



# The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

## 93rd Annual Meeting Minutes

Carlisle, PA  
April 13, 2024

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.

**Roll Call**—Present: President Chuck Williams; 2nd VP , Ben Ford; Treasurer Ken Burkett; Secretary, Judy Duritsa, Roger Moeller, Kira Heinrich. Directors: Amanda Valko, Janet Johnson, Phillip Neusius, Kristina Gaugler, Susanne Haney and Kate Peresolak. Chapters: Allegheny, Mon Yough, Ohio Valley, Bald Eagle, North Fork, Hawk Mt.

**Minutes** of the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved as distributed on a motion entered by Amanda Valko, seconded by John Nass, Jr. PASSED

**Treasurer's Report/Budget 2024-2025\***--reports accepted on a motion entered by Amanda Valko, seconded by Philip Neusius, PASSED

**Elmer Erb Permanent Fund\*--Reports** accepted on a motion entered by Paul Raber, seconded by John Nass, Jr., PASSED.

### Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee \*  
Archaeology Month \*  
Awards Committee \*  
Collections and Curation Committee\*  
Education Committee \*  
ESAF Representative\*  
PAC Representative\*  
Publications/Editor\*

**\*See Board of Directors Minutes for full reports.**

**Jacob L. Grimm C-14 Award**—Bernard Means, Chair, reported that two awards will be given at the Awards Banquet.

**Site Survey/PASS forms**—Taylor Napoleon from the SHPO office reported: \_

### Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS)

**The PASS Report:** In 2023, a total of 309 new archaeological sites were added to the PASS files, bringing the statewide total to 27,010 recorded sites. The majority of new sites were recorded through cultural resources management projects, however, there was an increase in site recording from university research projects. In total, SPA members recorded 12 new sites. Recorded sites were submitted from Chapters 22 (Ohio Valley), 23 (Westmoreland), 24 (Bald Eagle), 29 (North Fork), 30 (Venango) and 31 (Hawk Mountain). The sites were recorded in Armstrong, Bulter, Lancaster, Monroe, Schuylkill, Venango, and Westmoreland counties. In addition to the newly recorded sites, SPA members updated 6 previously recorded sites with new information.

- Chapter 22: 1 new site
- Chapter 23: 1 new site
- Chapter 24: 1 new site and 1 update
- Chapter 29: 5 new sites and 2 updates
- Chapter 30: 1 new site
- Chapter 31: 3 new sites and 3 updates

The remaining sites were recorded through CRM projects (215), University research (40), SHPO Managed Surveys (15), PHMC research (14), and by others/individuals (13).

Of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, 52 had at least one newly recorded site. The top counties with the most sites recorded last year are as follows: Westmoreland, Indiana, Northampton, Lancaster, Allegheny, McKean, Butler, Northumberland, Columbia, Franklin, Mercer, and York. The county with the most recorded sites in 2023 was Westmoreland County with 31 new sites. The county with the highest number of recorded sites is Washington

County with 1,846 sites followed by Lancaster and Westmoreland. The county with the lowest number of recorded sites is Sullivan County with 33 sites followed by Potter and Columbia.

In 2023, the PASS program continued to progress with survey initiative from the previous year, including our baseline survey program. Baseline survey is a multi-year survey effort to document a significant number of underrepresented historic resources across a vast geographic area of Pennsylvania. This past year, 392 potential archaeological sites were identified throughout 19 counties. Of these potential areas, 14 were determined to include adequate information to review an official PASS number. Areas that did not receive PASS numbers serve as opportunities for future archaeological research and investigation.

The PASS program also continued to progress on the PA Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)-owned properties survey. The goal of the PHMC properties survey initiative is to obtain up-to-date and consistent survey across all properties owned by the PHMC. During 2023, the initial plans for the archaeological phase of the survey effort were solidified and funding was secured to conduct an archaeological constraints analysis. The constraints analysis will gather available information on previously recorded archaeological surveys and sites on the property and assess the potential for the presence of both historic and Pre-Contact period archaeological resources. Execution of the archaeological phase of the PHMC properties survey is scheduled to begin in 2024.

If you would like to read more about site recording efforts and survey initiatives, the annual [PASS report](https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/PASSREPORT_2024_Final.pdf) is available on the PA SHPO website for anyone to view.

[https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/PASSREPORT\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/PASSREPORT_2024_Final.pdf).

**Chapter Reports:** Summary will be published in the Fall Newsletter

**Call for a motion to ratify the actions of the Board of Directors of the Society for the past year.**

**A motion was made by Amanda Valko, seconded by Noel Strattan, PASSED**

**Election: Elmer Erb Permanent Fund Trustees to serve 6 year terms ending in 2030:**

**Phillip Neusius**

**Gregory Lattanzi**

**There being no further nominations, the vote was PASSED unanimously.**

**Deceased Members 2023-2024 were recognized:**

**Philis Pietrusza Levino, Westmoreland Chapter #23**

**Edmund Dlutowski, Past President, SPA, Ohio Valley #22, Allegheny #1**

### **Discussion and Announcements:**

**The Board is discussing a method of combining the Annual Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting to avoid the duplication of reports and redundancies. We will discuss this further at the November 2024 Board Meeting. If you have suggestion on how to do this or when would be the most appropriate time to hold this meeting, please pass that along for consideration.**

### **Announcements:**

Everyone is invited to the Student Poster Session following the papers on Saturday.

On Sunday afternoon please join the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Undergraduate Anthropology Conference, held in conjunction with The SPA Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Duritsa  
Secretary, SPA