



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Education &
Early Development

Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums
Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board

<http://archives.state.ak.us/ashrab/ashrab.html>

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Membership

Dean Dawson, Coordinator
Laura Samuelson, Nome
Zachary Jones, Juneau
Bruce Parham, Anchorage
Gladi Kulp, Juneau

Judith Bittner/Jo Antonson, Anchorage
Megan Friedel, Anchorage
Teresa Fahning, Soldotna
LaRue Barnes, Cordova

Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	October 10, 2012
Meeting Location:	Sitka, Alaska
Minutes Recorded by:	Dean Dawson, State Archivist
Roll Call:	<p>Present at the Meeting:</p> <p>Judy Bittner, Office of History & Archaeology Dean Dawson, Alaska State Archives Bruce Parham, Anchorage Zach Jones, Sealaska Heritage Institute Gladi Kulp, Juneau Laura Samuelson, Carrie M. McClain Memorial Museum Megan Friedel, UAA Archives & Special Collections LaRue Barnes, Cordova</p> <p>Others Present:</p> <p>Jo Antonson, OHA Sara Bornstein, Alaska State Archives Bob Banghart, Deputy Director of SLAM Jim Simard, Alaska Historical Collections</p> <p>Members Absent:</p> <p>Teresa Fahning, City of Soldotna</p>

I. Items Discussed:

The meeting began at 1:00 PM. Dean said that everyone who was going to be reimbursed by the State of Alaska needed to sign a *Travel Authorization* and return to him. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was present. Megan arrived late. After hearing no objection the May 26, 2012 minutes were approved without dissent. Dean mentioned that all approved minutes are placed upon the ASHRAB website. No additional agenda items were offered from the Agenda that had been sent out prior to the meeting.

A. Facts & figures about the ASHRAB & NHPRC.

Dean presented a slideshow explaining the function and history of the National Historical Publications & Records Commission and the responsibilities and focus of the Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board. NHPRC was founded in 1934 chaired by the archivist of the United States. The ASHRAB must follow the rules and regulations promulgated by the NHPRC. NHPRC established SHRAB's in each state in 1977. Alaska has only about six large archives located at: UAA, UAF, Anchorage Museum, NARA, State Archives, State Library. Most cultural organizations are small and underfunded. ASHRAB supports the state cultural heritage. Funding is limited and there is no state funding. Payment of travel and lodging for ASHRAB meetings is via the SNAP grant. The current SNAP grant covers two years beginning July 1, 2012. Funding for the NHPRC continues to remain tenuous and somewhat grim. President Obama's FY2013 appropriation is \$3 million. The ASHRAB has advocated for \$5M. Dean also mentioned the challenging fiscal reality of the Georgia State Archives as this institution has been cut by the Governor to 3 staff members and public openings only upon request; Jo mentioned that its State Preservation Office has also been cut significantly.

B. Archival Certificate of Excellence Award Nominations.

The Board then discussed and voted upon the three *Archival Excellence Award* nominations: Amy Carney and Lee Poleske from the Seward Community Library Museum and their *Bits of History*; Pennelope Goforth for *Bringing Aleutian History Home: the Lost Ledgers of the Alaska Commercial Company 1875-1897* project; and, Robyn Dexter and Al-Amin Smith for their milestone project to convert over two hundred paper-based finding aids into electronic formats, suitable for the National Archives' Online Public Access (OPA) catalog. The Board felt that all three nominations were of very high quality and previously developed archival award criteria was used as a guide to conduct the evaluation. After discussion, however, there was unanimous agreement to present the *Award* to Amy Carney and Lee Poleske in the innovative project or online exhibit/public event category for their *Bits of History* videos. These 5-7 minute productions are up on *Youtube*; Dean played a short segment from one of them. The ASHRAB received a comprehensive nomination letter from Patricia Linville, Library Director, explaining the project. Ten of the 41 videos were completed this past year. Judy mentioned that the videos were very accurate, interesting, focused, accessible, and specific; and, reached the appropriate audience. Jo remarked

and Megan confirmed that the series usage of archival records, photos, and newspapers was very important and complied with the *Award* criteria. Bruce mentioned that this was really local history at its best. Zach thought it was great to see a local historical society doing this kind of work--technology cutting through the generational divide, connecting two generations. Laura mentioned the smartphone applicability. Gladi liked the reference to the original source documents used. Bruce felt this finished product was deserving of our support. LaRue agreed and felt the younger generation would be well served. Dean said he would contact Amy and Lee and have two *Award* plaques sent to them, which will be underwritten by the Division of Libraries Archives & Museums. He also will send *Letters of Recognition* to Penelope Goforth, Robyn Dexter and Al-Amin Smith in honour of their efforts and issue a *Press Release* through the Department of Education & Early Development Office of the Commissioner.

