

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2026 – DRAFT

Attendance:

Madison Zirretta	John Wolff	Janet Willey
Renee Heberer	Asa Hutton	Carmine Boal
Norm McCleary	Rosemary Hutton Taylor	Dave Baker
Bob Fontana	Liz Ernst	Joe Pitts

The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM.

Agenda Review: Approved. No additions to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the August 25, 2026 board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Renee Heberer, Second: Bob Fontana, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The reports were reviewed by John Wolff at tonight's meeting.

- 2027 Budget: If you have any recommendations, please get them to John Wolff. He will send out a copy of the 2026 budget to reference. The budget will be in the works over the next month and proposed at the October meeting.
- Balance Sheet: The balance sheet was reviewed in detail. John also discussed visiting with Green State the next time he goes in to request they renew/begin a membership. Veridian is also not a current member.
- Profit & Loss: We discussed the amount received from the Class of 1963 for the Memorial Bench. We also reviewed the income from the Ice Cream Social. There were no unusual expenses, so a profit was notable. The Profit Loss Detail report was also shared. Interest on our money market account was reviewed.
- Budget vs. Actuals: This report was also reviewed at the meeting. The amount that was spent on the Memorial Bench and materials for the Class of 1963 was discussed. The amount spent was larger than the donation received. An expense was noted for generic business cards for AAHS, as well.

Motion: Dave Baker, Second: Asa Hutton, Approved.

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

- Donations and membership activity were reviewed.

Liz Ernst – Presentation

- Display Tags:** The tags now have a front and back side. Interns worked this summer to make the tags visually appealing to guests.
- Item Feature Cards:** One card per display which is paired with an artifact that the museum currently has.
- New Displays:** School Lunch, Graduation, Telecommunications, Retro-Technology; Also refreshing some of our current displays, as well as making Display Guides. The guides would guide any future setup of displays.
- Social Media:** Instagram is doing well. Facebook is where we are gaining the most engagement. AAHS is partnering with the Uptown Ankeny marketing director. Rosemary and Liz met with the director to brainstorm ways we can partner.
- Opportunities to Help:** Help is needed for setting up display, going through artifacts, brainstorming ways to rearrange/display artifacts, and looking for individuals who are willing to be interviewed and/or photographed. Dave mentioned knowing a WWII veteran and will reach out to him to inquire if he is willing to be interviewed and/or photographed. Renee and Janet also mentioned knowing of veterans that they could reach out to if it would be of any help in enhancing the current display. Liz also mentioned encouraging the board members to share their ideas for what to post on social media.
- Public Engagement Form:** Our intern, Josie, worked on this during the summer. We have one person who have filled it out. The questions included in the form should help us gather feedback.
- Materials Wishlist:** This list was put together so that donors know what their monetary donations are going toward. The items on the wishlist are primarily for the Collections Department (scanner, gloves, tools, etc.).

Old Business:

H. Gene Samuelson's Donation – Electronic Sign

- a. The goal is for the sign to arrive in October. The current sign should not be taken down until we get the go ahead from Rosemary.
- b. Stephanie and Liz will be trained on how to program the sign.
- c. The brick is on the south side of the barn and ready to go. The mortar will be mixed by hand. Joe will oversee this process.

I. Donation by AHS Class of 1963

- a. Don Madole reached out to Bob Fontana, and it was explained that we are at the expense of the school district waiting for the concrete to be poured for the bench. Bob will reach out to Mark Moss to get an update on when the concrete can be poured. It was mentioned that if we don't get anywhere with the school district that we could reach out to the Huber family to see if they could help or if they have any connections.
- b. The cash donation and "document" was given to Bob and turned in. Don wants to know how many 1963 individuals are members and/or new members.
- c. Asa finished putting together the bench.

