

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD
THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIVING HISTORY, FARM & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS
MEETING ROOM SAUDER VILLAGE INN, ARCHBOLD, OHIO
OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2008**

Board Members present and a quorum: Charles LeCount, Lynne Belluscio, Judith Sheridan, Bruce Henbest, Bob Powell, Franz Klingender, Tom Kelleher, Pete Watson, Debra Arenz, Carrie Fellows. Saturday guests: Darlee Snyder, Terry Sheridan.

Board Members absent: Karen Becker, Barbara Corson, David Floyd.

Friday, October 24, 2008. President Charles LeCount called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. Board members made introductory remarks until 6:00 PM. Andi Erbskorn from Sauder Village filled us in on housekeeping details for the weekend. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 2008 Ottawa board meeting by Belluscio, seconded by Kelleher. Motion passed. Sheridan reported that there was \$21,511.93 in the checking account at the start of the board meeting. The third quarter financial report was issued and e-mailed in early October. A motion to file the treasurer's report for audit was made by Henbest, seconded by Klingender. Motion passed. A backup disc of membership and financial information is being made quarterly and sent to Catherine Sheridan.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.

PIG REPORTS. LeCount reported that the PIGS have been relatively inactive. Several are working on proposals for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Watson presented plans for the 2009 Farm School. It will be headed by Corson and will discuss dairying. There are several potential sites and future ideas for topics being discussed. Klingender said that the Machinery Committee is still helping sites identifying equipment and planning a session at Old Salem. Fellows moved acceptance of the PIG Reports. Watson seconded. Motion passed.

ARCHIVES. Kelleher reported that Old Sturbridge Village does not have an archivist. He is looking for someone local that can update our materials. LeCount will check into the possibility of a paid internship that could get the project moving.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS.

2008 CONFERENCE. Henbest distributed copies of the final 2008 conference report. He highlighted the statistics of the meeting and reported that a check to ALHFAM is soon to be mailed. He reviewed the conference evaluations and information that could be useful to future meetings. The present format was overwhelmingly endorsed. There was discussion on how dietary issues could be more effectively reconciled with the actual capability of the food vendors. It seems that prior promises are not always kept or have been overstated. A resolution of thanks was offered to the 2008 Annual Meeting Committee for their superb performance. The motion was made by Watson, seconded by Fellows. Motion passed.

2010 CONFERENCE. Kelleher announced the theme for the conference at Sturbridge Village would be "Roots & Branches of Living History". It will be held from June 20-24 at Worcester State College and 200 beds in the newest dorms have been reserved. Kelleher promised that there would be no PIG or Regional Meetings held at meals. PIG Chairs and Regional Reps will be invited to participate in the New Member Reception. They will be introduced along with board members to the first time attendees.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS. No report. The chair was not present.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURES. Belluscio said the rewrite is complete and that she will see that it is added to the website.

AUDIT. Sheridan will meet with board members next year at a regional for a review.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES.

FUTURE SITES & CONFERENCE SUPPORT. Watson reported that the revised Conference Planning Guide is still being reviewed. He suggested that Future Sites Committee members be assigned to mentor an upcoming conference. The conference reports and budgets of the last two conferences will be included in the Planning Guide along with names and contact information so that upcoming conferences can use them as resources.

2011 CONFERENCE. Philipsburg Manor has committed to hosting and is working on possible schedules.

2012 CONFERENCE. Klingender will contact Heritage Park Historical Village in Calgary, Alberta and seek a firm commitment to host 2012.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Henbest reported that the committee had met via e-mail and a slate was prepared. Other committee members were Bob Benz, Nancy Webster, Kyle Bagnall, and Willie Balderson. Candidates for the board, vice president and nominating committee were submitted. Henbest moved the acceptance of the slate, seconded by Kelleher. Motion passed. Ballots will be sent to the membership early in 2009.

CORN. Henbest summarized the regional reports for the board.

AUCTION. The auction exceeded its budget goal at the Annual Meeting.

MEMORIBILIA. Belluscio reported that the collection is still being stored in archival boxes at her home.

COOP. LeCount said the panel discussion sponsored by ALHFAM at AASLH was well attended and hoped that a similar effort could be made next year in Indianapolis. The Federal Formula for Museum and Library funding is up for review in congress and lobbying efforts are being made to make sure that any re-distribution benefits the museums. The Farmer's Museum contacted LeCount with a concern about the loss of historic craftspeople who can teach a new generation historic trades. A cooperative training venture is being discussed between The Farmer's Museum and Genesee Country Village Museum.

MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FUND. Belluscio moved that the board sponsor a matching grant to increase the fund. The board would match 2-1 any donation made by members up to a \$2,000.00 maximum from the treasury. Additionally \$2,000.00 from the treasury would be added to the fund. Klingender seconded. No action was taken before we suspended the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 9:00 pm. The meeting resumed at 9:05 am.

