



America 250 SD Commission
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Executive Commission Minutes

April 3, 2024

Call to Order:

A meeting of the South Dakota America 250 Executive Commission was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chairman Benjamin F. Jones via Microsoft TEAMS. A quorum was present.

Commissioners present via TEAMS Conference call:

Peggy Besch, Caleb Finck, David Flute, Catherine Forsch, David Grabitske, Benjamin Jones, Doug Knust, Shane Penfield, Sen. Tim Reed, Nick Harrington, George Seamon, and Rep. Tyler Tordsen

Commissioners Absent:

Julie Breu, Kurt Hackemer, James Hagen, Connie Hohn, Kevin Robling, Marshall Michels, and Greg Whitlock

Others Present:

Jamie Hageman (SDSHS), Kevin Larsen (SDSHS), David Grabitske (SDSHS), Nicole Schneider (Tribal), Maximum Promotions, Jennifer Widman (SDHC), Deadwood HPC, Deadwood History and SDPB

Adoption of the Agenda

Flute made a motion to adopt the agenda. Forsch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of the Agenda

Forsch made a motion to approval the minutes from February 7, 2024. Flute seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1) Public Comment was heard from Maximum Promotions of Sioux Falls, Jennifer Widman of South Dakota Humanities Council, Kevin Kuchenbecker- Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and Deadwood History.

National Level Update

Jones and Grabitske attended the 2nd national convening of states and territories held in Williamsburg, VA in March. Thirty-seven other states attended with all Virginia counties, totaling over 450 participants. The convening held several speakers including national level chair Rosie Rios. The convening provided insight on planning tips, events and idea from local regions, and a sneak peek to happenings in 2026 with the release of a new Ken Burns American Revolution films. The key message or take away during the convening is approaching the celebration as more than just geography and to leave a lasting legacy. Virginia intends to host one final convening in March 2025.

Updated Logo:

During the meeting two final logo options were shown to commissions and the public. Jones received input regarding previous logo design with the national level outreach officer. The two options include new wording as 'America's 250th'. Option two was designed based on feedback from previous meetings adding red, white, and blue ring on the outside. It was the opinion of the Department of Education graphic designer to approve the logo without the red, white, and blue rings. **A motion was made to approve logo option one by Harrington and seconded by Penfield. The motion passed unanimously.**

Events/Programs/Ideas:

- **America's Field Trip** - The national level commission announced the start of America's Field Trip Essay Contest. Several rounds of the contest will take place. Winners and a parent and/or guardian will be selected to visit select places across the county. The first deadline for essay contest submission is May 17th. More information can be found on america250.org. Jones anticipates South Dakota locations to be included in future field trips.
- **Walk 250 Miles in 1776!** - Prior to the meeting, Hageman, Jones, and Harrington corresponded with each other regarding an event idea walking 250 miles in state parks. Harrington provided a brief background of Game, Fish and Parks previous events and detailed how the department may be able advertise and promote the program. A discussion was held. Other ideas including adding city and county trail systems as well other parks and municipalities may be used to outline outdoor opportunities for tracking miles. Harrington and Hageman will meet following the meeting to work on gathering further details for a kickoff in July 2024.
- **DAR Monument Dedication**- Jones received an invitation from South Dakota Society Daughters of the American Revolution to attend an America 250 monument dedication in Rapid City later

this month. Jones has prior appointments and cannot attend but asked if other commission members would be able to go on behalf of America's 250th South Dakota Commission. Flute volunteered but referred to other volunteers who may be located closer. Seamon also volunteered and will be attending the dedication to say a few words.

- **America 250SD County/City Resolutions-** Prior to the meeting Hageman drafted County and City Resolutions. The drafts were shared during the meeting for comment. A discussion was held. The resolutions will be sent to commission members following the meeting to make edits.

Commissioner Committee Assignments:

During the previous meeting, commissioner committee assignments were made. A review of assignments was provided.

Celebratory Themes:

Three proposed themes were discussed. The themes include Connection to the Declaration, Preserving Local History, and Continuing the American Revolution. The themes are drafted to assist in event planning and grant writing. Commissioners were asked to ponder themes and draft their own to be discussed again at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The next meeting is set for June 5, 2024, at 3pm CST. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Forsch and seconded by Flute. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:56 pm.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, chairman of the South Dakota America 250 commission, declare that these minutes are true, and an accurate reflection of the business conducted at the April 3, 2024, 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

Jamie Hageman

Administrative Assistant

South Dakota State Historical Society