

Board of Directors
The State Museum
Harrisburg, PA
April 3, 2009

The Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. with President Paul Nevin presiding. A quorum was present. (Attendance attached)

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed on a Motion by Ken Burkett, seconded by Noel Strattan, PASSED

The **treasurer's** written report was read: *The Society remains in firm financial shape. Thanks to the savings account and interest, we will be able to cover the possible loss of the PHMC grant support for a few years. Needless to say, we must try to reduce expenditures, and this is difficult with rising postage and publication costs. I request chapter presidents to recruit new members, ask current members to renew as sustaining members, and request all subscribers to send change of addresses when they move. These measures could help avoid raising dues -- something that always spurs a decline in total members. Printed copies of the 2008 fiscal year and budgets for 2009 and 2010 are available for comments, suggestions and corrections.* Paul F. Cowin, Treasurer

Copies of the treasurer's report and 2009-2010 budgets were distributed. The President pointed out that the PHMC grant funds were distributed for 2009. However, there would be a deficit in 2010 if grant funding is not available that would need to be made up for by cost cutting or from the general fund. The budget was approved on a motion by Ken Burkett, seconded by Brian Fritz. PASSED

Old Business:

Financial Discussion: Charles Hannon delivered the written **Elmer Erb Permanent Fund Trustees report**. There were some losses due to the stock market investments but a slight recovery is occurring. Luckily, the E-Trade account was not finalized so there were no additional losses.

Grants—Paul Nevin presented the final report for the 2008 grant year. The 2009 funding is in place. The 2010 grants will be determined by the outcome of the Pennsylvania State Budget. Governor Rendell has cut the grants budget to \$0. If that remains in the final budget, the Society will need to take operations costs from the general fund. The Society urges all chapters and individual members to write their legislators and the governor. Sample letters and addresses for contacting legislators are available from the Secretary.

Pennsylvania Archaeologist Editor's status report—Bill Tippins submitted the following written report: *I am sorry that I could not attend the SPA 2009 Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting. Consequently, this report will serve to update the board and membership on the status of Pennsylvania Archaeologist.*

Vol. 79(1), Spring 2009

All papers for this 80-page issue are in the final stages of peer review and proofing. They will be sent to the printer in mid-April. This issue should be in members' hands by the end of May or early June.

Vol. 79(2), Fall 2009

I currently have enough papers in hand to complete the fall 2009 issue, provided there are no unforeseen problems. I will update the board on this and future issues as events unfold. I request no change in budget for 2009/2010. I'd like to thank the Editorial Board, past authors, peer reviewers, Verna and Paul Cowin (who prepare the mailing labels), Ken Fischer (who handles the mailing), and our readers for the continued success of Pennsylvania Archaeologist. Bill Tippins, Editor

The SPA Newsletter is largely funded by PHMC Grant money. If the budget is cut, other alternatives for producing and distribution the newsletter may be considered. Since budget changes will occur in 2010, the society will use this year to investigate ways to reduce production and postage costs. Newsletter by email is a possibility if we can find a reliable method of maintaining an email address list and distributing via the Internet. We also post all newsletters on the Society's website. If necessary, we may have to devise a way to notify the membership that the newsletter is available for viewing. Members with no Internet access will be a separate mailing. This cost cutting will be ongoing as postage fees continue to rise.

Digitizing Back Issues of the Pennsylvania Archaeologist—Paul Nevin reports that the digitizing is in progress. George Pevarnik is working with the Volume 11-25 series of journals (1941-1955). Missing is volume 17 (1-4). A request of the membership to supply this issue was made.

Archaeology Month 2009—Amanda Valko reported that the poster and mailing would be handled by PAC. The mailing revisions and corrections made by Amanda will be shared with PAC. The physical mailing will be done at IUP. Calendar items for events should be sent to Amanda no later than July 31, 2009.

Pennsylvania Farm Show—the space will be donated for the 2010 show with a recycled display from previous years. The SPA has agreed to support the Farm Show event upon a request from the PHMC. A motion to support the show was made by Amanda Valko, seconded by Brian Fritz. PASSED

Awards Committee—Catherine Spohn submitted a written report. Issues involving the awards have been resolved and the awards are ready for presentation at the banquet. A video of the presentation will be made.

C-14 Awards—James Herbstritt presented a new certificate to designate winners of the Jacob L. Grimm C-14 Award. The award will be announced at the banquet. A discussion about the testing laboratory was entered. The award does not designate a specific lab to be used. It is up to the recipient to have the testing and submit the invoices. The ISGS lab seems to have a long involved process, with slow turn around time. Beta provides more information in a month or less time. The price difference between the laboratories is minimal.

