
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Caitlin Rumery*, Ronda Frazier, Heather Thorwald, Kat Olance, Isabel Tovar, Stephanie Gilmore, Britt Scholnick, Amelia Dall, Katie Conrad, Amy Nilius, Robert Henning

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by President Jessica Brunecky. Roll call and greetings.

Approval of minutes. *Approval of minutes from 01.25.20 will be conducted via email after this meeting so everyone has time to look them over. An email to vote minutes in was sent to the board on Monday, 03.09.20. Laura Browarny motioned to approve, Jessica Brunecky seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

OFFICER'S REPORTS: PRESIDENT: Jessica Brunecky reported: See nominations and new business below.

VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

SECRETARY: Alexis Grieve: Nothing to report.

TREASURER: Caitlin Rumery reported: Below is the treasury budget report:
## Operating Expenses

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<th>Remaining</th>
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**Total Revenue:**  
$25,165.90  
$2,841.48

**Expenses:**  
$38,912.00  
$4,958.03

**Balance Revenue vs. Expenses:**  
($10,746.20)  
($2,113.55)

### Assets:

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**Total Assets:**  
$50,222.64

Respectfully Submitted:

Caitlin Rumery
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM LEADER: Jessica Brunecky reported: See nominations below.

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Ronda Frazier reported: Nothing to report.

NOMINATIONS: Jessica Brunecky reported: We do have a potential new board member who may fill the Academic Liaison position. Her name is Jeanine Peterson-Guzman. We will obtain her details and add her to the board list if she wants to commit to the role. We still have several positions open at this time which will need to be filled at the annual meeting. In addition to the role of Vice President, we will need to fill the Co-op position, the Wyoming State Representative position once John Woodward roles off and the Archivist position. We need to consider a space-saving option for the Archivist so that the person in that position does not have to house the records themselves. We can ask MPMA how they handle their records and archives and look at budgeting for a space to rent to house them.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Heather Thorwald reported: The membership report is below.

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Active Member Total 250

Overall, numbers are holding steady. The two-tier institutional pricing system has been in place for nearly two years, so we’re almost done transitioning all memberships (including two-year memberships) to the two categories (under or over $50K).
ANNUAL MEETING TEAM LEADER REPORT: Laura Browarny reported: Annual Meeting Chair Report: Future Meetings

- 2021 Colorado Springs – Working on creating full Annual Meeting Committee
- 2022 Rawlins?

2020 Annual Meeting Program

- See attached Schedule
- Program is currently in design phase
- Working on finalizing menus for meals
- Question on Welcome Reception Food
- Music performance during Business lunch
- Conference bags
- Visit Alamosa vs. Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame
- Need help with silent auction
- Hotel fee was lowered to $89/night
- Need to reserve room for Keynote (Caitlin?)

Local Arrangements

- Special Events license for Alamosa Rec Center
- DIY Choose your own adventure trips
- Transportation between hotel and ASU for those that need it
- Transportation for Peer Assessor site visit Saturday (where are they going?)

Scholarships

- We have gotten 3 applications
- Katie Ross will be forwarding them to me and we will both review

The ladies who were guaranteed spots from last year did not apply

Annual Meeting Registration Update/Vendors and Sponsorships

- 42 people currently registered
- 3 vendors
- 2 Thought Café Sponsors ($300 each)

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS 2020: Laura Browarny with Kat Olance reported: We will have pizza for the opening reception at the brewery. There is the possibility of a Traditional Mexican Dance Troupe performing, but let’s vet that to make sure it is appropriate.
If so, they can perform during the business lunch. Ken from the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs will print up bags and hand them out at the business lunch. Carrissa may want to help again on the silent auction and Katie Ross and Tina Hill have also volunteered. Geoff Hunt will be the auctioneer. The hotel has reduced its nightly rates to $89.00 per night. The progressive dinner will be held at Ft. Garland and we are still working on buses for some of the evening events.

PROGRAM CHAIRS: Laura Browarny reported: See full conference schedule below.

Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums 2020 Annual Meeting: (re)Discovering Your Communities

Alamosa, Colorado

WELCOME

Cradled between the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountains at the headwaters of the Rio Grande, lies the San Luis Valley. This vastness, coupled with a diversity of geologic and geographic features ranging from lush river bottoms to an inland ocean of sand to craggy summits reaching elevations over 14,000 feet, has enticed and enthralled people since the times of Ice Age hunters.

A cavalcade of characters, some famous, some infamous and some downright notorious, have stepped across this landscape. de Vargas, de Anza, Pike, Frémont, Carson, Gunnison, Tobin, Masterson, Soapy Smith, Bob Ford, Calamity Jane, Poker Alice, Chipeta and Ouray, Otto Mears, Alferd Packer—the names associated with San Luis Valley history read like a western epic.

