

2009 AASLH
**Awards
Banquet**

Recognizing the best in state and local history.

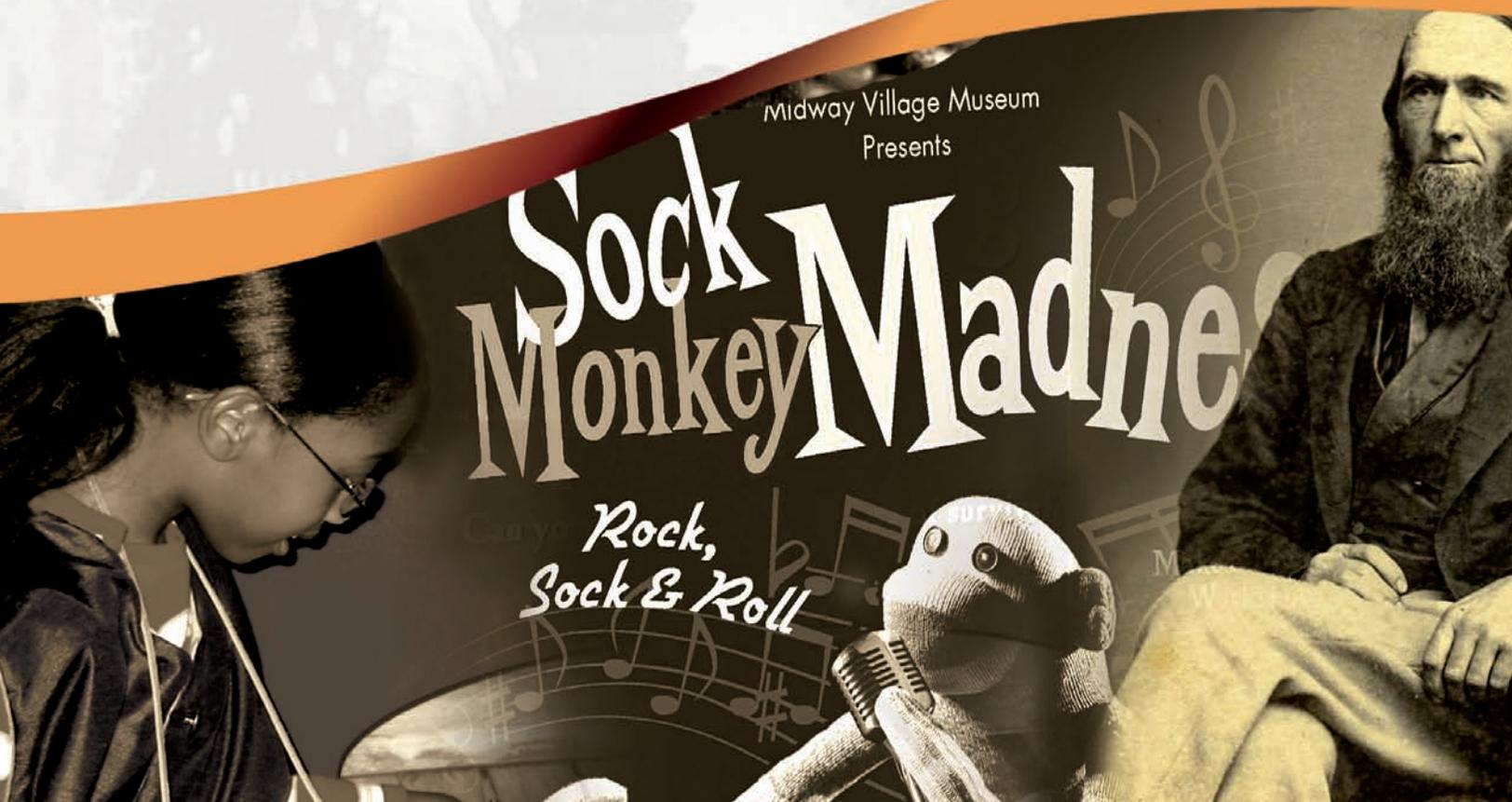
Saturday, August 29, 2009

Indianapolis, IN

Midway Village Museum
Presents

**Sock
Monkey Madne**

*Rock,
Sock & Roll*





HISTORY™

AASLH Awards Banquet Sponsor

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2009 AASLH
AWARDS BANQUET

Agenda

Saturday, August 29

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

6:15 pm

Dinner served

6:45 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Terry Davis, President & CEO, AASLH

Introduction of Speaker

Donald P. Zuris, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Head Curator, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

Awards Address

Dr. James H. Madison
Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History
Indiana University, Bloomington

7:30 pm

AASLH Award of Distinction Presentation

Comments by Charles F. Bryan Jr., Award of Distinction Winner

AASLH Awards Presentation

Donald P. Zuris, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
David Donath, President, Woodstock Foundation, Billings Farm
and Museum, Chair, AASLH
Terry Davis, President & CEO, AASLH



AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History

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Since 1945, AASLH has proudly sponsored a national awards program to recognize the best of state and local history. The Leadership in History Awards Banquet accurately represents the spirit of the AASLH awards program. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 64th annual awards banquet co-sponsored by our friends at History (formally the known as the The History Channel).

