

Historical Society Trustee Update  
Ben Jones, Director and State Historian  
12 September 2024

The search for a full-time Preservation Officer continues. We now have candidate application materials with the Governor's staff for her consideration.

Along with Dedra Birzer, Kevin Larsen, Jamie Hageman and staff from the Dept of Education, I was one of the guides on the Educator Road Trip in July. As I was on the central route, we took the teachers to visit the SD Supreme Court, heard from the Secretary of State, toured the capitol (including the dome), the House and Senate chambers, and a Scavenger Hunt on the Trail of Governors. We also visited museums in Fort Pierre, the Verendrye site, Oahe Chapel and Dam, Sutton Ranch, and the SD Hall of Fame, and the Akta Lakota Museum in Chamberlain. While this was occurring busses with teachers followed routes in eastern SD based in Brookings and western SD based in Rapid City. The teachers then spent a day developing their ideas and designing lesson plans. Along with the History and Civics Summit this June and last June, these efforts are being done to support educators with implementation for the new social studies standards starting the 2025-26 school year.

The subcommittee on the Deadwood Grant met and we walked through the administrative rules that guide the scoring process. I appreciated the chance to walk through all that with the Trustees' subcommittee.

Cassie and her team continue to work with West River History Conference for the 2025 Annual Conference.

The Museum report mentions the exhibit being designed for the 100<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. We are also considering a modest book length publication of previously published work by the Legislature and starting an oral history program similar to the current oral history program being done with support of SDPB. More to follow...

We are looking to move back into the newly renovated spaces starting Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The offices and renovated spaces will be having new furniture installed by the time of this meeting, if all goes according to plan. As David states in the Museum report, design work continues on the museum and a myriad of things are being done to stay on track to start the build out in mid-2025. We look to have the new lobby, the new education space, and the new storage annex completed by late October. We are hoping to have researchers back in the Archives by the end of the year. We plan to re-open the museum in late 2025.