

Administration Report

Report for July 12th meeting of the Trustees (As of June 21)

1. The gift of Spotted Tail's artifacts occurred at the Georgia Morse Middle School on May 15th. Both families involved were pleased with the event and appreciated the student participation. The gift and the event received good media coverage by KELO TV, SDPB, The Dakota Scout, The Lakota Times, and KGFX. We took the opportunity to get to know the Spotted Tail family and the Newell family, as well as their guests from the Edward Curtis Foundation. David, Katy, Dan, Ronette and Corey impressed the donors with their professionalism and preparation for the event. We appreciate the Trustees who could come, and even participate. When the person scheduled to lead the Lakota prayer could not come, Francis Whitebird agreed to do so instead. It was a rare event but one we'd certainly like to see happen again with other potential donations.
2. Cassie, Catherine, and I have continued working with West River History Conference in order to confirm a fall 2025 date and location. Deadwood in early October is the probable time and location but as of this time we still have need to confirm the details.
3. The Historical Society participated in the second History and Civics Summit in Sioux Falls earlier this month. Over 400 K-12 educators were there and had a chance to peruse our books and publications, speak to archivists and museum staff. I gave a presentation on how South Dakota and the reservations came to be. Governors Noem and former Governor Daugaard spoke, and we had re-enactors perform a debate between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Support for the new standards is growing as the teachers are now seeing how instructional materials are available and can be taught within the reading standards in the K-5 grades. Faculty from NSU, USD, DSU, Kevin, Jamie, and I are participating in the History Road Trip with teachers again this July. We'll be setting out the week after this meeting, the 15th – 18th with three different routes this year, East, Central, and West. The busses' seats are all booked!
4. We wished Virginia Hanson well after a long career in the State Archives. She formally retired on June 8th. Her assistance with people seeking out support for genealogy was well known in South Dakota. We were pleased that KELO TV did a story on her impact. Chelle and I are taking some time to consider the kind of archivist that will best serve the needs of our researchers in the future. I'm very sorry that Jenna Carlson-Dietmeier, former interim SHPO, took a new opportunity with the US Dept of Agriculture. Her last day was June 16th. We have advertised the position and are considering applications. The ad closes today, (the 21st of June) but if you know a good candidate, please encourage them to apply. Kayleigh Johnson began as Senior Archeologist since the last meeting. I hope you get a chance to meet her at the ARC.

5. The History 605 Podcast and the History Talks via zoom continue to grow audiences. The Sixty-Eighth podcast episode is now out, and we see that we have over a thousand listeners for each show. The History Talks events are getting good live audiences and we have a cycle for making those available later. We are getting feedback that these things, as well as the public service announcements we've been running and our staff going out and speaking has raised the profile of the historical society. We certainly want people to think of us when they think of history and so it's all helping to increase the Society's impact on the state's culture.
6. I'll be attending an America 250 convening of states in along with another commissioner, Caleb Fink, July 9-11th in Washington D. C. I'll share the news from that event at our meeting on the 12th.