This year, AASLH is proud to confer fifty-nine national awards honoring history professionals, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future. Charles F. Bryan, Jr. will also receive the AASLH coveted Award of Distinction. Each winner deserves our thanks for the important role they play in keeping history alive in our communities and nation.

The Leadership in History Awards represents a year-long, national effort that requires many hours contributed by a large number of faithful volunteers. Bethany Hawkins is the AASLH staff liaison to the awards program. Don Zuris chairs a national committee comprised of representatives from each region. Each state has its own state leadership chair who volunteers to make sure the best projects in their state are brought to our attention. It is a massive effort, and I would like to take this time to give a big thanks to Bethany, Don, and the regional and state representatives for their hard work and dedication.

The Leadership in History Awards has benefited from the long-time support of History and its representative, Dr. Libby Height O'Connell. They understand the importance of state and local history and the need to recognize exemplary efforts.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening.

Sincerely,
Terry L. Davis
President & CEO

YOUR HOME FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

From the AASLH Awards Program Chair:

Each year, the Awards Committee of the American Association for State and Local History convenes in Nashville to discuss, debate, and ultimately to vote on the nominations submitted. Amid the melodious sounds of mockingbirds and the sweet smell of magnolia trees, the Committee pours over the nominations including all of the required documentation—organizational histories, budgets, letters of critical review, exhibit floor plans, photographs, samples of exhibit labels, program evaluations from the public and professional educators. Throughout the course of three days, the Committee asks of each nomination two simple questions: “Is it good history?” and “Is the individual’s or organization’s community better off as a result of the nominated project or person?” These are relatively simple questions, but very difficult to answer. It is never an easy task, nor should it be. The process is lengthy and rigorous, but the result is very satisfying. We all come away from the meeting exhausted but inspired by the quality and innovations that are represented in the projects submitted for our review.

Stephen Weil, former deputy director of the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, writes that a good museum is one “that is operated with the hope and expectation that it will make a positive difference in the quality of peoples’ lives.” It is the purpose of the Awards Program to encourage this standard of excellence and innovation in state and local history. For sixty-four years, the American Association for State and Local History has sponsored the program to publicly recognize achievements that have made a difference in people’s lives.

AASLH bestows several awards. The Award of Merit is presented to recognize excellence for projects, including special projects, educational programs, exhibits, publications, and restoration projects, individual achievement, and organizational general excellence. The WOW Award, given at the discretion of the Committee, is an award for a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations; creative problem solving; or unusual project design and inclusiveness. The Albert B. Corey Award, named for a former president of AASLH, is awarded only occasionally, and recognizes primarily volunteer-

operated historical organizations that display exceptional qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination. Finally, the Award of Distinction is given to individuals recognized nationally as leaders in state and local history in recognition of long and very distinguished service, and is only awarded after an exhaustive critical review process.

The Awards Program is truly a national grassroots effort. Each nomination is reviewed at the state level by a team of museum professionals and historians, and at the regional level by a regional chair. If the nomination is judged favorably, the regional chair brings the nomination to Nashville for consideration by the national review committee. The AASLH staff makes the entire process as smooth as possible.

My thanks go to the many people who offer their time and expertise to make the Awards Program a success. The Awards Program is an ongoing, year-long process. But my heartiest congratulations go out to you, the award winners, whose commitment to excellence in the field of state and local history reaffirms for me the importance and potential of our work as we chronicle the evolution of this grand experiment we call the United States of America.

Congratulations on a job well done,

Donald P. Zuris
Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Head Curator, Corpus Christi Museum of
Science and History
Corpus Christi, Texas

The American Association for State and Local History conducts its annual Leadership in History awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collections, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. By publicly recognizing four different types of awards, AASLH inspires others to give care, thought, and effort to their projects.



The Award of Distinction

Bestowed infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service. Recipients are noted for their contributions to the field of state and local history and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession. The individual must have demonstrated the highest standards of performance and professional ethics.

The Albert B. Corey Award

Named in honor of a founder and former president of AASLH and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work.

The WOW Award

Given to a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations; creative problem solving; or unusual project design and inclusiveness. This award is given at the discretion of the awards committee to five percent or less of the total winners of the Award of Merit.

The Award of Merit

Presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared to similar activities nationwide.

