

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends:

Thank you for being a member of the Arizona Historical Society. The Society is the product of your support, guidance, and funding. That support is important because we are entering a period of change.

It is often assumed that state agencies, such as AHS, are adequately funded by legislative appropriations and that membership donations and institutional gifts are frosting on the cake. The Great Recession has imposed a new reality. Legislative appropriations to small agencies are either stagnant, or have been reduced. Historical societies across the country are increasingly reliant upon individual and institutional support for the funding of essential services. Approximately 75% of the funding for AHS operations and programs is provided via state appropriations. The remaining 25% comes from other sources, including our members. When calculated on a per capita basis, the Society's appropriation amounts to 46 cents for each Arizona resident, the lowest funding level of any state in the West.

The Society depends upon public support if it is to grow and prosper. Much like PBS and NPR, our Society must develop a robust public fundraising capability. We have been fortunate. Our partners around the state—Yuma County Historical Society; Northern Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society; Arizona Pathfinders, Inc.; Fund for Central Arizona History; Southern Arizona Division Docent Council; and Friends of *The Journal of Arizona History*—have been, and continue to be, valuable fundraising partners. Were it not for them, many of the programs and services noted in Dr. Woosley's letter would be greatly diminished. Their focus, however, is primarily local or regional. Each has its proprietary relationship with the nearest AHS

museum. This is one of the Society's strengths—close bonds to local communities around the state. What we lack is an entity to raise revenue at the state level that can be flexibly distributed where funding is most needed. We are addressing this through the formation of a non-profit entity called Friends of the Arizona Historical Society, Inc. You will be hearing more about the "Friends of AHS" over the next year, and about some innovative ways that you can contribute to the Society's support at the statewide level. In the meantime, please consider a generous donation or gift when you renew your membership. We truly need your support now more than ever.

This is also a year of change in how the Society is governed. With the passage of Senate Bill 1201 earlier this year, the Society's state board of directors is now appointed by the governor rather than elected by the membership. In order to retain membership guidance and participation in the governance of the Society, we have determined that attendees at the annual membership meeting will have the privilege of voting for the Society's officers. I hope you plan to attend the AHS 2015 Annual Meeting in Tucson on November 7 and take the opportunity to vote for the Society's officers.

In closing, I would like to note that my service as AHS president has been doubly blessed. I have had the privilege of working with the AHS staff and volunteers who, despite our financial challenges, have been stalwart in service to our Arizona citizens, students, tourists, and visiting researchers. I have also had the privilege of meeting with you, our members around the state. It is your enthusiasm for the Society and for Arizona's colorful history that makes a difference.

Thank you for being a member.

Leonard Marcisz  
President, AHS Board of Directors

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AHS celebrates and is deeply appreciative to its members, donors, and volunteers who so generously support us.

Below we give special recognition and thanks to those who have contributed a total of \$100 or more in gifts and/or member dues between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

For a complete online list of members, donors, and volunteers, visit [ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/2015AnnualReport](http://ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/2015AnnualReport).

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*July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015*

*AHS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our grantors.*

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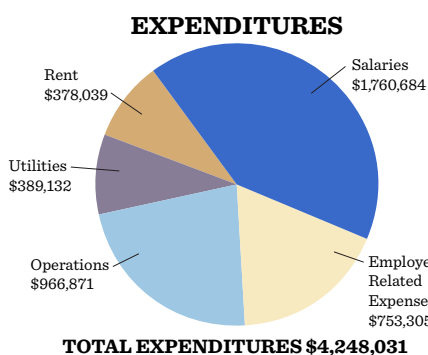
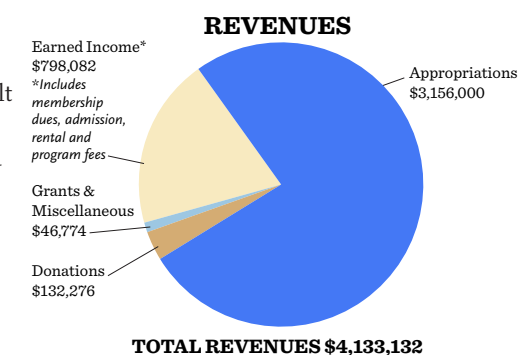
## NOTE TO OUR DONORS

A sincere effort has been made to honor every contributor appropriate for the giving categories appearing in this publication. It is possible, however, that names have been inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed. If you notice an error, please contact our Statewide Membership Services office by calling 520-617-1165 or emailing [membership@azhs.gov](mailto:membership@azhs.gov) so the record may be corrected.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

AHS revenues increased only slightly from fiscal year 2013-14 to fiscal year 2014-15. This was primarily a result of an increase in earned income. After adjustments for bookkeeping reclassifications, earned income increased by 19% and grants decreased by 52%. Donations decreased by 39% during the same period.

