

**Minutes of the July 30, 2022 Meeting of the ISHS Board of Directors and Advisory Boards**  
Zoom meeting

Attending:

Officers: Dan Monroe, President; John Hallwas, Vice President; Ty Rohrer, Treasurer; Will Shannon, Secretary

Directors: Charles Stanley, Bob Sampson, Marilyn Leyland, Christian McWhirter, Mark Pohlada, Richard Lindberg, Aaron Lisec, Michael Wiant, Kristin Hoganson

Advisory Board:

Wayne Duerkes, Carolyn Kisiel, Jean Crockett, Rosemary Feurer, Cindy Rinehardt, Jeff Dunn, Chet Wold, and Kathleen O'Hara

Staff: William Furry, executive director; Mary Lou Johnsrud, office manager

Guests: Elaine Egdorf (former director)

President Monroe called the Zoom meeting to order at 10 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2022 Annual Meeting:

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2022 ISHS Annual Meeting. Motion by Charles Stanley, seconded by John Hallwas. Approved unanimously.**

President Monroe then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 Meeting of the ISHS Board of Directors.

**Motion to accept minutes of the February 9, 2022, Meeting of the ISHS Board and Advisory Board. Mr. Shannon made the motion, seconded by Mr. Hallwas. Approved with corrections or amendments.**

President Monroe then asked for a motion from the Board to affirm the 2022-2023 new members of the Advisory Board, as submitted by nominating committee in February, and required by the ISHS Constitution and By-laws.

**Motion to affirm the new members of the ISHS Advisory Board. Mr Hallwas made the motion, Mr. Sampson seconded.**

Those affirmed:

Jean Crockett, Oak Lawn  
Wayne Duerkes, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania  
Tom Dueringer, Nashville, TN  
Jeff Dunn, Hillsboro  
Rosemary Feurer, Ph.D.  
Caroline M. Kisiel, Wheaton  
Kristan H. McKinsey, Peoria

Bob Morrissey, Urbana  
Kathleen O'Hara, Lake Bluff  
Sherry Williams, Bronzeville  
Chet Wold, Ottawa

## Officers' Reports:

### 1. President's Report.

President Monroe said that he had been in discussion with Jake Friefeld from the ALPLM about the ISHS's participation in the 2022 Conference on Illinois History, which will take place this fall in October. As Mr. McWhirter was in attendance, President Monroe asked him to give the Board an update.

Mr. McWhirter said that the 2022 ISHS Symposium will be combined with the Conference on Illinois History. The conference will have three co-branded panels with the Illinois State Historical Society, not history panels but professional development roundtable discussions. Roundtable panels include a program on innovations for archives, teaching in public schools, and getting published in the ISHS Journal and other publications. President Monroe said he was thrilled that we have the partnership with the ALPLM and hoped there would be great participation from the ISHS.

### 2. Vice President's Report.

Mr. Hallwas gave the ISHS Membership meeting report, noting that his committee--Ms. Barker-Devine, Mr. Shannon, Mr. Dueringer, Ms. Dudek, Ms. Johnsrud, and ex-officio members President Monroe and Executive Director Furry—is looking to other Midwestern state historical societies, to assess new ways to attract members.

Mr. Hallwas reported that Andrew Halter, Indiana State Historical Society, said his organization had as many as 10,000 members but are now down to but now 7,000. He recommended working with local societies as source for new ISHS memberships.

He reported that Jenny Barker-Devin's contact at the Missouri Historical Society, Maggie Mayhawn, recommended community engagement as the path to more membership activity, i.e., more interactive events; more outreach to local and county societies; more professional development opportunities for college students. Ms. Barker-Devine said she would also follow up with the folks at the Iowa Historical Society.

Mr. Shannon, who previously worked for the Wisconsin Historical Society, noted that the WHS is, like several other historical societies, a state agency. Wisconsin does many regional events around the state. He suggested that we look at what we have to offer constituencies, and then determine what new groups might benefit from ISHS membership. What might we offer to a new core constituencies? He said that Marketing and Programming are key—We choose our customers. “If you are having trouble getting members, Marketing is your problem. If you are having trouble keeping members, the solution is programming.

Ms. Van Gorman said that the ISHS needs to look at K-12 teachers doing history and social studies and find ways to engage them. We can do programming for that audience, she said. Teachers tend to stay in Illinois so they are a constituency both engaged and based here. She said she is working on initiatives at Governor State. Ms. Johnrud said “We have access to the teachers’ addresses,” and Mr. Furry said that we have access to history and social studies teachers through the Illinois Council for the Social Studies.

More excellent discussion followed.

3. Treasurer’s Report.

Mr. Rohrer said that he had no real report to share. He said that while revenue for the Society is up, expenses are up too. He said the Society needs to approve another budget for 2022, as the last budget was only through March. Mr. Furry said he is preparing a new budget and plans to have it ready for review before the end of August. Mr. Rohrer and Mr. Furry will prepare a budget and send out to the Executive Committee at that time.