2009 AASLH

AWARD of Distinction Winner



Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

Charles F. Bryan, Jr. retired as CEO of the Virginia Historical Society in 2008, but his service to the field of public history is far-reaching and long-lasting. During his twenty years as CEO of the Virginia Historical Society, Bryan preserved a first-class research library while also making the VHS the de facto state historical museum of Virginia, and by extensive educational outreach programs and traveling exhibitions, gave reality to its mission to serve a statewide audience. He turned the society into perhaps the national model of public service, intellectual contribution, community leadership, and financial stability. As first full-time director of the East Tennessee Historical Society from 1981 to 1986, he transformed a small local history museum into a thriving regional organization. His service, however, extends far beyond the borders of Tennessee and Virginia. As past chair of AASLH and as a member of countless committees, Bryan has literally shaped the course of state and local history at the end of the twentieth century. He has given generously of his time and his own financial resources to ensure that Americans understand and value the significant role of state and local history in our national experience.

2009 AASLH
ALBERT B. COREY
Winner

Dry Creek Historical Society
Boise, ID
Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead
Farmhouse Project

The Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead, homesteaded in 1863, includes one of the oldest intact houses in the state of Idaho and seven outbuildings on two acres surrounded by preserved agricultural land. By 2005, the farmhouse was in disrepair and the entire site scheduled for demolition to make way for new home construction. The developer gave local residents six months to preserve the site. Dry Creek Historical Society incorporated as an all-volunteer organization in order to lead the preservation effort. Through extensive community involvement, developer and county government support, and the technical expertise of the local historic preservation community, the society rehabilitated the property and donated it to local county government for long-term preservation. After opening in late 2008, the farmhouse reaches its intended audience with school trips, tours, regular open hours, and periodic living history events and exhibits at the site.

2009 AASLH

WOW AWARD Winners

Gunn Memorial Museum and Shepaug Valley Middle School

Washington, CT

For the *Abner Mitchell Project*

Richfield Historical Society

Richfield, MN

For the publication, *Richfield: Minnesota's Oldest Suburb*

Timberlane Regional High School, Bryan College, and Edward J. Larson

Plaistow, NH

For the documentary *Theatre On Trial—Inherit the Wind and the 1925 Scopes Trial*

Tybee Island Light Station

Tybee Island, GA

For the *Tybee Island Light Station Restoration*

University of Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

For the program, *Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth*

2009 AASLH
**AWARD of Merit
Winners**

Arizona

Arizona Historical Society, Tempe, for *The Arizona Story Education Program*. *The Arizona Story* represents the new generation of educational programming. It innovatively combines museum collections, state and national history, and multiple intelligence learning techniques. *The Arizona Story* ignites a love for history by providing an opportunity for Arizona students to become excited about their community and state.

City of Chandler, Public History Program, Museum Division, Chandler, for the *History in Your Own Backyard* Park Kiosk Program. In 2004, the City of Chandler instituted this program to place outdoor history kiosks in city parks. Each kiosk contains the history of the area surrounding the park. Through narrative, photographs, and oral history excerpts, residents of Chandler learn about their immediate surroundings connecting the residents of one of the fastest growing cities in Arizona with their past.

Dr. Noel J. Stowe, Chandler, for distinguished service in public history, both in the community and in the academic classroom. Dr. Stowe joined the history department of Arizona State University in 1967. He founded ASU's Public History Program, which achieved national and international recognition under his direction. He also mentored countless students who have gone on to direct public history programs at other universities, and to work in museums, historical societies, and archives across the country, as well as in nearly every historical organization in Arizona. He also used his expertise in the community, serving on the board of numerous local, state, and national historical organizations.

California

Paul R. Spitzzeri, Chino Hills, for the publication *The Workman and Temple Families of Southern California, 1830-1930*. This book places the diverse and wide-ranging activities of two Los Angeles-area families in the context of the broader social, political, and economic development of the region. The Workman and Temple families played a significant role in Southern California's development from an isolated Mexican frontier region into a bustling American metropolitan area. This well-researched and documented work is a major contribution to the field of Southern California history.

Colorado

State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, for the project *Preserving Colorado Communities: The Italians of Colorado*. In order to document the history of Italians in Colorado and tell their stories, the historical society brought together members of the Italian American community, museum and library professionals, academics, and artists. The result was the development of a volunteer organization to work with the society and other organizations to develop and support projects that celebrate Italian American culture and heritage. The volunteers created a research archive, developed *The Italians of Denver* exhibit, the publication *Italy in Colorado*, and a number of other projects.

2009 AASLH
**AWARD of Merit
Winners**

Connecticut

Gunn Memorial Museum and Shepaug Valley Middle School, Washington, for the *Abner Mitchell Project*. This project was a collaborative one-year endeavor by the Historical Museum of the Gunn Public Library and the eighth grade history classes at Shepaug Valley Middle School. A descendant recently discovered a collection of fifty letters written by Abner Mitchell during the Civil War. The students with assistance from their teacher and museum staff transcribed the letters, conducted historical research, and then created the book *Abner Mitchell: A Life of Letters* and an exhibition called *Abner Mitchell: Letters of a Civil War Soldier*. As a result of the project, the students reported a greater engagement in and understanding of the Civil War and the museum and school plan to continue their partnership with new projects in the future.

