



Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting Business Meeting Minutes Friday, October 4, 2019

Welcome - The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. by Wendy Zucal, President (Executive Director, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum).

Treasurer's Report – Dr. Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary (Team Lead, Local History Services) presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Kathy Fernandez. She began by stating that Ed Creighton (Region 8) sold \$319 worth of raffle tickets at Friday's lunch banquet. The recipients for this year's scholarships are: Nelson T. Gant Foundation (New Member Scholarship funded by raffle), Alexandria Fraley of Muskingum University (J.D. Britton Scholarship), Jaqueline P. Hudson, Bowling Green State University (Trella Romine Memorial Scholarship). Betsy noted that the bulk of the income and expenses came from Annual Meeting registration and membership fees. The web/social media expenses reflect the contract with Nancy Yerian, the Alliance's Social Media and Web Manager. The Endowment received a \$20,000 donation, while Membership Revenue always shows a decrease in odd-numbered years due to 2-year memberships. A motion to accept the report was made by Tim Daley, and seconded by Christy Davis. The motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Rebecca Urban, Secretary (Region 3), apologized for the lack of minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting Business Meeting as they were not submitted by the previous secretary. A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was made by Christy Davis and seconded by Nina Thomas. The motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report/ Elections – Todd McCormick, Immediate Past-President (Curator/Director, Logan County Historical Society, Region 7) presented the following slate of officers for 2019: President, Wendy Zucal; 1st Vice President, Leann Rich; 2nd Vice President, Ruth Brindle; Secretary, Rebecca Urban; Treasurer, Kathy Fernandez; At Large, Gary Levitt. A motion to accept the slate as presented was made by Christy Davis and seconded by Jack Blosser. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Governance – Tim Daley (Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Region 3 At Large) reported that small changes in the bylaws will be worked on in the upcoming year.

Communications—Rebecca Urban, Secretary (Administrator, Peninsula Foundation, Region 3), reported that the Committee has been working on website analytics and engaging OLHA members with more active internal/member content on the Facebook page. The committee is also seeking to expand the reach for potential annual meeting attendees into nearby states, emerging professionals, and larger groups.

Advocacy – Todd Kleismit (Director of Community & Government Relations, Ohio History Connection), reported that the next Statehood Day will be Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Ohio Open Doors will happen again over two weeks in summer 2020. The committee is also assisting to protect rights of human burial grounds; draft legislation is in the works. Todd reported that Ohio Senate Bill 192 is trying to require the Ohio History Connection to designate Poindexter Village as a state historic site.

Education – Christy Davis, Region 5 Representative (Curator of Exhibitions at Canton Museum of Art), reported that the 2020 Annual Meeting theme is “History is Happening Now.” The location of next year’s Annual Meeting is still being determined as the current site will be unavailable due to extensive renovations. Preparations are currently under way for 2020 Regional Meetings.

Outreach – Wendy Zucal, President (Executive Director, Dennison Railroad Depot, Region 5), stated that the committee has worked to provide statewide workshops on collections (2018) and strategic planning (2019). Ideas for these workshops were gathered from surveys of what small organizations needed most throughout the state. In the coming year, the committee will reevaluate membership perks and how to better connect with current members, including site outreach.

Local History Services Update – Anthony Gibbs (Ohio History Connection Local History Services) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of two surveys collected throughout the state. One was from the Field Services Alliance and the other was from Local History Services that went out to OLHA regional meetings with 174 responses gathered between the two. Here are some of the findings:

- Over 30% of organizations polled had operating budgets of \$5,000-\$24,999
- 39% of organizations were entirely staffed by volunteers; 55% had some combination of paid staff and volunteers
- Community breakdowns were: Rural– 38%, Suburban– 41%, and Urban - 21%
- 51% of organizations identified as local history societies; 37% identified as museums
- The surveys showed that many organizations throughout the state need help with establishing core documents, especially emergency plans
- The top three challenges reported by organizations were funding, member/volunteer recruitment, and collections management

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members—Wendy thanked the following outgoing board members for their years of service to the Alliance: Jessica Cyders (Region 9), Judy Robinson (Region 10), Gene Smith (Region 2), and Pat Smith (Region 1).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m., to be reconvened at the 2020 Annual Meeting.