

AMERICA'S 250TH SOUTH DAKOTA COMMISSION MINUTES

Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center

Pierre, South Dakota

June 9th, 2026

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the South Dakota America's 250th Commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman Benjamin Jones. A quorum was present.

Commissioners present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

Benjamin F. Jones, David Grabitske, Nick Harrington for Kevin Robling, Catherine Forsch

Commissioners present via TEAMS Conference Call:

George Seamon, Mike Derby, Peggy Besch, Algin Young, Shane Penfield, Tyler Tordsen, Caleb Fink, Doug Knust, Julie Breu

Commissioners absent:

James Hagen, Jeremiah Schneider, Tim Reed, Marshall Michels

Others Present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

Braeden Kluver (SDSHS)

Others Present via TEAMS Conference Call:

SDPB, Nicole Christie (Tribal Relations), Kevin Larsen (SDSHS)

2. Adoption of the Agenda:

- **Forsch made a motion to adopt the agenda. Besch seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously

3. Approval of May 6th, 2026, minutes:

- **Fink made a motion to approve the May 6th, 2026, minutes. Grabitske seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

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

None.

5. Updates

- **National Time Capsule**
 - The time capsule version of *This Far Country* and the letter from the Governor were successfully delivered to the National Institute of Standards and Technology and will be buried on July 4th across from Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

- **Penfield made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$2,590 to pay for the design and fabrication of a special edition of *This Far Country*. Breu seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.
- **Grit and Glory conference update**
 - The South Dakota State Historical Society hosted their annual history conference in Pierre on June 1st- 3rd. The conference was centered on the 250th.
- **America's Field Trip**
 - Dr. Jones was alerted by America 250 that there was a second-place winner from South Dakota.
- **Flag-raising events**
 - Flag-raising events continue to take place around the state. Mitchell and Rapid City are planning future events.
- **Great American State Fair**
 - The Great American State Fair planning has come together. South Dakota Department of Education; Game, Fish, & Parks; Department of Labor and Regulation; Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources; South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development; and the Governor's Office are all sending staff to work at the GASF booth. Materials are purchased and being shipped out to Washington, D.C.
- **Museum Ribbon cutting**
 - July 1st at 3:00 pm is the ribbon cutting for the State Museum. Commissioners are asked to attend if they are available.
- **America's Potluck**
 - Commissioners are asked to spread the word about America's Potluck.
- **Sharing the Spirit of America**
 - Sharing the spirit of America is a global simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence. SDPB will be broadcasting the event live from the Senate Chambers.
 - Readings are also being planned in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.
- **Sioux Falls Airshow**
 - The Sioux Falls Airshow is scheduled to take place July 18-19. There will be a mobile museum, created by Freedom 250, available during the Airshow.
- **GFP 250 updates**
 - Walk 250 – Over 201 people have participated in Walk 250, totaling over 1800 submissions.
 - Adventure 250 is the State Park theme for this year. As of the meeting, GFP had 275 submissions and 1,520 people participating. The best region was in the Southeast part of the state. The best park so far was Custer.

6. Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held on August 5th, at 3:00 pm Central Time in the Jay Vogt Education Room.

7. Adjournment:

- **Forsch made a motion to adjourn. Harrington seconded the motion.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 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 June 9th, 2026, meeting of the America's 250th South Dakota Commission.

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

DRAFT