National Register Nominations—Brian Fritz is working with the homeowners at the Ft. Dewart Site. Revisions of the nomination are pending. Paul Nevin will continue work on the nomination for the Safe Harbor Petroglyph Site. Brian is mentoring the nomination process. If you are aware of a site for the National Register, contact Brian.

Consulting Parties—Brian Fritz reports that the Allegheny National Forest is doing archaeology on its sites. He will continue to monitor. Paul Raber reports:

PAC has been asked to comment on the revised PennDOT/FHWA statewide programmatic agreement. PAC had previously expressed concerns about some aspects of the agreement while concurring with the general intent and process. Comments are due by April 15.

Education Committee—A new committee will be formed. If members would like to serve on this committee, please contact the Secretary.

Nominating Committee—the ballot as published is ready for election at Annual Meeting.

SPA host to ESAF 2009—the meeting will be held in Johnstown, PA at the Holiday Inn. Meeting dates are November 5-8, 2009. Program Chair is Jason Espino. The Call for Papers is out. Westmoreland Chapter will be managing the bookroom. Somerset Chapter has offered help. Meli Diamanti will be in charge of the registration table. Hospitality Room hosts are needed. A meeting in Johnstown will take place this Spring to finalize event plans and to investigate tour destinations. Anyone who would like to help should contact the Secretary. Many volunteers are needed.

PAC Representative Report—Paul Raber's written report as follows: *PAC has been asked to comment on the revised PennDOT/FHWA statewide programmatic agreement. PAC had previously expressed concerns about some aspects of the agreement while concurring with the general intent and process. Comments are due by April 15.*

Archaeology Day at the Capitol (October 21, 2008) was again a success. We had a good turnout and presented the Fisher Award to Rep. Rob Kauffman for his help in securing funding for the investigations of Fort Morris in Chambersburg. There was a Harrisburg area TV interview with Steve Warfel about the project.

PAC members expressed their concerns to their state legislators about the governor's proposed \$0 funding for statewide organizational grants, cuts that will seriously affect the programs of both PAC and SPA. It would be helpful if PAC and SPA members continue to let legislators know how they feel about the proposed funding cuts.

Hatch Scholarships: After my late start in getting the word out, we will be awarding one scholarship of \$100 to Joe Blondino, a graduate student at Temple University. He will receive the award at the awards ceremony at the banquet on Saturday. I propose that SPA and PAC split the cost of this award, and ask the other donors (Tom Vallana and the Bald Eagle Chapter) if they are willing to defer their contributions to the 2010 awards.

The SPA voted to split the cost of the first scholarship with PAC on a motion entered by Amanda Valko and seconded by Noel Strattan. PASSED

Rock Art CD—the Swauger Petroglyph CD produced and donated by Bill Tippins is selling steadily. Copies are available using the form in the SPA Newsletter and on the SPA website.

New Business

Elimination of the PHMC Grants—this problem was discussed under old business as relates to our budget and financial reports. There are prepared sample letters for members to use in contacting their legislators. Address information is also available. Voicing your opposition to the grant cuts is essential. Each contact is important. All members are urged to make your feelings known. Historic Sites are threatened as well. Our Pennsylvania cultural heritage is under attack.

Guidelines for Conducting SPA Business by email—Brian Fritz will be assigning a group to establish guidelines for email discussion and voting. Since doing business by email is relatively new to our organization, parameters need to be established especially for discussion and time limits for voting and voting eligibility. If the Society wishes to continue doing business electronically, an outline must be established.

SPA Website—Brian Fritz is looking for technical help in update the SPA website. We need some expertise to make it easier to update and give it a new look. Anyone who has this knowledge should contact Brian or the Secretary.

Functioning within the Society's Constitution—to insure that the Society operates under our constitution, a review is planned. Establishing working guidelines or standing rules to manage everyday business is the goal. Understanding the “job descriptions” for each office will clarify the duties and expectations of all offices in the Society.

Guidelines for SPA Chapters in pursuit of 501 (c)3 or other tax-exempt status—Several chapters have inquired about using the Society's tax-exempt status for individual chapters. The Board of Directors has not approved a blanket or umbrella agreement. There would be no mechanism for accounting or controlling donations or grant money obtained by the chapters. The Society would be liable to reporting and tax payment if limits are exceeded. Other chapters have or are in process of getting a tax-exempt status. North Fork's president Ed Kaufman explained some of the process, which is expensive and complicated. The Society hopes to establish some helpful guidelines and volunteer mentors to help chapters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Duritsa
Secretary