AHS expenditures, likewise, were flat. Reductions of 8% in operations and 10% in utilities were offset by increases of 6% in salaries and 5% in employee-related expenses. These increases were due to filling several vacant key positions.





## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

As executive director, it is my privilege to build on a 150-year legacy of collecting and preserving Arizona history, to proselytize about the importance of the Arizona Historical Society's mission, and to educate citizens and lawmakers on the immeasurable benefits AHS brings to our state.

Our reach is far and deep. We are a full-service, statewide cultural institution dedicated to collecting, educating, and publishing. In this we are unique. Virtually everything the world wants to know about Arizona can be found in our collections. Our regional museums express the State's identity, from territorial days to the present, for a wide and diverse audience. We provide global access to the images, documents, film, voices, and artifacts of Arizona history. Our exhibits, programs, and events are integral to fostering cultural tourism.

AHS helps define communities. We document Arizona's urban and rural cultures, organizations, industries, businesses, families, and individuals. Our unique collections provide the cultural and historical foundations for all corners of the State. AHS serves as a memory hub, where citizens share their stories, research their families, advance their education, and literally touch the past. Through grants and on-site consultation, we connect with local museums and repositories, large and small. Our active membership in the Museum Association of Arizona, the Arizona Library Association, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Society of American Archivists provides staff with the latest professional resources to enhance our public service.

We are a statewide laboratory for students of public history, museum studies, library science, and education. We are a research destination for K-12 students; undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate college programs; faculty members; visiting scholars; city, county, and state officials; lawmakers; authors; service providers; genealogists; architects; attorneys; and ordinary citizens. We are proud sponsors of Arizona's National History Day, where this year more than 500 students competed in projects ranging from interactive websites to live performances. Fifty-two finalists went on to compete at the national competition in Maryland. Arizona claimed first place in the Junior Individual Website category and came away with six awards for Outstanding State Entries.

The Arizona History Convention is a seminal outreach event, where professional and avocational historians share the fruits of their research, much of it conducted in the AHS library, archives, and three-dimensional collections. The Convention also provides the opportunity to recognize scholarship and the contributions of those who further the cause of Arizona history.

For fifty-six years, our award-winning *Journal of Arizona History* has been a venue in which avocational historians publish alongside academic historians. The *Journal* is one of our most frequently requested resources.

In this, my fourteenth letter to you, I can't help but reflect on my own learning curve. In making the transition from AHS board member to executive director, I worked to educate myself in the AHS archives and at the University of Arizona law library. The history of this institution, like that of Arizona itself, is both fascinating and surprising. Few people know the meaning of the massive **X** prominently displayed on our Tucson and Tempe museums. In the 1950s, this alchemist's symbol for copper was adapted by legendary book designer Lawton Kennedy for AHS publications. It eventually became the Society's timeless logo.

As you see from President Marcisz's letter, AHS stands at a watershed moment as it transitions from a membership-elected to a governor-appointed board of directors. It is important to remember that change is nothing new. From its inception, through changes in leadership and several reorganizations, AHS's commitment to preserving the history of our state and its people has been unwavering. We look forward to the future with optimism.

With warm regards,

Anne I. Woosley, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



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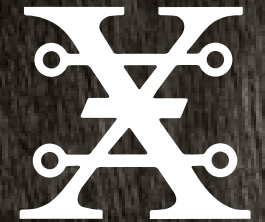
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# ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## ABOVE AND BEYOND: ARIZONA AND THE MEDAL OF HONOR



The American flag on the front cover of this annual report symbolically represents **Above and Beyond: Arizona and the Medal of Honor**, a statewide exhibit created by AHS in partnership with Sharlot Hall Museum. It premiered in May 2014 at the AHS Museum at Papago Park in Tempe. From there it went on display at the AHS Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens in Yuma and then at the AHS Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff. More than 7,000 adults and children have viewed the exhibit since its premiere.



**Above and Beyond: Arizona and the Medal of Honor** will be on display at the AHS Arizona History Museum in Tucson from November 10, 2015 through May 7, 2016.

## AHS LICENSE PLATE

**A special thanks to everyone who has an Arizona Historical Society specialty license plate on their vehicle.**

AHS receives \$17 from the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division for each purchase and renewal of these plates. Since the Motor Vehicle Division does not tell us who currently has an AHS license plate, we are unable to acknowledge each of you individually. Nevertheless, we greatly appreciate your support.

For anyone interested in learning more about the AHS specialty license plate, please contact our Statewide Membership Services office by calling 520-617-1165 or emailing [membership@azhs.gov](mailto:membership@azhs.gov). You may also visit [ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/ahsSpecialtyPlate](http://ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/ahsSpecialtyPlate).