The first descriptions of this homeland of nomadic hunters, including Apache, Kiowa, Navajo and Yutah (Ute) tribal people, came from Spanish governors before there was a United States. By the 1850s, Hispanic settlers from New Mexico had migrated into the Valley within land grants. These pioneers gave birth to the permanent settling of Colorado. Soon after, people from a variety of backgrounds seeking mineral wealth, free land, or frontier experiences joined the progression.

Rail towns, farm towns, and supply towns emerged as the railroad spread into the mountains and across the Valley floor. Agriculture finally became the sustaining foundation for the Valley’s economy. Today center pivots irrigate crop circles of potatoes, barley, wheat, alfalfa, plus a variety of other crops.

While much has changed within the Valley, traditional values and cultural practices still endure. Well-preserved architecture and historic downtowns evoke the past. Whatever your interests, exploring the San Luis Valley’s colorful history and vast beauty can make its legacy part of your Colorado heritage experience.

Keynote Speakers:

Eric Carpio

Deputy Community Museum Officer, Director of Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center, History Colorado, Community Museums Senior Fellow for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion; American Association of Museums

Eric Carpio is the Deputy Community Museum Officer for History Colorado and the Director of the Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center. At Fort Garland, Eric is leading an effort to craft a renewed vision for the site, centered on co-creating and elevating diverse voices through community collaboration and engagement. The museum’s work has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History award, which will bring more than seventy educators to the region in summer 2020 to explore the complex history of the American southwest through the intersection of geographic, cultural, ethnic, and religious landscapes.

In 2019, Eric was selected as one of ten Senior Fellows for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion for the American Association of Museums Facing Change initiative, which provides training, support, and resources to help museum leadership become more representative of the communities they serve.

Eric has an undergraduate degree from Colorado State University and a master’s degree from Adams State University. Eric is an alumnus of the University of Denver’s Latino Leadership Institute (LLI) and the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Social Impact Strategy (CSIS). Eric is an
avid runner and enjoys fishing, hiking, and spending time with his wife, Lia, and son, Isaiah.

Jennifer Scott

Director & Chief Curator, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum Program Faculty, Museum and Exhibition Studies Graduate Program, University of Illinois at Chicago

Jennifer Scott is an anthropologist, curator and public historian, whose work, for over 25 years, explores connections between museums, arts, place and social justice. As director and chief curator of Jane Addams Hull-House Museum in Chicago, she leads the exhibitions, community engagement efforts and overall vision of the museum. Under her leadership, Hull-House addresses historical and contemporary issues of peace, incarceration, immigration, displacement, citizenship, race, gender, sexuality and social activism through a number of ground-breaking exhibitions and programs both within and outside the museum’s walls. In 2018 Jane Addams Hull-House Museum was recognized with the Award for Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice by the Association of Midwest Museums. An arts and culture leader, Jennifer serves on many boards including the National Association of Museum Exhibition. Also a civic leader in Chicago, Jennifer was recently appointed in January 2020 by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot to the City of Chicago’s Cultural Advisory Council. Jennifer serves as faculty in the graduate program of Museum and Exhibition Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and for over 17 years has taught at The New School in New York. She teaches courses in cultural anthropology, arts and social engagement, race and ethnic studies, museum studies and global studies. Jennifer researches, writes and lectures locally and internationally on social relevancy, social justice and innovative strategies for museums.

Schedule at a Glance

**Wednesday, April 15**

4-5:30pm : CWAM Board Meeting (Square Peg Brewerks) 6-8pm : Pre-Conference Mixer (Square Peg Brewerks)

**Thursday, April 16**

8am-5pm : Registration (ASU Mall Court) 8am-6pm : Vendor Marketplace (ASU Mall Court) 11:15am-1:15pm : Thought Café (ASU Mall Court) 9am-4:15pm : Breakout Sessions (ASU SUB) 6-8pm : Welcome Reception (Fort Garland Museums and Cultural Center)

**Friday, April 17**

8-11am : Registration (Alamosa Community Recreation Center) 10-11:30am : Keynote Speakers (Alamosa Community Recreation Center) 11:30am-1pm : Business Lunch (Alamosa Community Recreation Center) 1-5pm : Vendor Marketplace (ASU Mall Court) 2-4:30pm : Workshops (Alamosa Community Recreation Center and ASU SUB) 6-9pm : Awards Banquet and Silent Auction (Alamosa Community Recreation Center)

**Saturday, April 18**

8am-1pm : Vendor Marketplace (ASU Mall Court) 8am-12pm : Breakout Sessions (ASU SUB) Conference Call 03.07.20 CWAM Board Meeting Page 4 of 15

1-2pm : Walking Tours 12:30-2pm : New/Old Board Meeting and Luncheon (Calvillos)

Thursday Breakout Sessions

9:00-10:15

*Authentic Community Engagement and Programming*

History Colorado has community-centered initiatives to develop inclusive, relevant public programming and exhibits. Participants will see strategies for fostering community engagement for a deeper understanding of local heritage and culture.