Litchfield Historical Society, Litchfield, for the project *To Please Any Taste: Litchfield County Furniture and Furniture Makers, 1780-1830*. The exhibition, publication, CD, and symposium associated with this project culminate years of painstaking research and planning. The result is a dynamic re-envisioning of Litchfield County history that furniture collectors, curators, historians, and local residents find appealing and useful as well as contributing to the history of material culture in the early American republic.

The Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, for the documentary *Visions of Iron*. This thirty-minute film on the geological, industrial, and social history of the iron industry creates a stirring, enlightening, and educational visual journey into the heart of Connecticut's Northwest Corner. The project involved collaboration by over ten nonprofits and businesses and hundreds of volunteers. Over 650 people attended the premier held at the local movie theater. The film is used as an introduction to the iron-industry for students who visit the sites with their school, aired on public access television in two counties, and portions are available on YouTube.

Delaware

W. Barksdale Maynard, Wilmington, for the publication *Buildings of Delaware*. This book, published by the Society of Architectural Historians and University of Virginia Press is the first to describe the architecture of Delaware from all periods, colonial to the present—covering over three centuries. Maynard spent four years researching and writing the book, driving to every corner of the state, studying thousands of buildings, and selecting 449 for inclusion. Not confined to architecture, the book is virtually an encyclopedia of the state, with a narrative introduction, sections describing every major town, sidebars, and copious information on demographics, transportation, politics, and the arts.

2009 AASLH
**AWARD of Merit
Winners**

District of Columbia

Cultural Tourism, DC, Washington, and **Audissey Guides**, Boston, MA, for the *Civil War to Civil Rights Audio Tour: The Downtown Washington DC Heritage Trail*. This project is a free, downloadable audio tour of Washington DC's Downtown Heritage Trail featuring a narrator as well as interviews that provide a genuine and unscripted glimpse into DC's history. It is the first in a proposed series of audio tours and focuses on the people and places of the city from 1865-1965 bringing stories to life in a dramatic fashion.. It can be downloaded at no charge at www.CulturalTourismDC.org or as a free podcast on iTunes. In the first forty-eight hours of the official tour launch, it received over 1,100 downloads.

Florida

Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, for the exhibit *Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success*. In 2002, the Norton Museum of Art transferred its collection of Seminole artifacts to the Museum of Florida History. This exhibit allowed the museum to illustrate how the Seminole's unique history, traditions, and way of life contribute to Florida's cultural diversity. Highlighting more than 150 years of history and culture through artifacts, graphic and text panels, and a broad range of educational components, the exhibit demonstrated how the Seminoles have used the Florida environment and its rich resources first to survive and then to thrive.

Georgia

Tybee Island Historical Society, Inc., Tybee Island, for the restoration of the Tybee Island Light Station. This light station, one of the most complete in the United States, played a significant maritime and military role from pre-colonial times through the present. When the historical society accepted full maintenance and restoration responsibility for the numerous buildings associated with the station, all of the seven buildings suffered from disrepair. Over many years, the mostly volunteer-based society researched and planned for this expensive phased project restoring the site and creating one of the most authentic and accurate historic restoration projects in the state.

2009 AASLH
**AWARD of Merit
Winners**

Hawaii

Larry, Dill, Pat Panel, Rayne Regush, the Kapa'a Business Association, and Leadership Kaua'i, Kapa'a, for the Japanese Stone Lantern Restoration, Kapa'a Park. Built in 1912 by the first generation of Japanese immigrants on the island as a tribute to their homeland, this fifteen-foot tall concrete sculpture was removed from its base and buried in 1943 because of anti-Japanese sentiments. Rediscovered in 1972, it was reburied when no one stepped forward to restore it only to be exhumed and improperly displayed in 1987. In 2005, after the Historic Hawai'i Foundation named the lantern one of the nine most endangered historic sites on the islands, Leadership Kaua'i and community volunteers stepped forward to lead the restoration of the lantern and its remarkable story.

Idaho

Helen Turner Lowell, Parma, for a lifetime of preserving the history of the Lower Boise Valley. Mrs. Lowell, along with her co-author Lucille Peterson, published, *Our First Hundred Years: A Biography of Lower Boise Valley, 1814-1914*, the definitive history of the Lower Boise Valley in 1976. Mrs. Lowell, however, is more than co-author. She gives countless historical presentations to schools and community groups and writes articles for the *Parma Review*. At 104 years old, she is still the very active grand dame of the neighborhood, and regularly attends meetings of the local historical society of which she is the only remaining charter member.

