

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - DRAFT

Attendance:

John Wolff	Asa Hutton	Janet Willey
Rosemary Hutton-Taylor	Liz Ernst	Bob Fontana
Rob Logan	Norm McCleary	Carmine Boal
Madison Zirretta	Evan Albaugh	

The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM.

Agenda Review: Approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 24, 2026 board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: John Wolff, Second: Evan Albaugh, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The reports were reviewed by attendees and presented by John Wolff.

- Annual Audit was led by Rob Logan. Rosemary, Carmine, and John were in attendance. A report was generated and everything checked out successfully.
- Balance Sheet
 - The Veridian account has increased substantially due to large donation.
 - Endowment fund was reviewed. It has recovered to date, but did go down slightly.
- Profit & Loss Report was reviewed.
- Budget vs. Actuals report was reviewed.
 - Summer intern wages are almost depleted. This is on the agenda to be discussed going forward.
- Monthly Report was reviewed.
 - Our overall bank balance went up substantially.
- Midamerican utilities have increased substantially. Usage was viewed in detail. Discussion around thermostat and temperature settings were discussed as potential influences to the increase in utility cost.
 - Do we need to discuss a "plan" for setting the thermostat going forward?
 - Discussed Joe Pitts potentially monitoring the thermostat and settings.

Motion: Carmine Boal, Second: Asa Hutton, Approved.

Office Manager's Report: The office manager's report was shared.

- Reviewed donations and merchandise portions of the report.

Old Business:

A. Plaque for Lamberties

- a. The plaque is up and the program is this Sunday, May 3rd at 1PM followed by USS Iowa presentation by Jeff Lamberti. Rosemary will plan to share something at the program and check in with Joe Pitts. Carmine will bring cookies for attendees to enjoy.

B. Annual Audit:

- a. See notes above.

C. Foundation Report

- a. See additional notes above.

- b. There was a lot of volatility in the quarter. Overall, it is growing nicely. This summer will be the two year mark.

D. Committees

- a. **Bylaws:** Updated bylaws were sent out via email. A summary of the changes was also included. They will be voted on during the May meeting. Voting can be done by any AAHS member that is present at the May meeting.
- b. **Membership:** Andy Logan mentioned that he has some memberships to submit (a combination of individual and businesses). We will check on the status of these memberships.
- c. **Collections & Exhibits:**
 - i. There are two new exhibits that Liz Ernst has put together: school lunches and graduation.
 - ii. There is a calendar from Fontana Bakery, 1927, that is in pristine condition.
 - iii. From Madrid, we have a plat map of all of the houses in Oralabor. Originally, the map was in pristine condition, but has now sustained water damage and has spots of mold in the bottom, left corner. Evan recommends contacting a paper conservationist. He will report back with an estimated figure for repair and proper care going forward.
 - iv. High Bid - Evan bid on Ordnance photos and the negatives are now framed and hanging in the Ordnance section of the museum.
 - v. Inquiry: John Rolles - He was a minister here in Ankeny. His grandson is Colin Firth. An individual has reached out and wants to put together an article about Colin Firth and his connection to Ankeny.
 - vi. Wees Tees - Randy Wee would like to know if we have any artifacts that could be hung in the storefront to display the history of what used to be in that building. We have a few items that could be copied, pictures that could be copied, etc. Carmine suggested having Randy come over to the AAHS to determine what he would like to display.
 - vii. Janet Willey has an article that she would like to donate. The article is about St. Michael's, when it was built, etc. She also has the original picture of the church painting that is hanging in the AAHS basement.
- d. **Public Relations:**
 - i. Uptown Meeting is coming up soon - the meetings are quarterly. Alexa Middleton has left and now works for the City of Ankeny. The owner of West Forty Market is now fulfilling some of those responsibilities.
 - 1. Reflection of Uptown Meeting when it was held at AAHS.
 - ii. Bravo and CityView Calendars: Liz Ernst and Stephanie Lindsley have been working on adding our AAHS events to these calendars.
- e. **Programs, Tours, Open Houses:**
 - i. **Night at the Museum, June 11th**
 - 1. Asa - Henry Hutton, Evan - Miner, Athlete - NEED, Rosie the Riveter - NEED, Military - NEED, Madison - School Teacher
 - ii. **Leadership Institute Tour - June 16th @ 3:30PM:** We need a few more people to help out with this event.
 - iii. **Juneteenth Event:** This event will take place on June 20th. There have been two events. The third meeting is coming up. The structure will be a scavenger hunt (Enterprise, Oralabor, and Carney). This will include historical figures that were influential during this period of time. There is a focus of hard work, spirituality, and education. Flower seeds will be given (representing the three themes) out for completion of the scavenger hunt. Discussed the use of the class photo of individuals who attended Oralabor School and/or Ankeny. There is no longer a need for display cases.