Kimberly Kronwall, Exhibits and Loan Registrar, History Colorado Isabel Tovar, NAGPRA Liaison & Assistant Curator of Archaeology and Ethnography History Colorado Eric Carpio, Deputy Community Museum Officer, Director of Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center, Community
Interpreting the Borderlands: Strategies for Community Museums

This session will introduce the borderlands as a narrative device to explore the themes of diversity and intercultural exchange as they apply to the development of artifact collections and museum exhibits.

Nick Saenz, Associate Professor of History, Adams State University

Apply Stronger: Resumes and Cover Letters

You're hired! Getting a job is a challenge faced by individuals just starting out in the museum field, as well as seasoned professionals. Learn concrete and practical tips to polish your resume and cover letter to get a seat at the interview table.

Caitlin Rumery, Assistant Registrar/Traveling Exhibitions, Denver Art Museum
Christina Cain, Anthropology Collections Manager, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

10:30-11:45

Apply Stronger: Interviews and Portfolios

You're hired! Your resume earned you an interview, but the interview is what will get you the job. Learn the important skills to take an interview to a job offer. We will also discuss how to make an online portfolio to strengthen your application.

Caitlin Rumery, Assistant Registrar/Traveling Exhibitions, Denver Art Museum
Christina Cain, Anthropology Collections Manager, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

How National Heritage Areas and Museums Can Work Together

Heritage areas and museums work to preserve and interpret history, traditions, culture, and heritage. How we can work collaboratively and what heritage areas can offer. Join representatives from Colorado’s three National Heritage Areas to hear how they support their museum communities.

Julie Chacon, Executive Director Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
Kathleen Benedict, Executive Director Cache la Poudre National Heritage Area
Andy Spencer, Executive Director South Park National Heritage Area
Alex Hernandez, NPS NHA Regional Coordinator

Trash Talk

What do you do when you have to move 45,000 objects back to onsite storage? Start thinking about what you're going to do with all of those packing materials! This session will discuss reducing and reusing materials in collections management, as well as how to start conversations about environmentalism and forge community partnerships. It will also cover the recyclability of various commonly used materials and where to take them.

Stefani S. Pendergast, Associate Collections Manager, Denver Art Museum

11:15-1:15

Thought Café

This year’s Thought Café is jammed packed with new research, community outreach, and opportunities to network with your communities! Join us for a fun and engaging session with representatives from local, regional, and national organizations. See below for just a few of our Thought Café presenters.

AAM EdCom Task Force: Should AAM develop and adopt an education-related Core Document?

In 2018, AAM directed EdCom to establish a Task Force to explore the need for, and potential components of and education-related core document
for AAM’s Continuum of Excellence. To date, the Task Force conducted a field-wide survey, collected sample documents, and conducted a literature review. During the Thought Café, a member of the Task Force will seek audience feedback on the findings of the survey, the analysis of the documents, and the proposed recommendations for AAM.

2020 Census Create-a-thon

The results of the census will determine how political representation and billions in federal funding for schools, roads, hospitals and more are distributed across the U.S.

Some communities could miss out on their fair share. LGBTQ communities, people of color, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, rural communities, people with low incomes, renters, single-parent households, people with limited English proficiency, and young children are hard to count. But we can help change that. During the Thought Café, connect with a diverse group of talented people and collaboratively generate digital media and compelling messages that spread awareness about the 2020 census. By sharing content through organizations trusted by the communities they serve, we motivate people to participate in the 2020 Census through messages and messengers that resonate at a deep level.

Mountain States Art Conservation: Identification of and Care of Hazardous Collections

1) Overview of heavy metal pesticides (i.e. arsenic, mercury) and additional hazards (i.e. lead, chromium) found in cultural collections. 2) How to identify potentially contamination collections. How to test for contamination. 3) Discuss the health risks of exposure. 4) Provide safe handling and storage guidelines. 5) Establish institutional protocol for exhibit, loan, research, etc. of contaminated artifacts. 6) Learn about opportunities to attend informative workshops!

History Colorado: The Rocky Mountain Center for Preservation

History Colorado is proud to announce the opening of the Rocky Mountain Center for Preservation, a dynamic education center overseeing preservation education programs across Colorado. The Center is a community-engaged educational resource for training in preservation and its trades. Anecdotal evidence highlights a skills gap, as those within the historic preservation trades are aging out and dwindling in number. Providing hands-on, trade skills training is a first step to ensuring a preservation trades workforce of the future.

This type of information sharing session will allow for discussion and brain-storming about other types of education opportunities that will benefit CWAM members and communities. Representatives from the Rocky Mountain Center for Preservation will use this time to informally learn about the specific needs of CWAM member organizations and how The Center might partner with them to provide workshops and educational opportunities in the future.