Idaho Heritage Trust, Weiser, for committed service to Idaho's heritage. Celebrating their twentieth anniversary, the Idaho Heritage Trust remains true to its mission "Preserving the historic fabric of Idaho for the State's Bicentennial in 2009 through a program of grants and technical assistance." As Idaho's only statewide foundation for preservation, it has funded work on artifact collections, sites, and over 500 historic buildings and structures—large and small, urban and rural. When the Idaho Heritage Trust and the workmen it has funded leave, the conservation of local heritage stands as a lasting contribution to the communities and the history they represent

The Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Boise, for the traveling exhibit, *Lincoln and Idaho*. An unlikely location, Idaho produced the most widely traveled Lincoln Bicentennial exhibit in the nation. *Lincoln and Idaho*, which connects little-known events in Lincoln's life with the history of Idaho, has been seen by one out of every seven Idahoans and an estimated 400,000 will view the exhibit before it closes in December 2009. Many of the communities which hosted the exhibit organized additional programs appropriate for their venue. The exhibit uses language, images, and sources that interest not just history lovers and enthusiasts, but all who experience it, making it a model for commemorating a national event on the local level.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission, Twin Falls, for the *Twin Falls County Centennial Brochure*. From the vintage-style cover to the user-friendly layout, the *Twin Falls County Centennial Brochure* elicits quality and uniqueness. The brochure includes a die-cut map of Twin Falls County, historical maps of the county's development, maps showing the county's National Register sites, and pages including the history of the county, historic and contemporary photos, and a timeline. Although visually striking, the strength of the history presented in the publication elevates it to more than the standard advertising piece.

Illinois

Midway Village Museum, Rockford, for the *Sock Monkey Madness Festival*. This public program linked the history of the Rockford knitting industry, home of the original red-heeled sock, to the popular sock monkey doll. An excellent model for how to connect pop culture to local history, this indoor winter festival during its first year in 2005 attracted over 1,200 local visitors of all ages who participated in sock monkey making workshops, oral history programs, and a variety of related activities and entertainment. In 2008, the festival expanded to attract families, retirees, sock monkey crafters, vintage sock monkey collectors, and authors. Activities included knitting industry and sock monkey history lectures, vintage displays, a Sock Monkey International Film Festival, and the Miss Sockford Beauty and Talent Pageant where participants present their sock monkey as if it were a living contestant with talents and costumes.

Indiana

Richard P. Day, Vincennes, for a lifetime of researching, preserving, and promoting the history of Vincennes. Mr. Day is widely considered to be a preeminent authority on the history of Vincennes, the Old Northwest Territory, and Indiana. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of these areas, knowledge that he is always willing to share with students, historians, scholars, and genealogists. The author of *Vincennes: A Pictorial History* and co-author of *Images of America: Vincennes, 1930-1960*, he has served the community, not only through his work as a scholar, but also as an artist, an interpreter of historic sites, and a leader in historic preservation.

Dr. Elizabeth R. Osborn, Indianapolis, for the *Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Series*. The series provides educators, students, and citizens with free materials that help to bring Indiana's legal history to life. For each new publication, Dr. Osborn selects an important topic or article related to Indiana legal history. The publications, designed to reach a wide audience, are available at no charge in display racks throughout Indiana's government complex and at historical sites, libraries, and schools around the state. The commitment to publishing materials emphasizing Indiana's legal history and distributing them at little or no cost, exemplifies the historical mission of collecting, preserving, and interpreting state and local history.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, for the exhibit, *The Power of Children: Making a Difference*. This exhibit, designed for children ages eight and up, provides a safe place for families and students to explore issues of intolerance, fear, and prejudice and related historical artifacts as experienced in the lives of three children Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, and Ryan White. This exhibit allowed the museum to feature its Ryan White Collection and work with several internationally recognized institutions, scholars, and content-collaborators. The result is an exhibit that helps visitors connect events and movements in the world and national history to life in Indiana in the past and present.

Thomas E. Castaldi, Delphi, for contributions to the history of the Wabash and Erie Canal, Inc. Although his professional life has been in the business world, Mr. Castaldi's passion has been historical conservation and research, with a special interest in the canal system that came into being in Indiana in the 1800s. He is the author of numerous books and magazine articles, and a contributor to books by other authors. He developed a twenty-six week public radio station series titled Canal News and a fifty-two week WBNI public radio series titled *Historia Nostra* that airs daily, and is a regular contributing writer for *Fort Wayne Monthly* magazine. His knowledge of canal history, communication techniques, museum methods of preservation and cataloging, and his contacts both statewide and nationally in the fields of historical research and the canal era are invaluable to the Wabash and Erie Canal, Inc.

Kansas

KPTS-TV, Wichita, for the documentary, *The Dockum Sit-In: A Legacy of Courage*. This documentary produced by KPTS-TV is a powerful and inspiring example of the ability of a local television station to make history come alive. The documentary corrects the historical record to show the Dockum drug store sit-in as the first successful student-led lunch counter sit-in staged to protest racial segregation. The documentary does an impressive job in illuminating the various motivations of the key local and national participants, unfolding the events as they occurred, and reflecting on the lasting consequences of the sit-in for the African American community in Wichita.