J. Committees

- a. **Membership:** Bob Fontana will take membership forms to Don Madole to try and round up more members from the Class of 1963..
- b. **Collections & Exhibits:**
 - i. See the notes above from Liz's presentation.
 - ii. We are working on decorating the house for Champagne & Mistletoe. This date will be communicated once it's determined. Rosemary reached out to Uptown Ankeny to confirm if the museum/barn will be the stop for the carriage and horses. We have not heard back on this yet. The event will take place on November 13th.
- c. **Public Relations – Uptown Meeting**
 - i. Newsletter may be the biggest edition we have had. Stephanie has been working hard on it. She is also writing a grant. Some items will be pushed to the next newsletter for content.
 - ii. Uptown Meeting: The meeting took place last week and was not communicated to the AAHS board accurately. The highlights of the Uptown Meeting were shared via email. Bob Fontana reviewed these highlights at the meeting this evening. Some of these highlights were about upcoming events (Pumpkins & Pints, Winter Wonderlights, etc.).
 1. We will communicate with Stephanie that if anything from Uptown Ankeny is sent via email, that it should be sent to board members in the future. Bob and Asa will continue to be the AAHS representatives.
 - iii. Social Media: See updates above from Liz's presentation. Uptown Ankeny has been a huge help in promoting AAHS!
- d. **Programs/Tours/Open Houses**
 - i. Beginning October 4th and November 1st , Open House will run from 2-4PM.
 - ii. Corn & Khrushev presentation took place last week. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. The speaker was Liz Garst from Humanities of Iowa.
 - iii. Upcoming Programs:
 1. **Ghost Towns – Dave Baker on 10/4**
 2. **Trunk or Treat in Uptown on 10/8** (Chairperson: Asa, Helpers: Dave, Janet, Renee)
 - a. AAHS to spend \$100 on candy. *Motion: Asa Hutton, Second: Dave Baker, Approved.*
 - b. Asa will ask Stephanie to send out communication about other members donating candy.
 - c. Hand out business cards and/or membership forms at Trunk or Treat.
 3. **Pumpkins & Pints on 10/24, 5-9PM:** We discussed the pros and cons of this event, and what value our participation in the event may look like. The board discussed opting out of this event for the 2026 year.
 - a. AAHS will not participate in Pumpkins & Pints for the 2026 year. *Motion: Carmine Boal, Second: Dave Baker, Approved.*
 4. **DAR Finding Your Patriot – Karla Wright & Karla Kasper on 11/1 (1-2PM)**
 5. **Champagne & Mistletoe on 11/13** (get clarity around the date, Uptown website states various dates)

e. Sustainability & Fundraising:

- i. **Pumpkin Sales:** Discussed an update on the pumpkins. Bob and Rob are also helping to pick pumpkins this year, as well as some of the Fontana boys.
- ii. **Cookie Sales:** Date confirmed and the location will be in the barn. The event will be on Saturday, December 12th. The advertisement has been put together and Stephanie is putting it in the newsletter.

f. Housekeeping & Landscaping Committee: Carmine, Joe, and JoAnn are meeting with Friedrich this coming week to discuss landscaping needs. The team plans to get an estimate before making any decisions.

g. Major Maintenance Committee:

- i. No items reported.

K. Silver Cord Projects: Carmine was able to get in touch with someone at the high school regarding Silver Cord hours. We discussed using the online platform going forward (SchoolLinks).

L. Donations: See the notes above from Liz Ernst's presentation. There is a specific portion of the presentation that is a "Materials Wishlist".

M. Iowa Museum Conference: The dates are October 18th–20th in Ames. Rosemary, Liz, Dave, and Evan will be attending. Carmine expressed interest in attending a portion of the conference.

New/Current Business:

A. Central Iowa Historical Alliance Quarterly Meeting: Rose met with the group last week. We will be hosting them in January. The group will tour the museum followed by a roundtable discussion after the tour.

B. 2027 Committees: A sign up sheet was sent around for board members to sign up for a committee.

C. Grants:

- a. Bravo 2027: Stephanie has been working on this. Rose and Stephanie will review it on 9/23/26 before submitting the final grant.
- b. Polk County Betterment Grant 2027 (Idea: Flooring in the basement)

Miscellaneous Notes:

- Carmine shared "Stumble Stones" that marked historical areas of importance that she learned about during her trip to Europe. We discussed what that could look like in Ankeny. Dave Baker mentioned doing some research to start digging into this type of project.
- Thank you notes from the Smith Family and Pezzetti Family were shared regarding their recognition at the Ice Cream Social. The Ankeny Fanatic article was also discussed.
- Vern Herring Interview – This can be included in the next edition of our newsletter.

End Time: The meeting ended at 7:50PM.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Baker, Second: Renee Heberer. Approved.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Madison Fontana Zirretta