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History: Collections Managers and Visiting Researchers

One important interaction that takes place within museums is the successful collaboration between collections managers and visiting researchers. How do students aspiring for either career learn the protocols and etiquette for this critical interaction? As emerging museum professionals, we explored this facet of museum culture through coursework that effectively taught undergraduate and graduate students the ropes of conducting their own object-based research and facilitated access to collections and archives.

Centennial Farms of the San Luis Valley 1800-2020 - Then and Now

Meet representatives from two Centennial Farms of the San Luis Valley who will speak about the life of farm families in the late 1800s; the family unit and the farm unit. Discussions will compare life for a farm family today to when their ancestors first purchased the property. Additionally, visitors will learn how things have changed on Centennial Farms even in the past 20 years. Leroy Salazar and Thad Elliot will share stories from their farms as examples of those 100 years of changes.

1:30-2:45

Big Loans to Small Places

Using the loan between History Colorado and San Juan Historical Society as an example, participants will learn how to initiate loans with large
institutions as well as tips and tricks for loan approval, budgeting, and public involvement.

Kimberly Kronwall, Exhibits and Loan Registrar, History Colorado

Creating Programs that Matter: Connecting with Interpretation

While we often associate interpretation with exhibits, it can help educators from any museum create programs. We will discuss and brainstorm strategies for using interpretation to plan and design programs that are relevant to your community.

Katherine Mercier, Museum Education Coordinator, Town of Windsor Museums

Rio Grande Blankets: Exhibit and Traditions

Part 1: Mounting an Exhibition - The process, including: research, consultants, sewing, hardware, and labels.

Part 2: Walk to the Luther Bean Museum - Hispanic weaving traditions while viewing the blankets.

Patricia Rodriguez, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center Intern at the Luther Bean Museum, Adams State University

3:00-4:15

Volunteers for the Roaring 20s

Please join Katey and Karin as they discuss characteristics of today's volunteers and how best to recruit, train, and keep volunteers from untapped communities. The session will include a Q&A with presenters, and idea sharing from the audience.

Katey Bierman-Clinton, Curator, Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum Karin Hostetter, Owner, Interpret This

Wings and Things: Working with Existing Communities and Reaching New Ones

How does one find themselves in the middle of community engagement overload? Join Wings Over the Rockies to see how we opened a new location, exhibited at DIA, and initiated a new flight scholarship, while engaging new and existing communities.

Carissa Kepner, Education Programs Coordinator, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum Chuck Stout, Curator, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum Hetty Carlson, Teacher Flight Program Manager, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

Locational History - Using State of Colorado Archaeological/Paleontological Collections to Promote Community Engagement

Enhanced care, re-analysis and exhibition of State archaeological/paleontological collections are encouraged. What tools could promote and foster wider appreciation? What are some of your ideas on bringing these collections into a brighter light?

Todd C. McMahon, State Curation Coordinator, History Colorado

Friday Workshops

Building Strong Community Partnerships

This workshop begins with an overview of how community partnerships influence the Longmont Museum. Participants will begin a plan to identify and develop community partnerships that are mutually beneficial, strong, long-term, and multi-dimensional.


Collections-Based Research: How to Make it Happen
This workshop is meant to give attendees an overview of the process involved in using museum collections for research, from the initial outreach to visiting institutions and analyzing the collections.

Caroline Gabe, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Adams State University

Using Interpretive Writing to Connect to Communities

Connect to communities using interpretive writing. Discover techniques including tangibles, universals and themes through a variety of engaging activities. Finally, identify ways to use these techniques at your site to connect with your community.

Karin Hostetter, Owner/Trainer/Writer, Interpret This

Peer Preservation Assessment Program Training

CWAM's Peer Assessors conduct in-depth reviews of collections environments, policies, and procedures for museums in need. This is a two-part workshop including a Friday work session and a Saturday museum site visit to learn how to conduct an assessment and become a Peer Assessor.

*This workshop requires pre-registration in order to participate. Space is limited. Please email Sarah.Saxe@Greeleygov.com in order to reserve your spot!

Saturday Breakout Sessions

9:00-10:15

Women's Vote Centennial // Colorado 2020

Learn about how you can join the initiative to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Explore how museums can play a role in sharing the complex history of the vote and what collaboration can look like locally and statewide.

Jillian Allison, Director, Center for Colorado Women's History at the Byers-Evans House

Getting Your Papers in Order: An Archival Primer for Museum Professionals

Rediscover your collections and institution by better managing documents, photographs, and other records. Presenters share the basics of archival arrangement, give practical examples, and encourage attendees to troubleshoot their archiving needs.

Will Gregg, Project Archivist, CU Boulder Museum of Natural History Alex Elliott, Anthropology Collections Assistant, CU Boulder Museum of Natural History

The Little Museum That Could… And You Can, Too!

