

Administration
Report for the 4 April Trustees Meeting

- 1. America 250:** The nation is preparing for America's 250th birthday in 2026. As I write this, I am at a national convening of states and territories in Williamsburg, VA. I'll hear from colleagues around the country on what they plan to do. So far state partners include South Dakota DAR and the Mary Chilton Chapter, the 1881 Courthouse Museum, The Center for Western Studies at Augustana, the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, Easton Castle, Lake Norden Historical Society, Made by Us, Vermillion Public Library, West River History Conference, Yankton County historical Society, and the South Dakota Humanities Council. We also expect partners from the American Legion and the South Dakota Veterans Heritage Alliance. 2024 is a year to recruit partners, 2025 is a planning year and of course, 2026 is the year to see the activities that educate, engage, and unite us.
- 2. Renovation:** David has more details about the renovation project, but we look forward to moving back into our building by the end of the year. We will need to work out the details for when the public can be back in the building. Work on the Museum exhibits will be starting in 2025 but we do not wish to delay the public's ability to be in the Archives when they are ready for visitors.
- 3. History Conference:** More details to come in the near future, but we have confirmed our plans to co-host the 2025 History Conference with West River History Conference. We are excited about this collaboration where both organizations can grow. Currently we are planning on the first week of October, in Rapid City. Themes may revolve around the centennial of Mt. Rushmore's National Monument Dedication of Oct. 1, 1925.
- 4. 100th Legislative Session:** The Legislature has established a committee to organize events around their 100th Session. Their first meeting will be on Monday 25th of March. I am a member of that committee, and we expect the Historical Society play a meaningful role in this key effort.