- iv. **Summer Open Houses:** We have a non-paid intern from Iowa State University. She will be volunteering on Saturday mornings alongside Liz Ernst. We only need a few more people for some of the open houses during the summer.

f. **Nominations:** Did not discuss.

g. Sustainability & Fundraising:

- i. **Ice Cream Social:** Andy Cochran - all ice cream will be donated by HyVee. We will also ask for bottled water, sprinkles, paper products ,syrups, etc. Discussed who we could honor at the Ice Cream Social. Bob Fontana will reach out to the Pezzetti Family - we would like to honor Jerry Pezzetti at the event. We could also include Coach Sharp and Fred Smith. This event will take place at the end of August.
 - ii. **Pumpkin Sales:** Asa will continue to gather information. Evan also talked to his family about their farm land. It would be approximately 1 ½ acres if needed.
 - iii. **Cookie Sales:** Saturday, December 12th from 9AM-11AM.
- h. Housekeeping & Landscaping Committee:** Carmine provided an update around the help that Senior Service students provided on April 27th. They made great progress on the tasks - dusting, cleaning, laying mulch, etc.
- i. Major Maintenance Committee (Sprinkler System):** Rosemary is continuing to follow up on this. She is waiting to hear back from them. It is a dry system and operates differently. The company can't guarantee the system will work unless other items are taken care of, as well.

E. Centennial High School

- a. See additional notes above under "Housekeeping & Landscaping". Carmine will touch base with Stephanie to make sure a thank you note is sent to the facilitator and students.
- b. Reflected on how we could refine the presentation and event in the future. Bob Fontana will get in touch with some of the teachers to get feedback, as well.

F. Trivia Night at Uptown Garage: Bob was working on this with Alexa, but she is no longer working for Uptown. This will be a continued conversation on how to facilitate the event and if Uptown Garage will host the event. The Clipper also started hosting trivia nights.

G. Any Remaining Old Business:

- a. **Farmland to Frontline:** We need to get this hung up. They would like to get it done this month, but the dedication won't take place until one of their upcoming events. Jenna Smith, with DRA Properties, will reach out to let us know when the dedication will take place. Rosemary has talked to Joe Pitts about getting this hung up in the barn.

New/Current Business:

A. Gene Samuelson's Donation: Discussed the generous donation that was given to AAHS. The attorney has communicated when the money will be distributed. We would also like to send thank you notes to his family/children. Discussed giving the Samuelson children an honorary membership to AAHS.

B. Summer Newsletter - End of May?

- a. Rosemary would like to have this out by the end of May.

C. Hiring a Part-Time Collections/Exhibit Person: Rosemary would like to put together a proposal to hire Liz Ernst for some hours so she can do collections, exhibits, etc.

D. Any Remaining New Business

Miscellaneous Notes:

- Electronic Display Sign - Potentially use the \$50K donation towards this. Rosemary will work on getting estimates and more information.
- 1947: Evan mentioned that there were some photos of Ankeny athletes up for auction.
- Bid on generator - this came from the same crew that fixed our lights. The bid was over \$1500. This is still a work in progress.
- Elevator: If it continues to stall, gaskets will need to be replaced. Our maintenance contract will need to be reviewed. Rosemary will continue to gather information around this.
- October: The Iowa Museum Association will have a convention at Reiman Gardens. Rosemary would like some of us to attend.
- July Program: Dave will facilitate a program called the Spirit of '76: Five Voices of the Revolution.
- Oralabor School House: Stay tuned to hear more plans about the upcoming work with this project.

End Time: The meeting ended at 8:26PM.

Motion to adjourn by Madison Zirretta, Second: Rob Logan. Approved.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Madison Fontana Zirretta