Colorado Railroad Museum began as a collection of train cars in 1940s Alamosa. In 1958, it moved to Golden where it became a beloved institution. Chug along with us as we explore the twists and turns of how we grew from a "railfan" club to a museum.

Stephanie Gilmore, Curator of Collections & Librarian, Colorado Railroad Museum Elizabeth Nosek, Curator of Education & Exhibits, Colorado Railroad Museum

Nonprofit Governing Boards

This session gives attendees concepts on board governance and responsibility. We will discuss four types of boards, and attendees will learn governing board’s legal and functional responsibilities.

Dr. L. L. Van Osdol, Nonprofit Consultant

10:30-11:45
Implementing NAGPRA: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act for Museums

NAGPRA compliance is required for museums that receive federal funds and curate Native American collections. Learn who needs to comply, who has standing to make claims, what items are eligible for repatriation, and when and how to consult.

Anne Amati, NAGPRA Coordinator, University of Denver Museum of Anthropology

How to Manage an All-Volunteer, Unfunded Museum in a Tiny Community

This presentation will discuss how to successfully manage a (very) small town museum without paid staff or the benefit of outside funding with a focus on recruiting volunteers, self-funding, challenges and opportunities.

Jim Loud, Director, Creede Historical Museum

Peer Preservation Assessment Program Training – Site Visit

This is the second part of the two-part workshop. CWAM's Peer Assessors conduct in-depth reviews of collections environments, policies, and procedures for museums in need. This is a two-part workshop including a Friday work session and a Saturday museum site visit to learn how to conduct an assessment and become a Peer Assessor.

*This session requires pre-registration and participation in the workshop in order to attend the site visit. Space is limited. Please email Sarah.Saxe@Greeleygov.com in order to reserve your spot!

Authentic Partnerships: Museum Studies Students as Partners in Education and Exhibit Development

The CU Denver class and the Brighton City Museum created interpretive programs on Brighton history. This inclusive project gives insights into how to set up a project. The museum curator will share the museum's point of view.

Rebecca Hunt, Associate Professor C/T Noah Allyn, Graduate Student, University of Colorado Denver Bianca Barriskill, Graduate Student, University of Colorado Denver Teresa Donahue, Graduate Student, University of Colorado Denver Brianne Schreck, Curator, Brighton City Museum

Walking Tours

1:00-2:00

Downtown Alamosa Walking Tour

A stroll around Alamosa’s downtown reveals its history and small-town charm. From red brick to pressed metal ornamentation and glazed colored tile, Alamosa is a study in the architectural trends that have passed through the nation since the 19th century —late Victorian, commercial brick, Mission Revival, and Art Deco styles stand side by side in this tightly constructed area.

Please gather at 12:45 at Alamosa City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. to meet your tour guide.

Adams State University Walking Tour

Adams State University is looking forward to celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2021. Named for Governor Billy Adams, who, as a legislator, introduced the bill to create the teachers' college in the rural, remote area of the San Luis Valley, Adams State has grown from one building in an expanse of sand and brush to the stately campus of today. The tour will include tidbits in the history of Adams State, as well as interesting facts about many of the buildings.

Please gather at 12:45 in front of the ASU Student Union Building to meet your tour guide.

DIY Excursions: Choose Your Own Adventure!
There are so many things to do and see in the San Luis Valley that we couldn’t possibly offer tours of them all! Here are some of our favorite destinations in the area.

**Alamosa/Antonito/Manassa/Sanford** - Hike the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve during the day to enjoy the expansive views from atop the tallest dunes in North America or at night to take in unparalleled dark sky viewing. Birding options include the Dunes, the Alamosa National Wild Refuge or Blanca Vista Park. Manassa is a knockout at the Jack Dempsey Museum. The Sanford Museum will give you a view into Zebulon Pike’s expedition. The Costilla County Museum in Antonito will take you down the tracks of railroad history, sheep farms, and depictions of its history through its murals. All of these communities are part of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and sit along the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway highlighting the rich history of the Valley. If you haven’t already, make sure to visit the SLV-Alamosa Museum. #visitalamosa #greatsanddunes #darkskies #sdcnha #loscaminosantiguos

**Crestone/Saguache/Villa Grove** – After visiting the Crestone Historical Museum, take a soak in one of three geothermal hot springs, including one that is “clothing optional.” Explore your spirituality in Crestone, home to the highest concentration of spiritual centers representing the wisdom traditions of the world. Take in our galaxy’s dark skies in all its wonder in and around these small, quaint and authentic communities. Did we mention the area is known for its UFO sightings? Learn about the Old Spanish Trail and lock yourselves up on the story of cannibal Alferd Packer at the Saguache County Museum. #alferdpacker #sandduneshotspringspool #joyfuljourney #darkskies #hotspringspools #spiritualmecca

