

Advisory Board of the Louisiana State Archives

MINUTES

August 20, 2025 | 1:00pm | Louisiana State Archives Admin Conference Room

I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm

II. **Roll Call**

Present: Catherine Newsome, Ann Boltin, Melanie Montanaro, Brandon Abadie, Amanda Gross-Thies, Faye Phillips, Amy Louviere, and Doug Harrison

Not Present: Dr. Robert René

Others Present: Ashley D. Simmons

III. **Order of Business**

1. **Approval of Agenda** - On motion of Ann Boltin and seconded by Melanie Montanaro, the board approved the agenda. **Motion Passed.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – On motion of Doug Harrison, seconded by Faye Phillips the board approved the May 8, 2025 minutes. **Motion Passed**
3. **Update from the Louisiana State Archives – Melanie Montanaro**
 - a. The Southeastern Archives and Records Conference will take place October 19 -21, 2025
 - b. The Archives Open House is scheduled for October 22, 2025
 - c. The roofing project is complete.
 - d. The backflow preventer was installed last week.
 - e. Archives is in the process of hiring for 5 positions.
 - f. The upcoming exhibit in the Louisiana room will showcase Louisiana based photography.
 - g. The River Road show is currently exhibiting their artwork in the gallery.
 - h. Melanie Montanaro, Brad France, and Amy Moran traveling to Salt Lake City for the COSA Conference
 - i. Melanie Montanaro has been elected to serve on the Board of Council of State Archivists
 - j. The Gala is tentatively scheduled for March 7, 2026, we are just beginning the planning phase
 - k. Ancestry has completed the vital records project.
4. **Update from Friends of the Louisiana State Archives**
 - a. The Friends Annual meeting has been rescheduled for November 12, 2025.
 - b. The Friends are in the process of creating a set of Bylaws and will be changing the dues year, so dues reminders have not been sent out at this time.
 - c. The FLSA is working with the Friends of the Old State Capitol on a speaker series about the various ethnic groups and cultures that have settled in Louisiana, about why they came here, how they came here, and how they have affected Louisiana culture.
 - d. The Friends have made a \$3,500 donation to support the upcoming Southeastern Archives and Records Conference at the Archives.

5. **Other Programs/Discussion**

- a. Ann Boltin stated that Georgetown University is sponsoring the Catholic Religious Organizations Studying Slavery (CROSS) in October for dioceses and religious archives.
- b. Ann Boltin was recently a guest speaker at the Baton Rouge Library for their genealogy symposium: *The Paper Trail: Uncovering Ancestors in Non-Digital Records*. She and Melanie noted that Dan Lewis and Bill Stafford also presented on behalf of the Archives.

6. Call for Items of Discussion

Ashley Simmons announced the next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025.

However, several members noted they would not be available, and we would likely not have a quorum. Ashley Simmons offered to move the meeting to October 29, 2025.

On motion of Amy Louviere, seconded by Doug Harrison, the board rescheduled the next meeting for October 29, 2025, at 1:00 pm. **Motion Passed**

IV. Adjournment

On motion of Melanie Montanaro, and seconded by Amy Louviere, the Board voted to adjourn at 3:45 pm. **Motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2025 at 1:00pm.

	<u>10/29/2025</u>
Ann Boltin, Chairman	Date