

Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)

General Membership Meeting

The Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York

September 9, 2019

Trustees Attending: Rosemarie Tucker, President; Matthew Urtz, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Raymond LaFever, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Margaret Hadsell, Treasurer; Will Tatum, Secretary; Babette Huber, John Scherer, Zack Studenroth, Mark Slosek

Trustees absent: Joe Marren, Samantha Hall-Saladino

President Tucker called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

**Review of Minutes for 2018 Membership Meeting:** Motion to approve by Sandra Bradford, Town of Bradford, seconded by Christine Ridarsky, City of Rochester, the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's report (Margaret Hadsell):** Finances continue to improve thanks to frugal spending, reports as of Friday, August 16, 2019; have exceeded membership dues for 2019, possibly due to membership renewals going out in December; membership has increased slightly over last year though still not at 2016 level; regional meetings brought in additional income; will slightly exceed projected revenue for state conference as well; two sources of income for APHNYS: membership dues and conference fees; web fees are likely to increase due to projected website redesign; anticipates expenses rising through the end of 2019 because final expenses have not been paid for the conference and other projects;

Mark Slosek moves to accept, Margaret Russell seconds; motion to accept Treasurer's report passes.

2020 budget: income is projected to rise due to anticipated increase in membership renewals

Due to discussions with banker, Margaret has used money market account that has generated dividends for APHNYS, adding to revenue.

H&R Block tax filing for APHNYS failed for 2018 taxes, H&R Block did not take notice of it, IRS finally contacted Margaret. Upon further investigation, it appeared that H&R Block did not properly render the name of the organization as it is registered with the IRS: H&R Block filed as "Association of Public Historians of NYS" instead of "Association of Public Historians of New York State." IRS instructed Margaret to write a letter of clarification to have fees removed, and informed her of a better way to file taxes as long as the organization makes less than \$50,000 per year.

The Board of Trustees amended to proposed budget to insert \$500 into the 2020 budget to keep the "Accounting firm for Taxes" line open

Will Tatum moves to accept 2020 budget, Christine Ridarsky seconded, motion accepted.

**President's Report (Rosemarie Tucker):** Had an 8 member committee assisting with this year's conference; financially stable; only 3 applicants for scholarship this year, two of whom did not qualify; encourages all historians to acquire an email address to improve communications and reduce the expense entailed by hard-copy mailings; encourages everyone to check the APHNYS website ([www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)) regularly; asks everyone to support the new administration whose terms begin January 1, 2020; Rose has been an officer with APHNYS since 2006

### **Social Media and Outreach Committee (Ray LaFever)**

Website works but thinks it could do a lot more, wishes to add a members-only section to the website; grateful to Christine Ridarsky and Clifton Patrick for their assistance with social media; Matt Urtz suggests that all historians should "like" the APHNYS Facebook page; Ray encourages everyone to join social media as well; Gerry Smith is stepping down as newsletter editor, so APHNYS is looking for a new editor; Peter Feinman suggests that Office of State History website and the New York History Blog are also worthwhile to follow;

### **Publications Sub-Committee/Historian's Manual (Margaret Hadsell)**

Historian's Manual is now available online; Margaret invites input on continuing revisions to manual

### **Conference Scholarship Report (Margaret Hadsell)**

Three criteria: paid member for past 3 years but have not attended a conference due to lack of municipal funding; long-time paid member but never attended a conference and lack municipal funding; newly appointed historian who has paid dues but lacks municipal funding

Last year, we had six applicants, three of whom were funded. This year, three applied, but two failed to meet the above criteria. Moriah Mitchell was the successful scholarship recipient

One member suggested that APHNYS create a form letter for historians to use when approaching their municipalities for funding.

**Membership Committee Report (Matt Urtz):** Have about 26% paid members (out of the total possible number of historians in the state); encourages membership to reach out to their regional coordinators

**By-Laws Committee Report (Matt Urtz):** recent retirement of several trustees revealed that the by-laws are not in keeping with current approach to running APHNYS; as a result, the board created a committee to review the bylaws and suggest corrections; most important revision is adjustment of terms so that newly-elected trustees and officers will begin their terms on January 1 of the following year (this change due to switching date of annual meeting from spring to the autumn).

John Scherer pointed out that in other organizations to which he belongs, the immediate past president remains on board in advisory capacity. John Scherer is now appointed to the Rules and Standards Committee.

Clifton Patrick moved to accept amendments, Margaret Hadsell seconded, motion passed.

**Nomination Committee Report:** list of nominees are attached; Matt offered bios of the new nominees (those who are not renewing terms)

Clifton Patrick moved that nominations from the floor be closed, Babette Huber seconded, motion passed

Dena Wood moved to accept proposed slate, Karen Osborn seconded, Rose Tucker abstained; all other members in favor, motion passed

### **William G. Pomeroy Foundation (Paula Miller)**

New website, encourages everyone to visit; new online content showcasing successful applications; now tightening requirements for markers—going forward, applicants need to demonstrate broader community impact of site/person/whatever is on the marker; working on a grant program to refurbish historic markers (not just Pomeroy markers); facility will be in East Syracuse, responsibility will be to send markers to it and pick them up when refurbished

### **Gravestone Working Group (Zach Studenroth)**

Board will establish a special committee to explore detailed guidance on gravestone treatment and graveyard maintenance

### **New York State Historian's "The State of State History" Report (Devin Lander)**

New York State Archives Magazine Summer Issue includes article by Devin on Local Government Historians Law of 1919; encourages historians to submit items to the Archives magazine

*A New York Minute in History Podcast*, in partnership with WAMC out of Albany, co-funded by the Pomeroy Foundation, recent installment included guest appearances by Lauren Roberts (Saratoga County Historian), John Scherer (Town of Clifton Park Historian), and Gerry Smith (Past-Broome County Historian and APHNYS President) discussing the origins of local government historians and APHNYS, Lauren Roberts will be the new co-host moving forward. Christine Ridarsky asked if podcast was available through iTunes—it is, as well as SoundCloud, etc

The New York History Journal, *New York History*, will soon re-launch: had been published by the New York Historical Association from 1932 until a few years ago, Cornell University Press has now taken over ownership and publication; Editorial Partnership between NYS Museum staff and Professor Robert Chiles at the University of Maryland; new issue will be coming out shortly; journal was traditionally academic, now expanded to include public history articles including "Artifact NY" with an image of an artifact and 1000 word description to highlight objects from collections around the state, and "Community NY:" a 1000-word description of a Community History Project to publicize happenings in local history communities; first Community NY installment is on Christine Ridarsky's exhibit on Stonewall; journal will be available in print and online; ads section including partner

organizations to highlight the broader the community; now offering museum exhibit, film, and other styles of reviews beyond traditional book reviews;

250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the American Revolution in NY: planning meetings held throughout the state over the summer of 2019 to begin discussions on structuring commemorative planning; NPS is having a meeting this month among regional park superintendents to discuss planning; there is a national committee formed by Congress in 2016, but does not have funding or a specific plan yet; good ideas and themes are emerging from regional meetings in the state

New York History Day: vital opportunity to engage with students, new “Best Project in Local New York History” award; encourages historians to be involved in History Day; regional meetings are in the spring (March) and early June for the state meeting

A member asked if anything was planned for 2020 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2—the State Historian did not have any information on any planned activities.

Christine Ridarsky asked if there was any update from the Commission on Women’s Suffrage—the State Historian did not have any new information.

Richard Williams moved to adjourn, Ray LaFever seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.