

Advisory Board for the Louisiana State Archives

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

May 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Welcome: First Assistant Nancy Landry called the meeting to order and welcomed the members.
2. Roll Call: Catherine Newsome called roll. Members in attendance: Nancy Landry, Catherine Newsome, Doug Harrison, Ann Boltin, Faye Phillips, and Brandon Abadie.
3. Old Business: Catherine Newsome
 - a. Oath of Office Submission
 - i. Only one oath still needs to be turned in and Catherine will follow up with that individual.
 - b. Election of Officers – at the last meeting the following officers were elected
 - i. Chairman - Faye Phillips
 - ii. Vice Chairman - Linda Lightfoot
4. New Business: Faye Phillips
 - a. Review and Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - i. Doug/Brandon moved and seconded to approve the minutes and a vote was taken with no opposition.
 - b. Updates
 - i. Louisiana State Archives – Catherine announced that, with the most recent update from the Governor, the Archives is now able to be open fully to the public, albeit with a mask requirement still in place. Public functions may now resume. A tour from the Ruston Chamber of Commerce came through the Archives this week. Additionally, the pressure-washing of the Archives building has been completed and the lobby floors have been stripped, cleaned and resealed. Lastly, legislation of note for the Archives is moving through the appropriate Senate and House committees. SB74 provides for the disposition of abandoned property deposited at the state archives and SB146 provides for clarification within the public records laws as it relates to state agencies and retention of records.
 - ii. Friends of the Louisiana State Archives – Catherine, on Linda’s behalf, reported that the Friends will hold their first in-person meeting at the Archives on May 19 at 9 am. Catherine will update them on activities at the Archives through the pandemic. The function of the Friends group was explained to the Advisory board members and members were encouraged to learn more and join.
 - c. 1921 program – in Linda’s absence, Faye informed the board that Linda has spearheaded a program to be hosted jointly by the Friends of the Archives and the Friends of the Old State Capitol in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution. A program

will be held on July 21, 2021, with refreshments at 5:30 pm and speaker Kevin Harrell from the Historic New Orleans Collection at 6 pm.

- d. Future Meetings (Quarterly - February, May, August and November)
 - i. A suggestion to have the meetings set for the second Thursday was proposed and approved, though the November meeting this year will need to be moved to another day because of the Veteran's Day holiday.
 - ii. The next meeting will be held at the Archives on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 1 pm.
 - e. Items to Add to Future Agenda – members were encouraged to send items for future agendas to Catherine.
 - f. Other Projects/Programs – Catherine mentioned that 2026 is the 250th Anniversary of the United States and she is already seeing talk of this among state archives and the National Archives. It may be good to begin thinking about ways in which we can plan for participating in this celebration, particularly if the governor should create a statewide commission to coordinate efforts.
 - g. Call for Items of Discussion – no additional items were raised.
5. Adjournment: Nancy closed the meeting with a motion and second by Doug and Brandon and the meeting adjourned without opposition.