

**Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations
Annual Meeting
April 21, 2009**

Minutes

Present: Rusty Baker, PFMHO; Scott Becker, PFMHO Board member, Pennsylvania Trolley Museum; Ford Bell, American Association of Museums; Susan Brook, Friends of the Joseph Priestly House; Richard Burkert, PFMHO Board President, Johnstown Area Heritage Association; Richard Colbert, Tyler Arboretum; Sarah DiSantis, Welsh Valley Preservation Society; Charlene Donchez Mowers, Historic Bethlehem; Deborah Filipi, PFMHO Executive Director; Barbara Franco, PFMHO Board member (*ex officio*), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Brian Gallagher; Ron Gancas, Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial; Minerva Garcia, Wagner Free Institute of Science; Craig George, Hershey Gardens; Bob Gingerich; Susan Hanna, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Steve Humphrey, PFMHO Board Treasurer, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Museum; Marilyn Levin, PFMHO Board member; Janet MacGregor, PFMHO; Kate McDermott, National Civil War Museum; Miriam Pinsker, Scott Arboretum; Richard Sauers, Packwood House Museum; Jo Anne Schultze, Pennsylvania Veterans Museum; David Scofield, PFMHO Board member, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Museum of Rural Life; Bonnie Shockey, PFMHO Board member, Allison-Antrim Museum; Ken Shockey, Allison-Antrim Museum; Lynn Smolizer, National Civil War Museum; Tom Stoneback, National Canal Museum; Suzanne Swain, Pennsylvania Veterans Museum; Jay Tennes, Eldred WWII Museum; Pat Warner, Wagner Free Institute of Science; Tyrone Watford, Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association; Shelly Wiles, Lebanon County Historical Society; Ken Woodson, Philadelphia Zoo.

Call to Order

Richard Burkert

PFMHO Board President, Richard Burkert called the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organization to order at 12:20 p.m.

Mr. Burkert described the current funding climate in Pennsylvania and reviewed the elimination of the museum assistance line item in the preliminary state budget as proposed by Governor Rendell.

Treasurer's Report

Steven Humphrey

Mr. Humphrey reviewed the Federation's budget and balance sheet. He pointed out a recent significant contribution of \$200,000 that has to carry over several years, and will be used as leverage to maximize the Federation's financial circumstances.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Scott Becker, seconded by David Scofield. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Scott Becker

The Committee nominated Ron Gancas, President of Soldiers and Sailors Military Memorial and Museum, to the Federation's Board of Directors. Mr. Gancas' biographical information was distributed to the members.

Motion to accept the nomination of Ron Gancas and elect him to the Board of Directors was made by Marilyn Levin, seconded by Bonnie Shockey. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Deborah Filipi introduced Ford Bell, President and C.E.O. of the American Association of Museums, who addressed the group. Mr. Bell described the importance of museums as evidenced by their popularity (850 million visits annually), their affordability (\$7.00 average admission cost and 41% free), their trustworthiness, their indispensable role as educators, their importance as community builders, their authenticity, and the critical partnerships they forge across disciplines. He called upon museum professionals to become strong advocates, citing strength in numbers. In response to several questions, Mr. Ford reaffirmed AAM's support of small museums; described the status of the Federal Formula Grant Initiative; said the library model of funding has merit and can be used as a model for museums; and thought members of Congress appreciate museums individually but not the significance of museums as a field.

Preparation for Legislative Visits

Mark Singel

Mark Singel of The Winter Group spoke to the group in anticipation of visiting various members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly following the meeting. He described how to conduct a visit and what to expect. Angie Armbrust distributed documents to be left behind with legislators outlining the history of the PHMC museums assistance budget line item and the importance of its reinstatement. The group was divided into teams to collectively visit 16 members of the Appropriations Committees.

Adjournment

Richard Burkert

Mr. Burkert adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Janet MacGregor
April 27, 2009