C. State & National Archives Partnership Grants.

Dean provided an overview of SNAP grant project 2013 activities. The plan for April or May is to conduct archival training for one day in Anchorage in the Alaska State Library or UAA. A minimum of 10-12 interested individuals would be trained by ASHRAB members. The training content would be similar to the training conducted last year in Anchorage with Dr. Laura Millar. A relevant question asked was, *Should ASHRAB offer training at this time in light of having just done it?* Dean said that just 3 individuals were on the wait-list from last May. Another question discussed, *Should the training be offered in Anchorage? Should a Southeast or Fairbanks venue be used?* Megan added that UAA had just conducted similar basic archival/scanning training and that we were probably tapping the same folks. Megan said going elsewhere might be good. Dean thought perhaps we had saturated the market. He mentioned that the project plan is to train in a Bush area (Barrow) in Spring 2014 and ten \$1,000 scholarships will be available. In 2014 the ASHRAB also plans to implement a consulting archivist program supported by staff at the State Archives, UAA, UAF and Sealaska Heritage Institute. A *Basic Archives Manual* for small Alaska archives will also be crafted. Jo mentioned that it is important to get a date which falls before the summer tourism season. Zach mentioned before subsistence activities are initiated. The timing and advance notification are important. The idea of tagging on to a destination conference was proffered. Dean will check with Steve Henrickson with the State Museum to follow up this idea and get a training plan together. Perhaps as part of this analysis an information questionnaire could be distributed statewide. Zach, Bruce, Megan, Larry Hibpshman and Dean have been asked to serve as trainers.

LaRue asked about Alaska Federation of Natives outreach and said that natives/villages have a lot of archival material that may need to be transferred to a depository at some point. Dean mentioned the ASHRAB brochure can be distributed if someone is attending a statewide event and to let him know if anyone needs copies. Bruce said NARA went to AFN in Anchorage several years ago and that there is potential there. There was discussion regarding Native/cultural centers that wish to capture their own archives to document their history. It was offered that presenting a workshop about *why records are*

important would be a very significant issue. Zach said that federal recognized tribal organizations, the AFN, and ANB records are a matter of concern, and may be ready made venues for further outreach. Educating the regional corporations and attending annual meetings would be valuable.

D. Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litigation Records Project Presentation.

Sara Bornstein, archivist with the Alaska State Archives, presented a slideshow depicting her progress on this NHPRC funded project. She mentioned that the spill caused five years of litigation 1989 – 1993 and produced a case file of approximately 8 million pages. The State Archives currently houses 3,523 boxes of information related to the case. She shared the work of the Oversight Task Force; how she and project director Larry Hibpshman determined which records to dispose and keep (a criteria for material disposal); how confidential records were addressed; and, the creation of digital records. She discussed the types of files contained within the boxes and lessons learned. She mentioned that she has moved on to a new position within the SLAM but that someone else will be hired soon for seven months to complete the project.

E. Development of an ASHRAB Logo.

Dean brought up the feasibility of an ASHRAB logo to be used on all official communications, brochures, and outreach tools. This essentially would brand our name. Judy mentioned it might be best to have a specialist or graphic designer create. Discussion items included: sometimes your logo is your name; what makes Alaska's SHRAB unique; what do we want people to think about; making the logo distinctive; spell out what ASHRAB means; what things symbolize archives; examples from other boards; use no graphics. Megan mentioned Sarah Isto. Bob Banghart said he also has some contacts. The Council of State Archivists' poster website would also present good examples. The Board agreed that having 3 or 4 selections to choose/work from would be optimal. In the next two or three months Dean will get some ideas out to the Board.

F. *Five-Year Plan.*

Dean addressed the *5-Year Plan* 2009 – 2014 and solicited any comments regarding the content or objectives/goals. This plan runs to 2014 and we will formally update the *Plan*, just amended in July 2011, later in 2013. Hearing no objections or discussion the coordinator went on to new business.

II. New/Other Business

The only new business was that the Governor's Boards & Commissions had contacted Dean about placing an additional member on the ASHRAB. Currently our *Bylaws* state *ASHRAB consists of at least nine members* so having an additional member complies with our operating framework. Boards & Commissions will let us know. Current members are encouraged to provide input regarding potential new members. Peggy Asbury's vacant position will be filled and UAF should have representation at our next meeting.

III. Next Meeting Date, Time & Location:

The date of the next ASHRAB Meeting will be determined later. The meeting concluded at 4:05 PM.