

## Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Arizona is a place that lives by its myths and legends; our temperatures are higher, our rivers are drier, our horses are faster, our whiskey is stronger, our dogs are uglier and our women are prettier.



I'm often asked what I like best about my native state and I always say "Open Spaces and Lifestyle"; it's a great place to work and play. Ninety percent of the people live on just two percent of the land. Arizona has ninety-two wilderness areas, thirty-one wonderful state parks and twenty national parks and monuments. Add to that twenty-six mountain peaks over 10,000 feet high. The two largest man-made lakes in the nation border Arizona. The Sonoran Desert has the most diverse plant and animal life of any desert in the world. And we have the grandest of canyons. Yep, this is quite a place.

As members of the Arizona Historical Society it's important that we keep reminding our fellow citizens (and our politicians) of what a special place it is.

This year brought some changes to the AHS Board of Directors. New members are now appointed by the Governor, however the board does have the opportunity to make recommendations. I'm pleased with how smooth the transition has been. Our board members volunteer a lot of time attending meetings around the state.

Friends of the Arizona Historical Society, Inc. has been very active raising funds. In this time of tight budgets and stiff competition for institutional and individual support, they and our other support groups are more important than ever to sustain AHS. We all need to do our best to recruit new members for AHS.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to give a huge "shout out" for our hard-working staff and volunteers at all of our AHS facilities. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of folks who put in a lot of time "above and beyond" the call of duty.

Arizona has a diverse and unique history. It's up to us to spread the word.

Marshall I. Trimble  
President, AHS Board of Directors

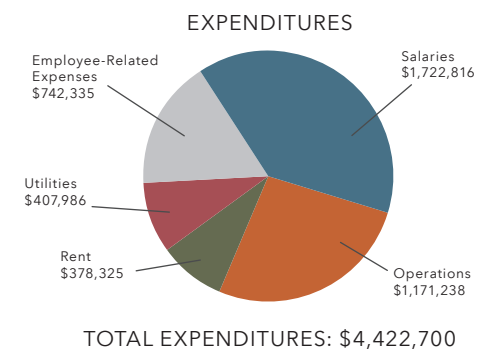
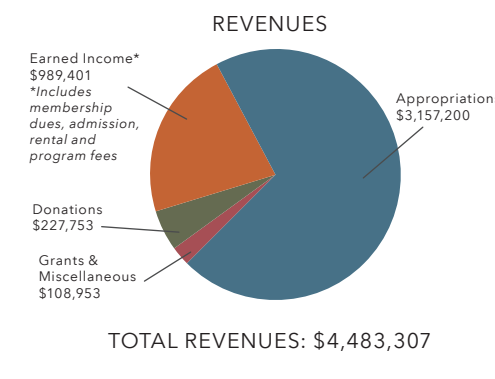
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## Financial Overview

While appropriations from the State of Arizona were flat, AHS revenues increased by almost 8.5% from fiscal year 2014-15 to fiscal year 2015-16. This was primarily due to the significant effort AHS made in raising earned income, which grew by almost 24%, from \$798,082 to \$989,401, over the previous fiscal year. Donations and grants/miscellaneous income also climbed dramatically, by 72% and 133% respectively, during the same period. This growth in revenue allowed AHS to expend more on operations.

Although vacancy savings reduced salary and employee-related expenses, overall expenditures increased by 4.1% from the previous fiscal year, with spending on operations growing by 21%. Annual revenue exceeded expenditures by more than \$60,000.



## Arizona Historical Society Members, Donors & Volunteers

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, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

For a complete online list of members, donors, and volunteers, visit [ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/2016AnnualReport](http://ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/2016AnnualReport)

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AHS warmly appreciates the support of these organizations.

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July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016

AHS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our grantors.

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City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Department  
The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation / Paradise Sheep Company  
Rio Salado Architecture Foundation  
Yuma Community Foundation

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## Tributes

Gifts were received in honor of these individuals.  
Sidney Brinckerhoff  
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## A 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.