**Creede/South Fork** – follow the tracks of the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway starting at the South Fork Visitor Center where you can get the lay of the land. Enjoy gold medal fishing along the historic Rio Grande right in town or an ATV ride into the surrounding mountains. In Creede, visit the Underground Mining Museum and/or walk through a historic Denver & Rio Grande train depot turned museum. If you are feeling a little flushed, take a tour of a 3-hole privy! Take in art galleries, eclectic dining, or a drive along the Bachelor Loop to provide you a taste of a once-booming mining town turned host of world-class art galleries and community theatre. #southfork #creede #creederepertorytheatre #arps #quillergallery #kipsgrill

**Del Norte/Monte Vista** – Stroll through each town’s wonderfully immersive walking tours to learn about their earliest settlers’ rich history. Did you know that Del Norte was proposed to become the state capitol? Take a leisurely stroll through the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge for the birding, panoramic views and fresh air. Catch a drive-in movie from your motel room. Take a stroll along the Old Spanish Trail. Enjoy local award-winning brews in Del Norte. The area offers four museums that celebrate the agriculture, ranching, railroad and diverse cultures of the Valley at the Monte Vista Historical Society and Museum; Transportation of the West Museum; Rio Grande County Museum; and at the Homelake Veterans’ History Museum charged with the honoring of the Valley’s veterans located on the campus of the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake; Colorado’s first and oldest veterans’ home. #trails #penitentecanyon #moviemanor #rgnf #ost #homelakeveterans #birding

**San Luis/Fort Garland/San Acacio** – Step into Colorado’s earliest history in Colorado’s oldest town – San Luis – also home to Colorado’s oldest business and oldest water rights. Take in the early military history at the Fort Garland Museum with tales of Kit Carson, Tom Tobin, and the Buffalo Soldiers. Take a Sacred Circle Driving Tour, visit Colorado’s oldest church building – Capilla de Viejo San Acacio. Walk the steps of the Stations of the Cross. Cross the Rio Grande in the steps at don Diego de Vargas. Reflect on the traditions of the Penitente Church in a Morada. Travel the roads of the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway within this portion of the Sangre de Cristo National Area. View traditional textiles and weavings, artifacts, and stories of early settlers from Spain, Mexico and New Mexico and the area’s original Native American peoples at the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center. #wherecoloradobegan #buffalosoldiers #loscaminosantiguos #morada #diegodevargas #sangredecristos

**Lake City/La Veta** – In the shared history with the San Luis Valley, the Francisco Fort Museum in La Veta and the Hinsdale County Museum in Lake City are not to be missed. Nestled at the base of the Spanish Peaks, the adobe fort, built in 1862, displays Native American and Hispanic collections from the historic region along the Highway of Legends Scenic Byway. The Hinsdale Museum is a celebration of the residents’ past and present through their artifacts and displays that relate to their early history and family stories of mining and the railroad that takes you along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway. A town that held a trial for Alferd Packer. A town that hosted the leader Susan B. Anthony. The past mingle with the present in rarefied air perfect for history buff, climbers, fishermen, 4-wheel enthusiasts, and hikers to bikers, horseback riders, and birdwatchers. #lakecity #laveta #highwayoflegends

**Social Media**

Join the conversation using the hashtag #CWAM2020 on your favorite social media platform!
SPONSORSHIPS: Sarah Saxe and Laura Browarny reported: There are currently only three vendors, but we will continue reaching out for other vendors and sponsors, perhaps there are a few vendors from the New Mexico region who would like to join. There have been two sponsors for thought cafes at $300.00 each plus money for food. There will be AAM education and Census Bureau representatives there. Perhaps it is a good idea to have information available on registering to vote in both Colorado and Wyoming.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Katie Ross and Laura Browarny reported: There have been a total of 10 scholarship applicants. None of the previous year’s award winners is able to attend this year, but we will need some people to help vet the applicants.

SERVICES TEAM LEADER: Sarah Saxe reported:

Grants: From Stephanie Gilmore: I have sent the announcement and application on to Britt to include in the latest e-blast and on the CWAM website. Grant applications are due Friday, May 15th and recipients will be notified by June 5th.

CO-OP: From Sarah Saxe: We have had 4 new requests for the Co-Op codes since our last meeting, 7 total for 2020 (new requests: Manitou Springs Heritage Center, Archaeological Repository of Colorado State University, History Colorado, Meeteetse Museums ). What do Co-op purchases look like between MPMA and CWAM? What does the MOI state? How do we recruit for this position?

Peer Preservation Assessment: From Sarah Saxe: Recent E-blast included an advertisement for the Peer Preservation Assessment Program training workshop to be held at the Annual Meeting in April. This will be held at the Homelake Museum and Laura will try to arrange transportation to and from. Ad requested pre-registration; no registrants so far.

EMK: From Sarah Saxe: Nothing new to report.


