

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center
Pierre, South Dakota
June 3, 2026**

1. Call to Order:

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by President Tom Hurlbert in the Jay Vogt Education Room, Pierre, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

Board members present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

Tom Hurlbert, William Pearson, Francis Whitebird, Robert Kolbe, Michele Christian

Board members present via Teams Conference Call:

John Fowler, Katherine Molnar, Lura Roti, Brian Sandvig, Aaron Mayer

Board members absent:

David Grettler, Jon Lauck

State Historical Society Staff present:

Benjamin F. Jones, Braeden Kluver, David Grabitske, Garry Guan, Chelle Somsen, Ronette Rumpca, Dedra Birzer

State Historical Society Staff present via Teams Conference Call:

Cassie Vogt & Maddie Ferrell

Others present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

N/A

Others present via Teams Conference Call:

SDPB

Welcome and Announcements:

President Tom Hurlbert led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a welcome to the members of the Board, staff of the Historical Society, and guests.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Christian moved to adopt the agenda. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Board Minutes:

The March 20th, 2026, minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were mailed and posted digitally for Board members before the meeting. **Roti moved to approve the minutes. Christian seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1):

None.

5. Administrator Reports:

Research and Publishing – There were no changes to the written report. Birzer was asked about the Spur Award. She explained that the Spur Award is presented through the Western Writers of America, and that *Badger Clark: Poetry Wrangler* was a finalist for the Best Western Children's Picture Book.

Archives – There were no changes to the written report.

Archaeology – There were no changes to the written report. Kolbe asked about planned upcoming work for the Archaeology office. Vogt stated that ARC was busy with field work, NAGPRA documentation, Archaeology camp in conjunction with the SHPO office, and a National Register nomination.

Foundation – There were no changes to the written report.

Historic Preservation – In addition to his written report, Guan added that the Laura A. Smith house was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 11th and that he had a planned visit to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe later in the week.

Museum – There were no changes to the written report. Grabitske highlighted Ronette Rumpca for her twenty-nine years of service before her retirement on June 8th. Grabitske also praised the efforts of staff arranging the annual History Conference. Kolbe asked about the museum accession process and how donor input is evaluated. Grabitske explained that the more information about an item, the better. Kolbe asked about a list of items that the Museum was looking for. Grabitske stated that items the Museum is interested in are printed in the South Dakota History Journal.

Administration – There were no changes to the written report. Jones highlighted the History Conference and the Museum team's work. Jones also highlighted a few of the Historical

Society's efforts to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, which includes a Liberty Tree planting, opening the State Museum, and participating in the Sharing the Spirit of America.

6. Certificates of Appreciation/ Thank yous

Pearson moved to approve Certificates of Appreciation for Ronette Rumpca, Scott Lockwood, and Raymond Getz. Kolbe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on September 11th at 10:00 am Central Time / 9:00 am Mountain Time in Meeting Room A, Harriet L.J. Ronning Branch Library, 3100 E 49th St, Sioux Falls, SD, 57103.

8. Adjournment

Christian made the motion for Adjournment. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, declare that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the business conducted at the June 3, 2026, meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.
State Historian and Director
South Dakota State Historical
Society

Braeden Kluver
Assistant to the State Historian
South Dakota State Historical
Society