Darlee Snyder from Old Salem Museums and Gardens joined us.

MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FUND. We returned to the motion that was made before the meeting was suspended. Motion passed. The hope is that with the matching the fund will reach \$10,000.00.

SPAM. Fellows presented the single entry in the YouTube contest. It was submitted by Carolyn Dilda. We watched the entry. It was very good and Dilda will receive a free registration to an annual meeting. Fellows discussed revising "Stalking the Wild ALHFamily". When revised it could be put on the website. The committee is trying to discover why and how people become members and is considering advertising in several publications that potential members might read. Ian Beard will be added to the committee. Arenz will check into creating an ad.

2009 CONFERENCE. Darlee Snyder, conference co-chair, reviewed the schedule and budget. The arrangements and contract with the Hawthorne Inn were discussed. The budget will be based on 250 attendees and the cost of a full registration without lodging was set at \$385.00.

Belluscio moved acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committees, Klingender seconded. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS.

PUBLICATIONS. Sheridan reported that PayPal is now accepting memberships and publication sales for us. The trial period is going well and little problems are being addressed as they occur. Full announcement of this option will be in the fall Bulletin and the January membership renewals. Belluscio moved we implement the PayPal system. Powell seconded. Motion passed. This was done to get this motion into the minutes. The board had previously agreed, via e-mail to a trial period so that work could begin. The indexing of past years' Bulletins will begin soon since 2 volunteers have expressed interest in doing this. Katz-Hyman is updating the information on submitting papers for the Proceedings. Hayes is planning to switch from BinHost to GoDaddy for the website by year's end. Work on a replacement for the table top exhibit will be started. Arenz will contact a staff member at her site for concepts on a retractable banner. Belluscio moved that up to \$350.00 be spent for the banner. Henbest seconded. Motion passed. Henbest moved that Publication Committee recommendations 1 through 3 in the written report be implemented. Kelleher seconded. Motion passed. Boardman will contact Gary Beals and ask him to write articles for the Bulletin based on papers that he has already written.

Watson moved acceptance of the Administrative Committee reports. Fellows seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

WORKSHOPS. LeCount led a discussion on the value of creating workshops that would promote ALHFAM to the greater museum world. Since other associations already do this we can use their basic template and create workshops that are unique to ALHFAM. One example would be an Ag Collection Workshop with both identification and use components. This could be a joint effort with the Collections Committee (CPR). Presenters and available sites would need to be identified. Niche workshops would be marketed to other museums and garner publicity. The workshops will not be geared for the general public. A survey of the Professional Interest Groups would ask for possible workshop topics. Handouts prepared for workshops could be available on the website for members. LeCount will continue to work on this project.

ONLINE AUCTION. Watson announced the format for this year's auction sponsored by the MidAtlantic Region. Bidding will begin on November 15 and end on December 10. Publicity will be on the website, in the Bulletin and directly to Mid-Atlantic regional members. This year the proceeds would be divided with ½ going to the Mid-Atlantic Region, ¼ to the donors region and ¼ to the buyers region.

LIVING HISTORY BOOK. Sheridan reported that she is working with Debra Reid on ads. If that does not happen in 2 weeks then she will work with Katz-Hyman on placing ads.

MISSION STATEMENT. LeCount discussed the possible makeup of the committee to review the Mission Statement. The committee needs a written charge describing what they are supposed to accomplish. The statement should define the association and not redefine it. Discussions on this topic will be on the members only section of the website.

Arenz moved we accept the Old Business reports. Powell seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS.

FOREIGN FELLOWSHIPS. Sheridan suggested that in light of our good financial position we sponsor two foreign fellowships in 2009. Henbest made the motion, seconded by Belluscio. Motion passed.

REGIONAL REALIGNMENT. Possible changes to regions west of the Mississippi were discussed. One map of a possible realignment was shown and the impact on other regions discussed. The board agreed that more data is needed for a proper discussion, and that it would also be helpful if the regional representatives could talk to each other about possible alternatives (including retaining the status quo). This could also be a topic for the 2009 Town Meeting. Belluscio moved we table the discussion, Sheridan seconded. Motion passed.

REVISED FELLOWSHIP CRITERIA. LeCount suggested that in addition to offering fellowships to first, second or third year attendees, the regions have the option of offering a fellowship based on financial need. This would have to be approved by the regional reps. Watson made a motion, Fellows seconded. Motion passed. Becker, chair of the Fellowship Committee, will be contacted with this information.

MAGNETS. Sheridan moved that she be allowed to purchase business card size magnets to include with the new member information packets. Kelleher seconded. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board will meet again on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at the Single Brothers Workshop at Old Salem. Watson moved for adjournment at 2:00 pm and we went to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Sheridan, Secretary