Emergency Preparedness: From Christina Cain: As many of you already know, Carl Patterson passed away recently. He was hugely instrumental in emergency preparedness in Colorado and served on CWAM. We will speak about him at the annual meeting, probably during the business lunch, to honor him. Would it be possible to start an Emergency Preparedness fund in his name? In light of the impending COVID-19 situation in America, we should form a task force to assess what this means, going forward, for our board meetings, etc. This task force will include Jessica Brunecky, Christina Cain, Bethany Williams, Laura Browarny, Britt Scholnick and Alexis Grieve. We will get an email exchange started this week.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER: Bethany Williams reported: We have the potential to partner with Paulette Reading on a workshop about identifying hazardous materials in your collections. This workshop will happen in May. Is there a way to partner even though it is her own workshop? She is an individual member of CWAM. I will work with Tina on workshops, and we need to get the CWAM P&P so we can all better identify our roles.

COLORADO & WYOMING WORKSHOPS : Tina Hill reported: We will start working on workshop ideas for the Spring and
Summer, this is a possible supplement for those who cannot attend the annual meeting.

**ACADEMIC LIAISON : OPEN**

**MENTORING:** Carissa Kepner reported: There have been two networking requests, one was a simple link, the other was an emerging professional interested in moving from archaeology to collections. Upon talking with her I found out she had a passion for aviation so I set her up with the curator at my museum (Wings) she will actually be starting a volunteer/mentorship with our curator and be working directly with the collections.

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER:** Britt Scholnick (tent.) reported: See reports below.

**WEBSITE CHAIR:** Britt Scholnick (tent.) reported:

**WEBSITE:**
Doing very well, mostly due to the annual meeting
SOCIAL MEDIA/MARKETING: Amelia Dall reported: Here are our Facebook stats.
E-BLAST EDITOR: Britt Scholnick reported:

E-BLAST:
1 year of data – I am very pleased with the stability of our numbers and that we are bearing the industry averages.

ADVOCACY TEAM LEADER: Stefani Pendergast reported: Museums Advocacy Day 2020
- We had another very successful Museums Advocacy Day on 2/25/20. Myself, Jessica, and Robert all went as CWAM representatives. CO had an additional 5 delegates, and between all of us, we were able to visit all 12 Congressional offices between CO and WY. - As of Wednesday 3/4, 3 Members of Congress within the CO/WY area had signed the letter supporting “robust funding” for the Office of Museum Services: Diana DeGette (D-CO1), Doug Lamborn (R-CO5), and Ed Perlmutter (D-CO7). The deadline to sign the House letter is Monday 3/9; the deadline to sign the Senate letter is currently Friday 3/13.
- If you haven’t already, please contact your home district House Representative and both of your Senators, and ask them to sign the letter supporting robust funding for the Office of Museum Services. In the House, it is being circulated by Reps. Tonko, Pingree, McKinley, and Barr; in the Senate, it is being circulated by Sens. Gillibrand and Collins.

License plates (for a group specialty license plate, proceeds from which would be allocated to a disaster relief fund to provide assistance to Colorado museums that have been affected by natural disasters)

- Text for a potential change.org petition has been drafted. If we want to move forward with this endeavor, we need 3-4 additional Colorado residents to volunteer (preferably CWAM board or members). Here again are the steps for the legislative process: 1. Petition a. Need 3,000 signatures from CO residents b. Digital petition (change.org) and/or paper petition 2. Get legislative sponsors 3. Design the plate 4. Prepare application 5. Legislative hearings

CWAM Minutes 03.07.20 - Conference Call
COLORADO STATE REP: Katie Conrad reported: MPMA had their mid-winter meeting but have not sent notes out yet.

WYOMING STATE REP: John Woodward reported: CWAM State Representative Report March 3, 2020 The Mountain Plains Museum Association’s Board of Directors met last month (February 6 & 7) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The meeting served as the regular MPMA mid-winter board meeting. Due to adverse winter weather, some members could not attend the meeting.

2020 MPMA Conference MPMA in Sioux Falls will be a fairly small conference. The conference committee is forecasting 250-300 attendees. The earlier date for the conference, early September, and a higher than usual cost for airfare will be limiting factors. Also, Sioux Falls doesn’t have the same kind of drawing power as Albuquerque. Overall, the conference hotel will be able to suit our needs. The call for proposal has already come and ended. A preliminary program should be out very soon. The conference site for 2021 has not been set at this time. MPMA has been working with the Midwest Museum Association on a proposal for a joint conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

MPMA Governance Task Force Recommendations Roughly 18 months ago, the MPMA board commissioned a special taskforce to review current governance. Their objective was to provide recommendations for improvements. The Board rejected several of the recommendations, including reducing the size of the board. One of the adopted measures will affect CWAM in the near future. MPMA will be actively developing memorandums of understanding (MOU) with each of the state associations. One of the proposed provisions will allow MPMA to appoint a state representative if the state association is unable to appoint one.