4. Secretary’s Report.

Mr. Shannon said that he had nothing new to report other than the minutes of the last meeting, but said he’d have more to contribute as chair of the Assets Management Committee.

### **Staff Reports.**

Executive Director’s Report.

Mr. Furry said he only had a few notes to share. He said that the July-August issue Illinois Heritage is out and in members’ mailboxes. Production has already begun on the Sept-October issue. Nominations for Annual Awards, new Board and advisory board members, are now being accepted. He said he will be speaking to the Daughters of the War of 1812 this morning at 11:30, and the subject will be Sangamon County history. He said he will also be asking for the group to sponsor a new historical marker. He said he will be asking for the second installment of the Pomeroy Foundation grant, approximately \$13,333, this next. He thanked Mr. Shannon for recording today’s board meeting for later transcription.

### **Committee Reports.**

1. Assets Management.

Mr. Shannon, chair of the Assets Management committee, reported that the Society’s long-time team of account managers at U.S. Bank, left the bank enmass sometime in June time to work for another bank, and the staff and committee are getting used to a new team. Mr. Shannon said that U.S. Bank has had a steady had on the tiller and it is important to stay the course with our account managers, as long as the results are good for the Society. He said that dividend returns are down after two plus years of record-setting performance, but he noted that “In the first half of the year everybody got beat up.” There are “No inflation-proof investments,” he said. Nevertheless, or accounts are still outperforming the S&P 500 for returns. He said the committee has every confidence that we are in good hands. President Monroe said that “the ISHS endowment is intact, and expressed the board’s “thank you” to the committee for its vigilance.

2. Annual Awards.

President Monroe said that to date we have received 17 centennial award applications and that the staff is on target to host the annual awards luncheon on October 15 in Springfield at the Hoogland Center for the Arts [Editor's note: The luncheon for 2022 has been canceled as of August 15. 2022 award recipients will be invited to the 2023 luncheon, should there be one.] He said that nomination forms for the 2023 "Best of Illinois History" Annual Awards is in the July-August Illinois Heritage and on the website. The deadline for nominations is November 30. Ms. Johnsrud pointed out that 2023 is scheduled to be a Sesquicentennial Church celebration too.

3. Historical Markers.

Mr. Stanley reported that Society markers are coming on line quickly this summer. With help from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, six new markers are in line for unveiling between now and October, Those markers include: Prudence Crandall, Troy Grove; Jim Gray Escape to Freedom, Ottawa; Sheldon Peck Homestead, Lombard; Blanchard Hall, Wheaton College, Wheaton; Freedom Seekers, Tan Farm, Chicago; Moffatt Cemetery and Nance Legins-Costley, Peoria. Others in the works include Pomeroy-funded markers in Secor, Saunemin, DeKalb, Peoria, East St. Louis, Murphysboro, Springfield, and East Alton.

4. **Publications Committee.**

Mr. Sampson, chair of the Publications Committee, said that the Spring 22 and Fall 22 issues of the Journal are now at UI Press, and the production schedule for the Journal will soon be back on schedule. Winter will be out after first of the year. Need reviews to fill the publication. In the last week three new submissions. Two more revised submission. Tim Draper new department special projects. Overall in good shape. Bob has done a great job taking over for Mark Hubbard.  
ML.

5. Ed Affairs Government Affairs.

Mr. Rohrer, chair of this committee, said there was no report at this time.

6. Development Committee.

No report at this time.

7. Nominating Committee.

Mr. Flotow, chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the members of the committee—Tim Draper, Kristin Hoganson, Bob Sampson, John Hallwas, Dan Monroe, and William Furry. He said that all nominees for ISHS Directors and Advisors must be ISHS members at the time of their nomination. He said that the Advisory Board is the future leadership of the Society and, as such, must be familiar with the mission and goals of the organization. Diversity—including demographic characteristics, geographical consideration, life and work experiences, and personal resources should be considered. Ability to find or give money to the Society is considered. The Board/Advisory board

nomination form will be in the Sept-Oct and Nov-December issues of Illinois Heritage. He encouraged all members of the board to consider nominations for the 2023-2024 year.

Ms. McKinsey suggested that we try to recruit secondary educators to the advisory board.

**Old Business.**

None.

**New Business.**

President Monroe read a letter from ISHS Audit Committee chair Dave Joens with the committee's recommendation to the board. The letter stated that the Audit Committee had reviewed the audit report from the independent auditor, and reports that "no remediation needs were found, and "nothing was out of line in their inspections." The letter stated that the Auditor's recommendation, as always, is "to quit eating away at the endowment and find new revenue sources to build the Society." Mr. Shannon, also a member of the Audit Committee attested to the accuracy of the report. President Monroe asked for a motion to accept the 2021 auditor report.

MOTION: Mr. Hallwas made the motion to accept and approve the audit report as presented by Mr. Shannon. Mr. Pohlad approved. The motion was approved without dissent.

President Monroe asked for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Furry  
Executive Director