

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIVING HISTORY, FARM & AGRICULTURAL
MUSEUMS**

MILL CITY MUSEUM, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2005

Members present and a quorum: Lynne Belluscio, Judith Sheridan, Mark Texel, Michelle Dondo-Tardiff, Bruce Henbest, Jim Mattson, Ed Schultz, Manuel Lopez and Charles LeCount. Ex Officio: Debra Reid.

Not present: John Caramia, Gwen Miner, Michael Beckett and Brock Cheney.

Friday, October 28, 2005

President Lynne Belluscio called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM in a meeting room at the Mill City Museum. Belluscio appointed LeCount as the timekeeper. Mattson reviewed the local arrangement plans. Miner will not be able to attend due to a severe sinus infection that precluded flying. We took a dinner break and waited for late arrivals. The agenda was reviewed and approved with minor changes. The minutes of the June 2005 meeting in Des Moines, IA were approved by e-mail last June. Sheridan reported that there was \$50,490.85 in the checking account at the start of the board meeting. The third quarter financial report was issued and e-mailed in early October.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS.

FUTURE SITES & CONFERENCE SUPPORT. Texel said the Conference Planning Guide needs serious updating. It needs to be more current with new technologies. Conference planners need to know that they can call on board members and past conference committee people for suggestions and help. A representative from the host site(s) for the next Annual Meeting is strongly urged to attend the fall board meeting prior to their conference and will receive the same stipend as board members. Conference chairs should have attended at least 2 annual meetings prior to hosting an annual conference.

2005 CONFERENCE. Sheridan reported that she received the final check for the conference 2 days ago. It included the credit card auction funds, the loan repayment, new member money and the balance of the funds. The conference returned a profit of \$13,783.42. This was well beyond what was anticipated when the conference concluded.

2006 CONFERENCE. We will have a conference call with David Floyd, director of the Rural Life Museum, tomorrow at 11:00 am.

AUCTION. Bellsucio said that Carrie Fellows will become part of the official auction committee.

AWARDS. Schultz asked if the Schlebecker Award needed to be given annually. The board consensus was that it does not need to be given every year but only when a deserving candidate is nominated. Nominations will continue to be sought annually. The committee is still discussing additional awards.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. LeCount reported for Caramia who was not able to attend. He said Pete Watson and Barbara Corson from the Mid-Atlantic Region, Rick Musselman from the Midwest Region, Karen Becker from the Southeast Region and Kathy Dickson from the Mountain Plains Region had agreed to run for the 3 year board term beginning in June 2006. Texel moved acceptance of the slate. Dondo-Tardiff seconded. Motion passed.

CORN. LeCount reported that new regional representatives are needed for Atlantic Canada and Western Canada. Mid-Atlantic will continue to be served by Pete Watson from 2006 to 2009. Each region is also appointing a membership chair. A special logo is being considered for the membership chairs. The distribution of certificates good for a free annual regular membership will be continued in 2006.

ARCHIVES. Caramia is the new chair. No report.

FELLOWSHIPS. Miner is the chair and she was not in attendance. The same form will be used for the 2006 fellowship application as in past years. Information will be sent to all regional reps and a further marketing plan to college students is under consideration.

MEMORABILIA. No report.

PIG REPORTS. Belluscio has urged the PIG committees to submit sessions for the 2006 annual meeting.

SPAM. Mattson has received the final survey information from Cain. A new set of data was distributed.

A report will be in the Bulletin when the findings are complete. The main reason for maintaining membership was for networking opportunities. Mattson is working on plans to improve member retention rates and solicit new members through collaborations and partnerships. He hopes to create a more attractive membership package. Some type of joint membership with MOMCC was discussed. He is looking for the names of graduate programs, affinity groups, re-enactor groups and others who are a natural fit with ALHFAM. He and Belluscio plan to attend MOMCC in two weeks to encourage a cooperative membership venture. Lopez has created a membership kit to help people approach potential members. He does not feel that mass mailings work. He feels that

personal contacts do the job. We discussed a new membership brochure. Follow up letters by the regional reps to potential members should be encouraged. We should look for the “automatic connection” with people that have similar interests because we know ALHFAM has something to offer them. Lopez suggested that we teach this personal approach at a session at the annual meeting. The connection with David Donath, former board member and new VP of AASLH might get us a list of membership prospects. Henbest is working on a survey for lapsed members. He will send an e-mail draft to the board when it is ready. Henbest suggested that a modest increase in dues might be considered. Many of the survey respondents said they would not object to that. The Bulletin was given high marks for content and is the most costly component of membership.

We adjourned for the evening at 9:30 pm.

Saturday, October 29, 2005

The meeting resumed at 9:00 AM with all of yesterday’s participants in attendance.

SPAM continued. We continued discussing a membership campaign. We looked at the present membership brochure and critiqued it. Sheridan will check on how many are still available. Mattson will prepare kits with help from MN Historical Society staff and spearhead the project. Plans are to start in the Midwest by approaching MOMCC members to join both organizations and then work with the regions. ALHFAM members will be updated through the Bulletin.