Kentucky

James Russell Harris, **Dewey Pope** and **John M. Trowbridge**, Frankfort, for the DVD, *Bataan: The Harrodsburg Tankers—A Time for Courage, A Time for Heroes*. This collaborative effort between the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky National Guard depicts universal human struggles inherent in the travails of the Harrodsburg Tankers during World War II. The film focuses on the community bonds of the sixty-six young men who left Harrodsburg in 1940 and how their toughness, interdependence, and irrepressible grit helped at least half of them survive the horrors of jungle warfare, the Bataan Death March, and years of Japanese captivity. With intensely researched images and narratives, and priceless videotape interviews with survivors of the company, Bataan documents lessons of service, sacrifices, honor, and humility that are as valuable today as in the 1940s.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, for the project, *Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln*. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial created opportunities for the Kentucky Historical Society to revisit a seemingly familiar story and to address hard historical truths. *Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln* consists of four interpretive components that explore the importance of Kentucky and Kentuckians throughout Abraham Lincoln's life and place the state's bicentennial commemoration in historical context. Designed as stand alone exhibits, the *Beyond the Log Cabin* traveling exhibition, *Beyond the Log Cabin* website, HistoryMobile, and Museums to Go each reinforce core ideas and concepts with education materials and public programming.

Maryland

University of Baltimore, Baltimore, for the program, *Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth*. Following Martin Luther King's assassination, Baltimore exploded into violence. Despite the importance of these events, little scholarly or civic attention had been paid to them. This program was a multifaceted, multi-partner initiative led by the university to grapple head-on with this difficult chapter of Baltimore's history. They used community dialogue and civic engagement to organize the experience of a wide range of Baltimoreans. They conducted over 100 oral histories and developed numerous resources on the riot culminating in a three day symposium on the fortieth anniversary of King's assassination.

Massachusetts

Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, for the exhibit, *The Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation*. This exhibit is an exciting interactive exhibition celebrating the many innovators and innovations that originated in the Berkshires and transformed the world. The goal of the Hall, named for two local brothers recognized for developing Total Quality Management systems internationally, is to encourage visitors to explore the unique nature of innovation and to take inspiration from innovators who have impacted the way we live. Its core message that innovation has happened and is happening now in the Berkshires is important to this community, which has recently seen a significant loss of industry, as well as a declining and aging population.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

Gore Place Society, Waltham, for the public program, *The Federal Period: Shaping a Nation, 1780-1820*. This free packet of interdisciplinary enrichment materials for social studies teachers and their students provides activities and information about the Federal Period. Developed at the suggestion of the Waltham Director of History and Social Studies to fill a void in enrichment materials for this time period, this program deals with national issues, such as the birth of political parties, the abolitionist movement, and the change from an agrarian to an industrial society, as dealt with on a local or personal level by individuals such as the Gore family, although it is designed to be used independent of a visit to Gore Place. Through varied activities which address multiple learning styles, teachers expose their students to this often overlooked period in American history.

Minnesota

Barbara W. Sommer, Mendota Heights, for the publication, *Hard Work and A Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Minnesota*. This volume traces the CCC in Minnesota, its narrative relying heavily on oral history interviews conducted in the 1980s and 1990s, and how its impact on the state's history and landscape is still being felt today. Besides sharing details of a historic program, the book preserves the stories of men involved with the CCC and stands as an example of the importance of oral history to the understanding of larger historical narratives and the power of personal voices to illuminate a national story.

David M. Grabitske, St. Paul, for the publication, *Six Miles from St. Paul: The Family and Society of Sarah Jane Sibley*. This book is a forensic history of the wife of Minnesota's first governor. While several biographies thoroughly discuss Sarah Jane Sibley's husband, these previous works rarely mention her. This biography documents Sibley's move, and cultural shift, from East Coast to banks of the Mississippi River, from a "civilized" society to one on the frontier as well as her own personal journey from young woman to wife, mother of nine, society matron, and soft politician.

Minnesota Landmarks, St. Paul, for the exhibit, *Uncle Sam Worked Here*. This exhibit effectively connects visitors to the Minnesota Landmark Center to the rich human history of the building's inhabitants over the decades, bringing these figures to life within the confines of an architectural treasure. The exhibit also pays homage to the historical importance of the Landmark Center as a building of distinction. Drawing from extensive archives both local and national, each story is interwoven to create a cohesive whole. The entire exhibit is a great complement to the building itself, and marries the architecture of the building with the historic nature of storytelling.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

Minnesota's Historic Northwest, Fosston, for the project, *Traveling Through Time in Minnesota's Historic Northwest*. This exhibit and related publication takes the visitor/reader through 150 years of Minnesota's Historic Northwest through carefully selected photographs and text. Ten counties selected photographs from their area to tell the story of their county and region to celebrate Minnesota's Sesquicentennial. The exhibit then traveled to each of the ten counties. The project was transformative for Minnesota's Historic Northwest and its constituent organizations, enabling them to reach the public as never before.