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

In thinking over the past year, I was reminded of my two favorite quotes on the subject of history:

*There is an old saying about those who forget history. I don't remember it, but it's good*

—Stephen Colbert

and

*Those who understand history are condemned to watch other idiots repeat it*

— Peter Lamborn Wilson

At a time when domestic and international events seem without boundaries, when headlines from one week to the next exceed their ability to shock, the Arizona Historical Society was beset by its own seemingly endless series of trials: an early morning phone call describing a fire, with flames shooting above the Arizona Heritage Center in Tempe and, oh, by the way, embers have burned holes across the costly, newly replaced roof; or, arriving in my office to a staffer warning that, if the outside temperature rises one degree higher, the building's entire cooling system will shut down (I believe the actual words were "the chiller will explode"). Regardless, basic facilities maintenance goes on—painting, repairing, improving lighting, replacing exhibit labels, and grounds work—not to mention all the administrative and accounting tasks required of a public entity. Whatever the demands, we ought not to be overwhelmed by the challenge lest we forget just how powerful AHS's contribution is to promoting and preserving Arizona's story.

Audiences this past year have had a diverse menu of programs, exhibits, workshops, lectures, and special events from which to choose. The *Road to Yesterday* toured folks along Route 66 through northern Arizona, probably recalling their family vacations,

while *Got Moonshine* gave them something else to think about. Museum visitors learned about Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls. In Tucson's *Chasing Villa* exhibit, they followed Pancho Villa and the Punitive Expedition. Patrons became acquainted with 1890s Flagstaff's Hispanic families, met Rough Riders, experienced ghost towns, enjoyed nights at the museums, and discovered *Nuestro Tucson*, as well as *Secrets from America's Spy Planes*.

AHS fare offers something for young and old. Summer Day Camp, including pet guests, put Yuma kids nose-to-nose with tortoises and other desert creatures. Elbow deep in mud and water, they learned just what it takes to make adobe bricks. *Summer Sizzle* activities in Tempe exposed children to Arizona history, art, story-telling, and pioneer life. As Arizona's proud sponsor for the National History Day Program, AHS encourages students, teachers, and parents at local and regional competitions, culminating at nationals in Washington, D.C.

AHS has long been committed to collecting and preserving artifacts, archives, and photographs reflecting Arizona's treasures—past and in the making. The Robert Lynch architectural papers, seventy years of Yuma Hermosa Garden Club records describing the city's beautification projects, items from Tucson's January 8th Memorial Foundation, to cite a few examples, add to Arizona's historic record. Rare books are wrapped, microfilm materials (including 10,000+ images from the Lescher-Mahoney archive) are digitized, and photo collections representing historic Flagstaff are processed and conserved. All these efforts enhance and expand public accessibility.

Public access is at the core of AHS's mission. Aviation enthusiasts who gather for a reunion at the AHS museum in

Tempe, families who celebrate Yuma's Redondo Days, visitors entranced by sheep-shearing at Flagstaff's Wool Festival, listeners enjoying 19th-century military band music, volunteers participating in an oral history or conservation workshop—are all connected through AHS to Arizona's past.

Historian David McCullough says that for him, history is a source of pleasure. I agree. It isn't simply about taking a test and answering questions about dates, places, and events, and it's not even about our civic responsibility. McCullough describes it as an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature, art, or music is. History connects us. All those we have admired, whom we may have lost, who entranced us with their achievements or who may have angered and frustrated us with their misdeeds—all live among us in the house we call a history museum. Here, their stories are not forgotten. Here, the past is not a foreign country inhabited by folks who may have done things differently. Rather, it is a world lived in, to be discovered by people like us. The journey of discovery takes place daily in the Arizona Historical Society museums, programs, and collections.

With warm regards,

*Anne Woosley*

Anne I. Woosley, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



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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.org. You may also visit [ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/ahsSpecialtyPlate](http://ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org/ahsSpecialtyPlate)

