Alvey proposed a joint retreat with the KHS Governing Board and Foundation Board and requested suggestions for dates and locations.

Board members recommended scheduling the retreat after the legislative session concludes on April 15.

C. History Center and Museums Admission

Scott Alvey introduced the idea of offering free museum admission, particularly in light of the New State Capitol closure and the America250 initiative, to increase accessibility for students and the public.

Board members discussed the importance of accessibility and expanding field trip opportunities. While broader free admission requires further evaluation, there was strong support for eliminating admission costs for student field trips. It was also noted that the Libby Jones Scholarship Fund already supports many visiting schools.

**Motion by Tommy Druen, second by Suzanne Wells Miell, to empower KHS staff to develop a plan to provide free field trip admission for all students and schools. The motion unanimously carried.**

VI. **Announcements/Adjournment:**

- A. Kentucky Museums & Heritage Alliance update by Maggie McAdams.
- B. Next board meeting: Friday, April 17, 2026

With no further business to come before the KHS Governing Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Kindrick





## 2025 Donations to the Kentucky Historical Society (10/15/2026 – 12/31/2025)

Accession #	Donor	Description of Gift
2025.34	Emma Newton (WKU Special Collections Library)	1. Invitation to the opening of the Kentucky Military History Museum
2025.35	Alexandria Preston	1. Handmade doll owned by Marcella Ann (Milner) Smith of Clarkson, Grayson County, Kentucky.
2025.36	Justin Gottke (Kentucky National Guard)	1. Military Sports Bra 2. Portable Urinal System for Women
2025.37	Walter Mulbry	1. 15 photos of Walter Warring Mulbry, Sr. during his time working for Happy Chandler
2025.38	Suzana Angelove	1. Charm Quilt, 1930s, 77.5" x 71"
2025.39	Lucy Parrish*	1. 1860s ledger, possibly from a farm store 2. An 1820s Woodburn farm ledger with prominent central Kentucky surnames 3. A Woodburn farm thoroughbred sale pamphlet from 1887
2026.01	Jaqueline C Gibbs	- Newspaper clipping containing a photo of Thomas Penney, and - A letter he wrote to his sister while in Eddyville Prison.

*\* 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 - October 15 – December 31, 2025

### Outgoing Loans

In November the Justice John Marshall Harlan painting was taken to **McKay Lodge Conservation Laboratory** to evaluation and possible treatment.

### Outgoing Loan Returns

In November, **Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate**, borrowed nine dresses for the annual holiday display. The dresses have returned on January 7, 2025.

In December, KHS staff retrieved items on display from the **William Whitley House** which is under the care of Lincoln County. Items loaned included Whitley's rifle and powder horn, two julep cups, and three silver spoons.

### Incoming Loan Renewals

KHS has renewed a loan with the **Kentucky Coal Mining Museum** for another two years. Items on loan are a coal car, a miner's cap and a basket, all currently on display in *A Kentucky Journey*.

### **Incoming Long term Loan Renewals**

KHS has renewed a loan with the **Navy History and Heritage Command** for another year. Items on loan are a Ship's bell, currently on display in the *Kentucky Military History Museum* and two Sideboys (panel doors) currently on display on the Conference Room doors.

### **Incoming Loan Returns**

Two items (Ruck Sack and Vest) on loan from the **Kentucky National Guard**, on loan for the Exhibit *Our Stories, Our Service*, were returned in December 2025.

Five items (canvas pouch, garment bag, canvas pouch with regulation gas mask, fatigue uniform blouse, bottle of Kentucky soil from the **Kentucky Gateway Museum Center**, on loan for the Exhibit *Our Stories, Our Service*, were returned in December 2025