



ARIZONA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON

June 30, 2025

**THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes

- 1. Call to Order by Kelly Corsette at 12:00 PM.**
- 2. Roll Call- Linda Elliott-Nelson**
 - a. Present-** Kelly Corsette, Jim Snitzer, DeNise Bauer, Robert Ballard, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Desirae Barquin
 - b. Absent-** Bruce Gwynn
 - c. Staff-** Dr. David Breeckner, Kaydi Forgia, Cody Taylor, Jace Dostal, Sebastian Alt, Vanessa Fajardo, David Nagelski, Vince Bradley, Dr. Rebekah Percival Tabah
- 3. Minutes** - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the [draft minutes of the April 28, 2025, Executive Committee meeting](#). (Robert Ballard, Jim Snitzer) Approved unanimously.
- 4. Call to the Public- Kelly Corsette**
 - a.** No members of the public were present.
- 5. Finance Update** - David Nagelski, Sebastian Alt
 - a.** Revenue, Expenditures, YTD (See attached CSB May Report)
 - 1) Revenue: \$3,879,020.37 (planned \$4,347,800)
 - 2) Expenditures: \$3,753,843.24 (planned \$4,557,129)
 - b.** Dr. Breeckner asked David Nagelski and Sebastian Alt to speak on this. Fiscal year 2025 is being closed out and may end with a slight surplus against the initially-projected deficit. David Nagelski said that there is a surplus of around \$125,000 at this time but cautioned there will be a number of expenses during June and AHS is currently running lower on revenues and expenditures. Grants have been on the slow side.
- 6. FY26 Budget updates** - David Breeckner

a. Legislative negotiations

- [Draft Executive \(Governor's\) budget – January 2025](#)
- [Draft Senate budget – June 20, 2025](#)
- [Draft House budget – June 27, 2025](#)

b. Final Budget Overview

- Dr. David Breeckner shared that a signed and executed state budget will take effect starting July 1, 2025, so AHS can proceed knowing what funds will be available for the next fiscal year. Dr. Breeckner posted the approved budget in the chat. AHS' budget includes funding for Pioneer Museum, but is otherwise unchanged from its FY25 budget. Prescott Historical Society also received \$500,000, SHPO received tentative funding to offset its loss of Federal funds, but the Arizona250 Commission was de-funded by \$500,000.

c. Pioneer reopening

- The AHS budget includes 3 years of full funding for the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff - \$359,700 annually, but disbursed as a lump sum across FY26.
- Desirae Barquin said that there is much excitement in Flagstaff about this funding, and asked about the timing.
 - Dr. Breeckner said he would meet with Dr. Tabah, Sebastian Alt, and Vince Bradley to assess facility readiness and staffing readiness.
 - AHS has worked on the HR job descriptions for Flagstaff, and those should be ready to post soon. AHS will likely hire the manager first, train them, and then post for the other positions, with the Pioneer Museum potentially opening in late spring 2026.
- Desirae asked if any funds not used during this fiscal year could be saved for future use.
 - Dr. Breeckner shared that these funds are time-limited and must be spent before the end of FY28 (3 years). However, the funds are not apportioned per year, so any funds not expended in one year could be expended later within this 3-year period. These funds are restricted for expenditure at the Pioneer Museum.
 - Sebastian Alt added that facilities at the Pioneer Museum are ready, and approximately 2 months are needed for IT/internet and security setup.
 - Kelly Corsette thanked everyone for their efforts on this, and asked for a communication update on the Pioneer Museum that could be distributed to the Flagstaff community.

d. Agency shutdown plans

- Passage of the FY26 budget by the Legislature and the Governor's office has negated worries of a statewide government shutdown.
- Prior to this, all agencies were asked to develop and submit draft plans to guide

the agency through various shut down scenarios.

- While no longer needed for the upcoming FY26, the Governor's Office has indicated that they will still develop agency-wide shutdown plans in case of a future shutdown in later years.

7. FY27 Budget - David Breeckner

- a. FY27 budget (draft) and FY27 CIP (WIP draft) shared with the committee members.
- b. Dr. Breeckner clarified that the submitted draft FY27 budget excluded Pioneer operations. This new funding will be added to an updated draft budget describing an additional \$181,456.12 toward Payroll; \$78,243.88 (ERE), and R&M (\$100,000).
- c. Dr. Breeckner shared the FY27 budget on his screen, describing the changes and differences from the FY25 budget.
 - There are reductions of around \$500,000 in revenue, in particular with grant revenue. This budget will be closer to a real number since past projections did not meet what was actually received.
 - There are some expenditures that represent around \$500,000, in particular with payroll and ERE, leaving the FY27 total at a negative.
 - AHS is looking at making up a negative budget total through a requested increase to appropriations, facilitated through legislative outreach.
 - Kelly Corsette asked Dr. Breeckner to confirm that there would be a year to work on an overall \$1.1m deficit. Dr. Breeckner answered that the FY27 budget will be submitted to the State in roughly 2 months' time, but would not be determined by the State until June 2026.

8. Timelines - David Breeckner

- a. July 2025
 - ExComm votes to approve: FY27 budget
 - Board votes to approve: FY27 budget, Al Merito nominees
- b. August 2025
 - Special electronic Board vote to approve: FY26 CHI grant requests
 - Staff submit FY27 budget
- c. September 2025
 - Annual Meeting (Tucson) w/ Al Merito awards
- d. October 2025
 - Issuance of FY26 CHI grants

9. Announcements and considerations in future board or committee meetings.

- a. Kelly Corsette- The next State Board meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2025, and the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2025.

- b. Dr. Tabah reported that the beer festival was a success this past weekend at Pioneer Museum.
- c. Dr. Tabah mentioned that there was also a very successful Juneteenth as well as a National History Day in Washington, DC, which saw an Arizona student as the NHD first-place winner.

10. Adjournment called by Kelly Corsette at 12:39 PM.

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors
Kelly Corsette, AHS Board President

DATE: June 27, 2025

Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Noon and virtual unless announced otherwise

January 27, 2025	July 28, 2025
February 24, 2025	August 25, 2025
March 31, 2025	September 29, 2025
April 28, 2025	October 27, 2025
May 27, 2025	November 24, 2025