C.O.O.P. Belluscio has spoken with Eric Holland from the MN Historical Society about his work in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. He participated in one of the damage survey teams sponsored by AASLH. He is being encouraged to do a session in Baton Rouge dealing with recovery options and funding and Katrina’s impact on the museum profession and its resources. He will also be asked to write an article for the Bulletin. Texel suggested ALHFAM make a donation to the AASLH Historic Resources Recovery Fund to aid with Katrina relief. Henbest moved that ALHFAM donate \$1,000.00 to the fund along with a resolution letter supporting the further efforts of AASLH. Seconded by Mattson. Motion passed. Henbest also moved that all ALHFAM members be encouraged to support the Historic Resources Recovery Fund. Schultz seconded. Motion passed with one abstention. Members of both associations will be encouraged to attend the meeting in Baton Rouge as a way to support relief efforts.

2007 CONFERENCE. Henbest is working with this conference committee on plans. He will communicate to the 2007 Conference Committee that June 3rd would be the first choice for the meeting to start and June 10th the second choice. The committee will be encouraged

to include sessions on Native Americans. The conference is planning for a 3 day meeting in Las Cruces, NM.

2006 CONFERENCE. Texel made the conference call to David Floyd at 11:15 AM. Details were discussed and settled. The budget reviewed. The schedule solidified. We concluded the call at 12:20 PM.

Henbest moved the acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committee reports. LeCount seconded. Motion passed.

The board took a lunch break.

FINANCE COMMITTEE. Sheridan presented a proposed budget that totaled income of \$59,525.00 and expenses of \$62,250.00 for a deficit of \$2,725.00. Major expenses in 2006 will include redesigning the website, publishing a new *Index to the Proceedings*, printing the 2005 Proceedings and the continued publication of the quarterly Bulletin. The largest income source is membership dues. It is more than ½ of the budget. The 2006 budget will be included in the winter Bulletin along with the year-end financial report. The board approved the budget. LeCount moved the budget be passed. Texel seconded. Motion passed.

AUDIT COMMITTEE. A review of the 2005 financial records will be conducted in March 2006 following the MOMCC meeting in Lancaster, OH. Committee chair Beckett and Mattson will be overseeing the review.

PUBLICATIONS. Reid sent a complete e-mail report prior to this meeting. Katz-Hyman is doing the final approval of copy for the Bulletin. The contract for 2 issues of the Bulletin with The Cherry Valley Group has not yet been signed. The probationary period will continue for the next two issues that will take it up to the next board meeting for further review. The 2004 Proceedings are at Onmipress. Five thousand dollars is in the budget for the printing of the 2005 Proceedings. The *Index to the Proceedings* has been printed on a five year schedule. 2006 should be the year for a new edition. We discussed whether it should be an electronic publication. Dondo-Tardiff moved that 1,500 copies be printed for distribution to current members after the 2005 Proceedings information can be incorporated. Henbest seconded. Motion passed. The total redesign of the website was discussed. The Request for Proposals previously used needs to be updated and inconsistencies changed. Katz-Hyman will handle this. Then proposals will be solicited from outside contractors. Names of potential bidders will be sought from the Electronic Resources Committee members. Reid was thanked for all of her efforts regarding publications and its peripheral functions.

Mattson moved the acceptance of the Administrative Committee reports. Texel seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

BYLAWS. Belluscio reported on the second Bylaws Committee meeting held at her house. Henbest joined the committee. Ron Kley and Peter Ledwith, both past presidents, reviewed the draft that resulted. The overall reaction was positive. The board looked at several items and added their thoughts. Another review will be done by the committee and board after the new changes are incorporated. Belluscio tentatively plans the final membership vote on the new constitution and bylaws for the 2006 Annual Business Meeting in Baton Rouge. This would follow the procedure set forth in the present Bylaws. Belluscio will continue to update the full membership through her column in the Bulletin

NEW BUSINESS. Dondo-Tardiff moved that regions give the president complimentary registrations to their regional meeting if the president attends. Sheridan seconded. This only reaffirms previous board action. Motion passed with one abstention. Dondo-Tardiff moved that Sten Rentzog from Sweden be invited to Baton Rouge to present a session on his new book that discusses the chronology of the living history movement. ALHFAM would pay his registration and room. He would be our foreign guest fellow. LeCount seconded. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dondo-Tardiff, Belluscio and Sheridan attended the European Open Air Museums Meeting in Finland in August and reported briefly. Dondo-Tardiff also attended the AIMA Presidium meeting in Poland in September. The next AIMA Congress will be in 2007 in Serbia. The summer 2005 board meeting will be on June 2 & 3, 2006 in Baton Rouge, LA. Belluscio will host the fall board meeting in Leroy, NY at the Jell-o Museum. The dates will be November 3 & 4, 2006

LeCount moved for adjournment. Texel seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM for a tour of the Mill City Museum and the Flour Tower. Thanks to Jim Mattson for our Minneapolis visit.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Sheridan, Secretary