

Minutes of the Illinois State Historical Society Board of Directors and Advisory Board
Saturday, July 18, 2020, via Zoom

Attending

Officers: Dan Monroe, President; Herb Russell, Vice President; Charles Stanley, Treasurer (Elaine Shemoney Evans, absent)

Directors: Reg Ankrom, John Hallwas, David Joens, Cinda Klickna, Marilyn Leyland, Elaine Egdorf (via conference call)

Advisors: Debra Dudek, Mark Johnson, Richard Lindberg, Cathy Popovitch, William Shannon IV, and Michael Wiant

Past Presidents: David W. Scott

Staff: William Furry, Executive Director; Hannah Kline, Assistant Director for Development

President Monroe called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. He noted that this was a particularly pregnant moment in history, particularly so in Illinois history, with the COVID 19 pandemic, the flurry over historical monuments, and the recent firing of Illinois State Historical Samuel Wheeler, about which more would be discussed later. President Monroe asked if everyone had had a chance to review the minutes of the February meeting of the ISHS Board and Advisers, and if so, could he motion to accept the minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Klickna made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2020, meeting of the ISHS Board of Directors and Advisers. The motion was seconded by Mr Hallwas. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

President Monroe then asked for the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Stanley said that the ISHS currently has \$2,714,809.00 in its several endowment accounts, less than it had last year at this time. He noted that Ms. Johnsrud had received a federal loan/grant with an SBA Paycheck Protection Program for \$34,202.00, and that Mr. Furry had received a \$5,000 grant from Illinois Humanities. Both these grants have helped the Society meet its basic operational expenses during the COVID 19 crisis. Mr. Stanley said the Society continues to spend more than it is taking, which does not bode well for the long-term sustainability of the organization.

Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Furry reported that the July-August issue of *Illinois Heritage* is at the mailing service and should be in mailboxes by mid-week. Feature articles include John Hallwas's profile of John Francis Snyder, an Illinois Women Artist profile of Helen Balfour Morrison by Mark Pohlard, the Best of Illinois History award winners, more poems from Stark County, and other articles of broad interest.

In early June he delivered the Society's Block Collection of Presidential Papers to the Historical Society of Thornton, Illinois, in southern Cook County for an exhibit that opened at the end of the month. The Thornton Historical Society paid the ISHS \$500 for the exhibit, and purchased a \$105,000 insurance policy to cover any losses. Mr. Furry said that he drove to Thornton a couple of weeks ago to see the exhibit and to present a program on the papers, which was very well received. The exhibit will be on display through the summer and fall, up to the national election. He said that he met earlier in the week with Mike Norris of Illinois Department of Natural Resources to discuss the more than 25 historical markers the ISHS has at DNR sites. They reviewed the list of markers ISHS has on DNR properties and discussed their disposition and maintenance. Mr. Norris proposed to set aside \$5,000 in his budget for repainting and repair of ISHS markers at DNR locations, and to help the Society find historical markers now considered missing at DNR sites. His staff has already located two markers (Pierre Menard and Fort Kaskaskia) that have been missing for several years.

In late June Mr. Furry was asked by newspapers in Edwardsville and Springfield to respond to discussions underway to remove the statue of Ninian Edwards in Edwardsville Plaza on the grounds that Edwards owned slaves and was, therefore, a racist. He said that he proffered that Edwards was a man of his time, that slavery was the law of the land, and that protesters, by demanding the statue be removed and relocated, were missing an opportunity to allow the statue to remain as an educational tool. He said that ISHS board member Cindy Reinhardt took on the brunt of the battle, defending Edwards, not because he was a hero, but because his story is representative of Illinois' complex history. The monument has been relocated.

In addition to the \$30,000 PPP loan/grant the Society received, the ISHS applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from Illinois Humanities, and Mr. Furry said he is actively seeking other funding sources to help us get through this difficult year. He thanked the board, and many others, who answered the ISHS general appeal for donations, which have helped us get through this ongoing public health crisis.

Committee Reports.

Historical Markers.

Committee Chair Elaine Evans is unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following report, which was read into the minutes.

Historical Markers Committee Report
July 18, 2020

The following markers are scheduled for dedication in 2020.

- Robert Prager, Madison County, Dedicated June 13, 2020
- Kenneth Leon "Tug" Wilson, Douglas/Piatt County, August 22, 2020
- Creal Springs-Gay Nineties Resort Community, Williamson County
- The Madison County Poor Farm, Madison County
- The Pogue Store, Madison County
- Restored 1846 House of Almon Gage, Founder of Somonauk, IL., DeKalb County

The following markers have been suggested.

- Latin Farmers, St. Clair County
- Miles Davis House, St. Clair County
- 1917 Race Riot, St. Clair County
- National Stock Yards and Prehistoric Native American Site, St. Clair County
- Bloody Gulch, Lee County
- Oakdale Tabernacle/Auditorium, Stephenson County
- Carthage College, Hancock County

The following marker was refurbished and reinstalled.

- Mentor Graham, 1800-1886: Teacher of Abraham Lincoln

Two markers that were missing, Pierre Menard Home and Fort Kaskaskia, have been found.

