



Annual Membership Meeting (Hybrid)

Minutes

March 26, 2026, 6:00 – 6:45 pm

Welcome – Brian Arrington, President, Board of Directors

- Introductions were made and the agenda presented. Mr. Arrington shared that he is excited for the times ahead. It is good to see faces departing and new faces.

Insights on the Flattop House – Ray Smith, Oak Ridge City Historian, with Louise Presley

- Ray Smith, Oak Ridge City Historian, shared that he is glad to be here tonight. Mr. Smith shared that Jacob Simpson, who is currently located in Bowman, North Dakota, conducted research on the Flattop House currently located at the museum. The history of the Flattop House was reviewed with guests.
- Louise Presley shared stories about the Presley family, the first occupants of the house. Louise's late husband, Bob, lived in the house when he was a child. When the house moved to AMSE, Louise discovered that this house had been Bob Presley's childhood home. Louise had found a wooden toolbox Bob had kept for years, which originally was a shipping box for encyclopedias. On the end of the box was a mailing address: 68 Outer Drive, this house's original address.
- The Presley's were a military family. The father suffered from a bout of tuberculosis prior to living in Oak Ridge. The family relocated when their Flattop House was scheduled to be taken down for the construction of Title 57 housing. It was sold at government auction. Bob Presley used to say that he and Abraham Lincoln both have their childhood homes in museums.

2025 Annual Report and a Look Ahead – Beth Shea, Executive Director

- Mrs. Shea reviewed the 2025 Annual Report. Mrs. Shea thanked the museum staff and the impact they have on the museum's success. Mrs. Shea introduced museum staff and their roles within the museum.
- 2025: Two major projects took place:
 - Flattop House: The Flattop House is in need of volunteers. Volunteers need to be a minimum of 16 years old. The museum staff will work with volunteers to educate them on the role. More information and a volunteer application can be found on the museum website.

- Parking Lot Improvements: The back parking lot was repaved and the front lot was sealed and striped with a state grant.
- The Museum’s Education Department launched 3 new family events.
 - Hands-on History Day
 - STEAM Day
 - Creative Kids Fest
- Plans for 2026 include:
 - Restroom plumbing improvements funded by a state grant (recently completed).
 - Continuation of the Museum’s America 250 celebration that includes a poetry contest, a family history event, and a fall tree planting.
 - Drafting of the Museum’s next Strategic Plan.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members – Brian Arrington

- Mr. Arrington recognized two board members who are rolling off the board. Certificates of appreciation were handed out to Millicent Humphrey and Brian Sams.

Introduction of New Board Members – Brian Arrington

- New board members were introduced and backgrounds shared.
 - Joseph Bell, Becky Caponetti, Erin Collins, James Davis, and Jennifer Stowe

Election of New Board Members – Brian Arrington

Motion: Brian Sams

Second: Amanda Sutton

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved

Closing Remarks – Brian Arrington

Meeting concluded at 7:00 p.m.