Nicollet County Historical Society, St. Peter, for the *Treaty Site History Center Central Gallery Exhibit*. This exhibit represented a momentous achievement for a small organization and a large contribution to the interpretation of the region and a watershed moment in state history. The effort relied on financial generosity, innovative planning, and collaboration with a myriad of partners and exemplifies good history, accessible interpretation, smart planning, and efficient use of funds. Its public impact and scope far outpace the usual means of an organization this size making it more than just a good exhibit at a small museum, but one that transcends organizational boundaries and contributes at a professional level to the historiography of the entire region.

Richfield Historical Society, Richfield, for the publication, *Richfield: Minnesota's Oldest Suburb*. This book, produced by a small local history organization with a mostly volunteer staff, is more than just a compilation of dates, facts, and crises that are important to a community's history. Author Frederick Johnson does a fine job articulating the story of this suburb of the Twin Cities, especially placing Richfield within the context of state and metropolitan history that inevitably included the city's development. This book stands as an example for other cities to emulate as they approach significant anniversaries for their history.

Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, for the *Sesquicentennial History Project* DVD. For the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict, the sisters created the project to tell the history of the monastic community to as large an audience as possible and to celebrate the historic and contemporary relevance of the order's values. The resulting CD-ROM and companion DVD, *Who Are These Women?*, provides historical context while focusing on the personal stories of the sisters and the current work of the order.

2009 AASLH
**AWARD of Merit
Winners**

Montana

John Fraley, Gil Jordan and Ron Wright, Kalispell, for the publication, *Wild River Pioneers: Adventures in Glacier National Park, the Great Bear Wilderness, and the Middle Fork of the Flathead River*. This book by John Fraley was a cooperative project among the author, the Northwest Montana Historical Society/Museum at Central School, and Big Mountain publishing. The author used over 200 sources in historical archives, old newspapers, and family documents, and interviewed dozens of individuals over a twenty-year period to bring alive the history of Montana's wildest river drainage through a series of true stories. Extensive research along with site visits allowed the author to accurately reconstruct the events covered in the book. Every effort was made to make the book accurate as well as entertaining with the goal to make this history accessible to general audiences.

Montana Historical Society, Helena, for the publication, *Montana: Stories of the Land*. Montana teachers are required to teach the history of their state, but with only 12,000 seventh graders, no publisher was interested in creating a textbook. The Montana Historical Society decided they would undertake the task to create a comprehensive history of Montana from the pre-contact period to the present where the state's native peoples are integrated throughout. Thanks to private donors, the Society provided 5,000 copies of the textbook free-of-charge to 144 schools in fifty-four of fifty-six counties. After demand for the publication exceeded 10,000, the Society decided to post the entire book on its companion website making the book even more available. Reports from around the state suggest that the book, website, and teacher's guide are making a concrete difference in the state's social studies curriculum.

New Hampshire

Timberlane Regional High School, Plaistow, **Bryan College**, Dayton, TN, and **Edward J. Larson** for the multimedia presentation, *Theatre On Trial—Inherit the Wind and the 1925 Scopes Trial*. *The Theatre on Trial* project includes two documentaries, *Of Sound and Fury—The 1925 Scopes Trial* and *The Right to Be Wrong*, which investigate the famous Scopes trial through the medium of drama by exploring the issues raised by the play *Inherit the Wind*. The project encompasses English literature, history, science, and social studies of the 1920s and today. The documentaries and related material are intended to be used by high school and college classrooms to investigate the historical significance of the Scopes trial, the ongoing debate between religion and science as they relate to public school education, and the play itself as both theatre and a catalyst for debate.

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New York

The Rakow Research Library, The Corning Museum of Glass and The High School Learning Center at the Corning Community College, Corning, for the project, *Stories From Crystal City*. The Rakow Research Library partnered with the High School Learning Center, an alternative public school for at-risk youth, to collect oral histories from Corning-area glassworkers employed in the post-World War II era. Students identified glassworkers, collected interviews, and created a documentary. The documentary premiered in June 2008 at The Corning Museum of Glass with over 150 people in attendance. The project resonated, not only with the at-risk students who learned about their community's history and forged a bond with members of an older generation, but also with their audience who were reminded about the importance of preserving local history.

North Carolina

Gaston Museum of Art and History and Standing on a Box Partners, Dallas, for the project, *Standing on a Box: Lewis Hine in Gaston County, 1908*. This project was created for local residents to explore the county's textile history and culture as reflected in Lewis Hine's National Child Labor Committee 1908 Gaston County photographs and to stimulate consideration and discussion of that history's impact on our present and future. The project included an exhibit, community-wide reading program, lectures, and a concert with dramatic readings.