Bill Furry met with Mike Norris, IL Department of Natural Resources, to discuss the possibility of DNR providing financial assistance toward refurbishing/repainting historical markers located on DNR properties.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Shemoney Evans, Chairman
ISHS Historical Markers Committee

Membership Report.

Ms. Johnsrud was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted her report, based on data supplied by the University of Illinois Press. Her report follows.

ISHS MEMBERSHIP REPORT ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

SUBSCRIPTIONS	2012 (E)	2013 (E)	2014 (E)	2015 (E)	2016 (E)	2017 (E)	2018 (E)	2019 (E)	7/18/2020
STUDENT - \$20	16	14	9	6	9	6	1	8	7
INDIVIDUAL - \$60	504	492	483	454	485	438	433	433	416
FAMILY - \$70	111	102	96	98	86	76	64	69	70
INSTITUTION - VARIES	477	445	429	414	361	335	327	314	313
SUSTAINING - \$100	95	90	86	98	83	88	58	83	74
BICENTENNIAL - \$200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DONOR - \$250 (FRIEND STARTED 2020)	6	10	9	3	4	7	10	6	0
FRIEND - \$250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
PATRON - \$500	6	5	2	4	3	3	4	3	3
LINCOLN SILVER - \$1000	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
COMP (ESTIMATE)	1216	1159	1114	1077	1031	955	934	926	899
TOTAL	216	225	224	225	225	225	207	207	113
	1432	1384	1338	1302	1256	1180	1159	1133	1012
DID NOT RENEW				120	146	148	114	112	104
HAVE YET TO RENEW FOR 2020	101	47	68	68	78	56	34	80	85
NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS									

Comps are now a more accurate number (several have joined and smaller newspapers have sold and merged and now have one owner/distributor).

MLU 7/1/2020

Annual Awards.

Committee Chair Monroe said that, due to the COVID 19 virus, the Society has postponed and the rescheduled the Annual Best of Illinois Awards Gala presentation and banquet for later this summer, but the committee believes that event will be cancelled for 2020, and reimaged for 2021. Awards certificates have been prepared and will be mailed to recipients as soon as a determination is made regarding the event. Ms. Kline will have more to say on the subject during her Development Report.

Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards.

Ms. Johnsrud prepared and submitted a report listing the houses of worship that have applied for recognition. She noted that the deadline for applications is July 31, but that she is already getting suggestions to postpone the event until 2021. Her list of churches is attached below.

House of Worship application received by 7/16/2020

Barrington United Methodist Church	Barrington
Concordia United Church of Christ	Belleville
St. Paul United Church of Christ	Belleville
St. Matthew Lutheran Church	Brussels
Capron Lutheran Church	Capron
St. Peter's United Church of Christ	Frankfort
Galesburg First United Methodist Church	Galesburg
Concordia Evangelical Lutheran church	Geneseo
First Presbyterian Church	Harvard
Lovington United Methodist church	Lovington
St. Patrick Catholic Church	McHenry
Ten Mile Missionary Baptist Church	McLeansboro
St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church	Murphysboro
Village Cumberland Presbyterian	Norris City
St. Patrick Church	Pana
Peter Cartwright United Methodist Church	Pleasant Plains
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Sigel
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Springfield

Over 1,100 invitations to respond were sent out
Westminster Presbyterian Church has postponed out 9/26 event and want to possibly move it to later in the year. They would prefer we cancel till 2021.
I was able to cancel Hamilton's Catering without any problem and they wished us well and hope to do business again with us in the future.

MLJohnsrud
7/16/2020

Assets Management Committee report.

Ms. Klickna reported that her committee had met via Zoom on July 10 to review reports from the Society's investment bankers and her report follows. She said that, due to a new job she was taking on, she will be stepping down as chair of the committee, but would continue to serve on the committee if desired.

ISHS Asset Management Committee

Minutes: July 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom

Present: Cinda Klickna, Bill Furry, Dan Monroe, David Scott, Will Shannon, Chuck Stanley, Mark Sorensen, Jennifer Rahn, Amy Perrin, Kurt Gwillim

Kurt Gwillim presented an update on the investment portfolio. The aggregate portfolio balance (excluding the Vietnam Memorial Fund) at the end of June 2020 was \$2.19M.

Our returns net of fees

1 year = 4.67%

3 years = 5.55%

5 years = 5.29%

10 years = 6.51%

Inception to date (22 years) = 4.74%

Our assets equal 62.4% equity, 31.2% fixed income, and 2% real estate.

With a policy range for equities of no more than 65%, the question was asked if our equity amount was too high. Kurt explained that they remain committed to equities. If we decide to lower our upper range of equities, we would need to accept a possible reduction in the returns. With fixed income at such a low, reducing equities to put more into fixed income could affect overall returns. The rebound on equities has been steeper than anticipated during the coronavirus time, and although not at all time high, they are close. Watching what might happen with a resurgence of the virus will be needed.

The committee asked about the low amount in three areas: small cap, emerging markets and real estate. Kurt addressed each.

