

Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board

MINUTES

August 20, 2025 | 2:00pm | Louisiana State Archives Gallery

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

II. Roll Call

Present: Christina Bryant, Angelique Bergeron, Dr. Edward Benoit, Debbie Henton, Ann Boltin, Melanie Montanaro, Amy Moran, Catherine Newsome, Gail Wilking, and Jennifer Waxman

Not Present: Zach Tompkins, Debbie Hudnall, Meg Placke, and Zack Stein

Others Present: Ashley D. Simmons

III. Order of Business

1. Melanie Montanaro welcomed two new Board Members: Gail Wilking and Ann Boltin
2. **Approval of Agenda** - On motion of Gail Wilking and seconded by Debbie Henton, the board approved the agenda. **Motion Passed.**
3. **Approval of Minutes** – On motion of Catherine Newsome, seconded by Melanie Montanaro the board approved the minutes. **Motion Passed.**
4. **Bylaws Review**

- a. Articles Three and Four

Amy Moran presented the most recent draft of the Bylaws, noting there was still a disagreement on which gender pronouns (“he”, “s/he”, or “they”) to use in “Article III. Membership” and “Article IV. Officers” of the bylaws. Catherine Newsome recommended “him/he” be used in order to be consistent with established legal practice and the language of the statutes, which dictate the membership of the Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board and the responsibilities of its officers. Amy Moran read an excerpt from La. Civil Code Art. 3506, which stated the masculine gender is understood to include both men and women. However, other members of the Board felt “they/them” was correct. Upon further discussion, it was recommended to cite R.S. 44:501-503.

On motion of Jennifer Waxman and seconded by Melanie Montanaro, to amend the Bylaws gender language to cite the statutes as written in R.S. 44:501-503. Dr. Edward Benoit requested a roll call vote. Roll call vote: Gail Wilking – Y, Christina Bryant – Y, Dr. Ed Benoit – N, Angelique Bergeron – Y, Debbie Henton – Y, Ann Boltin – Y, Melanie Montanaro – Y, Amy Moran – Y, Catherine Newsome – Y, and Jennifer Waxman – Y. **Motion passed: 9 – Yes, 1 – No.**

- b. Article Six

Amy Moran read the changes to the definition of “records” that had been made to the bylaws since the last draft. The definition was edited to follow more closely the definitions of records stated in La. R.S. 44:401-402. After discussion, it was decided the following words would be added to the definition: “including electronically stored information.”

Catherine Newsome made a request to suspend the oral reading of the Bylaws. On motion of Debbie Henton and seconded by Melanie Montanaro the board voted to suspend the reading of the Bylaws. **Motion passed.**

Catherine Newsome recommended the updated draft of the Bylaws be circulated via email with notice to add to the next meeting agenda the voting of the bylaws. On motion of Catherine Newsome, and seconded by Gail Wilking, the board voted to accept the recommendation. **Motion passed.**

5. Federal Funding Open Discussion

- a. Dr. Ed Benoit noted that his application for an IMLS funding grant has made the short list.
- b. The Mellon Foundation is still supporting grants for the Humanities.
- c. NHPRC gives a \$10,000 grant to SHRABS for strategic planning.
 - i. Amy Moran noted that the LHRAB needs to create a strategic plan, which led to discussion of creating a subcommittee to write the plan. Several of the Board members volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

On motion of Melanie Montanaro and seconded by Debbie Henton, the Board approved to create a subcommittee on strategic planning with Amy Moran as Chair. Dr. Ed Benoit, Jennifer Waxman, and Angelique Bergeron will also serve on the committee. **Motion passed.**

6. Items for Discussion

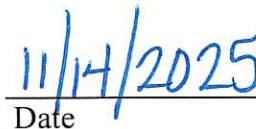
- a. The Board took this opportunity to introduce themselves to new board members Gail Wilking and Ann Boltin.
- b. Dr. Ed Benoit reminded everyone of the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina in August.

IV. Adjournment

On motion of Melanie Montanaro, and seconded by Catherine Newsome, the Board voted to adjourn at 3:41 pm. **Motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025 at 2:00pm.


Catherine Newsome, Chairman


Date