MPMA Future Conference Sites & Year Round Programming Discussions There was a discussion about future conference sites. Wyoming is a difficult state to host a large conference like MPMA. There is only one potential venue - The Little America Hotel in Cheyenne. I don’t know if and when Wyoming will host the conference in the future. I had several discussions with Justin Jakovic, MPMA’s Executive Director, about year round programming options. Those options might include winter or spring workshops. They would be topic specific (collections management, volunteer management, etc) and last 1-2 days. These “mini” conferences would have a small audience and could fit into a wider range of venues. This idea is still in an idea without any substantive plans.

Wyoming Representative Position I will not be attending the upcoming CWAM annual meeting in Alamosa. Also, I will not be seeking re-election as the Wyoming Representative. My new position has added a lot to my plate and I’m not able to fill the role like I should.

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE AND TOURISM CHAIR: Amy Nilius reported: Nothing to report.

WYOMING LEGISLATIVE AND TOURISM CHAIR: Jeremy Johnston reported:

This summer we may see a major downturn in international tourism due to the COVID-19 virus. This could potentially be a boost for domestic tourism, but in the long run, we aren’t sure what to expect. There is a University of Wyoming professor; Caroline McCraken-Flesher who is working on a Scotland/Wyoming initiative looking at how Scotland increases interest in tourism and what we can learn from that.

Robert Henning reported: 3-7-2020 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Great news. On March 2nd, the Wyoming Legislature passed a statewide lodging tax that will fund the Wyoming Office of Tourism (WOT) beginning January 1, 2021. It is estimated that this will increase funding for the WOT up to $18.6 million a year. This is a significant increase from the current budget and will allow WOT to promote Wyoming museums, historic sites, parks, restaurants, festivals, recreation opportunities, etc. and bring the budget closer to that of surrounding states. This will be a 5% statewide tax with
3% going to the newly established Wyoming Tourism Account (80%) and Wyoming Tourism Reserve & Project Account (20%). The other 2% of the lodging tax would be returned to the city, town, or county that collected the tax for local travel and tourism promotion. In addition to this 5%, cities, towns, and counties can also put 1% or 2% more lodging tax on the ballot for approval by voters. This allows local CVBs to potentially collect 3% or 4% lodging tax for promotion. As I write this, Governor Gordon has yet to sign the bill.

*Amended - Gov. Gordon has officially signed the bill as of 03/06/20* All indications point to him doing so. In my mind this should be of great benefit to our travel industry and hopefully will increase visitors to our state and visitors to our museums. The Wyoming Travel Industry Coalition will host an educational statewide webinar later this spring in conjunction with the Wyoming Dept. of Revenue to review the details of the bill and answer questions. I will keep everyone updated on how to sign up for the lodging tax webinar in the coming weeks.

**AAM ADVOCACY DAY:** I had a great time in D.C. last week for AAM Advocacy Day. Thank you to the CWAM Board for sending me to represent Wyoming and a BIG thank you to Jessica and Stefanie for their assistance with the meetings. We were able to meet with Senator Enzi and two of his legislative staff as well as staffers from Senator Barrasso’s office and Representative Cheney’s office. Despite having one of the most conservative delegations in the nation, I think the folks we met with were supportive of museums in our state and of continued funding for IMLS, NEA, and NEH. Whether that funding is increased or even maintained at current levels is another story. Either way, it was great to represent CWAM and Wyoming museums. Thank you again for the opportunity.

**COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)** We all need to consider the impact of coronavirus on our summer tourism numbers and especially anyone who typically sees a lot of travelers from Asia. Certainly, museums around and on the route to Yellowstone can expect a decrease as there are typically around 400,000 Chinese visitors to the park each year. Chinese tours to all our national parks are completely suspended as of right now. Something to think about as some of us prepare budgets and plan for the next fiscal year.

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING OUTDOOR RECREATION/TOURISM PROGRAM** You may not be aware of this, but the University of Wyoming has a new degree program in outdoor recreation and tourism management. This program will help develop prospective employees for our museums, historic sites, and parks. Institutions should also investigate potential partnerships with the students as they work on projects for degree completion. Learn more about this program here: [http://www.uwyo.edu/haub/academics/undergraduate-students/bs-in-ortm.html](http://www.uwyo.edu/haub/academics/undergraduate-students/bs-in-ortm.html) You can also read about some of the current students’ work in Fremont County here: [https://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2020/02/uw-recreationtourism-students-tackle-fremont-county-projects.html](https://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2020/02/uw-recreationtourism-students-tackle-fremont-county-projects.html)

NEW BUSINESS: Should we review our policy for paying for ad space on our eblast. We lost a corporate membership because they didn’t see the benefit. This is something we can discuss at the annual meeting and vote on.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn. Laura Browarny motioned. Meeting adjourned at 11:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Grieve, Secretary