Small cap – In March there was some interest in completely selling all small cap due to the many small businesses closing. This was not done in our portfolio and that has been a wise move as small cap returns have risen. Our exposure at 3.5% is where small cap should be.

Audit Committee.

Committee Chair David Joens prepared and submitted the following letter to the board regarding his committee's acceptance of the 2020 Auditor report. Mr. Joens stated that the audit report indicated that the staff was "doing all the best practices," and that the committee recommend acceptance of the audit report.

MOTION: President Monroe asked for a motion to accept the committee's report of the 2020 audit. Mr. Hallwas moved that the board accept the committee's recommendation, which was then seconded by Mr. Truax. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

DAVID JOENS
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Springfield, IL 62704
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monaanddave@msn.com

May 8, 2020

Dan Monroe, President
Illinois State Historical Society
Strawbridge-Shepherd House
5255 Shepherd Rd.
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear President Monroe:

The audit committee of the Illinois State Historical Society met by video-conference call with auditor Robin Malloy on Friday, May 8, 2020 to review the Audited Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018. I serve as chairman of the audit committee. Present were committee members Wil Shannon, Randy Welch and Cinda Klickna. ISHS Office Manager Mary Lou Johnsrud also attended.

Ms. Malloy said that the financial statements prepared by ISHS management present fairly the financial position of the Society in all material respects. She said accounting procedures followed by management are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An annual audit is needed to make sure the ISHS follows accounting guidelines and it is required by the Illinois Attorney General's Office for the filing of tax returns.

The committee asked Ms. Malloy if she could separate the investment accounts from the rest of the Statement of Activities. Ms. Malloy said best practices were to keep them together but she could do a separate supplemental. The committee requested she do so before the final report is submitted to the full board. We also requested that Ms. Johnsrud send to the entire Board of Directors a memo concerning our PPP loan.

The audit committee voted to accept the audit, with the addition of the promised supplemental. Mr. Shannon made the motion to accept. Ms. Klickna seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

km

Publications Committee report.

Mr. Scott, chair of the Publications Committee, reported the committee had chosen the 2019 Harry E. Pratt Award recipients, which this year included two recipients. The Award is presented annually to the author of the best article published in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. This year the award goes to two authors, Alex D. Smith, "Untouchable: Joseph Smith's Use of the Law as Catalyst for Assassination," and Susan E. Hirsch, "Florenz Ziegeld and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Chicago." Both recipients will receive a check for \$300 from the University of Illinois Press, which is the sponsor of the award. The award is named for Lincoln scholar Harry E. Pratt (1901-1956), a former Illinois State Historian and executive secretary for Abraham Lincoln Association.

New Business.

Mr. Joens brought to the floor his concern over the dismissal of Illinois State Historian Samuel Wheeler, who was summarily fired by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum last week. Mr. Joens' concerns were echoed by several board members, who shared their own misgivings about the state being without an official voice in the ongoing debate over the removal of public monuments on government property (i.e., the statehouse). To address these concerns,

the following resolution was brought before the bar to consider as the official word from the ISHS regarding the firing of the State Historian:

RESOLUTION
to the Governor of the State of Illinois
and the Board of Trustees of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum

WHEREAS; the Illinois State Historical Society was founded in 1899 to promote the study of Illinois history and is the state's oldest and largest private institution dedicated to the study and promotion of Illinois history; and

WHEREAS; the mission of the Illinois State Historical Society is to foster awareness, understanding, research, preservation, and recognition of history in Illinois; and

WHEREAS; the Illinois State Historical Society works and partners with a variety of Illinois groups, communities, organizations and leaders who are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Illinois history in all its diversity; and

WHEREAS; the Illinois State Historical Society has partnered in the past with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), formerly the Illinois State Historical Library, and with the administrators and staff at the ALPLM; and

WHEREAS, the ALPLM recently removed without public explanation the state historian from his job, leaving this position empty at a time when history itself is being questioned and old assumptions are being challenged; and

WHEREAS, state statute (20 ILCS 3475) defines the state historian position as "the State's leading authority on the history of Illinois;" and

WHEREAS, welcome and needed discussions about our history should be led and articulated by a state historian engaged in and knowledgeable about Illinois history; and,

WHEREAS, the State Historian is to be appointed by the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Historical Society is a non-partisan organization that takes positions on current issues only as they relate to our mission, vision, and goals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Illinois State Historical Society urges the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and the Board of Trustees of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum to quickly fill the position of State Historian; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Historical Society is willing to assist the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and its Board of Trustees in these endeavors.

The Directors of the Illinois State Historical Society
July 20, 2020

Discussion followed, with the dominant tone of the conversation revolving around the need for Illinois to have a state historian who can initiate responsible dialogue about Illinois history, to address questions of appropriateness of old and new state monuments and memorials, and to articulate sound answers to issues raised by the public. The resolution was debated by the board and those present agreed to review a final draft prior to distribution to the Governor and the Board of Trustees for the ALPLM. An electronic vote on the resolution would be conducted via email the following week.