North Dakota

Clay S. Jenkinson, Washburn, for the film, *When the Landscape is Quiet Again: The Legacy of Art Link*. Arthur Link was governor of North Dakota during the first great international energy crisis in the 1970s. The nation's thirst for new energy sources threatened the land Link loved. Governor Link insisted that North Dakota's energy resources be developed in harmony with values deeper than mere extraction: stewardship, the agrarian ideal, and the integrity of rural communities. This documentary looks back over the state's historical terrain to offer a roadmap. By contextualizing Link's stewardship model of economic development, Clay Jenkinson achieves the goal of wedding contemporary political discourse with historical analysis.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

North Dakota Center for Distance Education and the **State Historical Society of North Dakota**, Bismarck, for the publication, *North Dakota History: Readings About the Northern Plains State*. In 2007, the North Dakota legislature required the state's high schools to offer students a class in the history of North Dakota. No textbook existed, no textbook publisher was interested, and no money was appropriated to develop course material. In October 2007, the North Dakota Center for Distance Education approached the State Historical Society of North Dakota about a joint project to create a textbook using material published in their journal, *North Dakota History*. The two groups agreed to produce a textbook for the 2008 school year. They completed the project, including a teacher resource guide in seven months. They later created online supplemental material to provide further access to primary documents and artifacts from the Society's collections.

Pennsylvania

Historic Philadelphia, Philadelphia, for the project, *Once Upon a Nation*. *Once Upon a Nation* is a unique heritage tourism initiative which incorporates academically researched and engaging storytelling, interactive tours, evening performances, and first-person interpretation. The program's mission is to showcase the Philadelphia region's historic people, places, and events to create a dynamic interpretation of the past. Storytelling encourages children and adults to interact with history so that they find meaning and inspiration in its message within their own lives. The program is free to the public and offered from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend at thirteen storytelling benches in Philadelphia and four in Valley Forge. Ever-rising numbers of visitors have responded with enthusiasm to this new and fresh approach to historical interpretation.

South Carolina

Drayton Hall, Charleston, for *The Voices of Drayton Hall*. This interactive landscape tour on DVD was developed as a means to integrate history and technology in order to interpret Drayton Hall's landscape and serve as a model for sites facing similar challenges in interpreting their environs. Historical photographs, maps, and entries from the Drayton papers illustrate the vanished landscape and show the drastic changes that occurred to it over time. Thus, visitors feel an authentic sense of the here and now as they walk throughout the site's present-day grounds and gain a deeper understanding of the progression of history.

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South Dakota

South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, for the *South Dakota State Historical Society Traveling Exhibits Program*. From 2004 to 2008, the Historical Society produced ten traveling exhibits using an innovative pop-up kiosk format. Their goal for the program was to provide high-quality exhibits that covered a broad range of topics and appealed to a diverse public audience. Objectives included creating exhibits that met rigorous standards for historical content and scholarship, were flexible enough to work in a wide variety of spaces, required no special skills or equipment for set up, and could be shipped at a moderate cost anywhere in the state. Topics included Lewis and Clark, mining, historic preservation, homesteading, and military history. In 2008, kiosk exhibits went to twenty venues and were seen by over 120,000 people.

Tennessee

East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, for the exhibit, *Voices of the Land: The People of East Tennessee*. This 8,500-square-foot exhibition is a new permanent exhibit for this regional institution. The themes of the exhibit are that the region's mountainous geography created a feeling of apartness from the rest of Tennessee, resulting in a different historical experience than Middle and West Tennessee. The people here enjoyed a special sense of place and closeness to the land, and certain national events played out in East Tennessee with intense personal consequences for its citizenry. The exhibit confirmed the East Tennessee Historical Society as a true center for the region's history, where visitors can conduct research, visit the museum, hear a lecture, attend a workshop, and as a center for teacher and student education.

Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau, Townsend, for the *Winter Heritage Festival in the Smokies*. The Winter Heritage Festival brings together people of varied backgrounds who share a common bond in their history, experiences, traditions, and future in the Great Smoky Mountains. Presentations include talks, guided walks, and other educational sessions and performances by individuals and organizations. All programs convey the stories of this region, from Native Americans and European settlers to the lumbering and railroad days, and the formation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The event is the culmination of continuing research and documentation to foster appreciation of the cultural heritage of this distinctive region of the Southern Appalachians.

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Texas

Anne Boykin, Parks and Recreation Department and City of College Station, College Station, for *Project HOLD and Heritage Programs*. The Historic Preservation Committee, made up of volunteers from College Station, formed in 1988 and began to collect oral histories, documents, and memorabilia. The need to store this information with the use of minimal funding led to the creation of *Project HOLD* (Historical Online Library Database). The group also created the *Exploring History Lunch Lecture* series after discovering the wealth of information located in their online database which brings in 100-125 guests per luncheon. The lectures are made available on the city's public access channel and on the city's website. They also created a historical marker program and oral history team of volunteers to continue to record the city's history.

Friends of the Highland Park Library, Dallas, for the publication, *Great American Suburbs: The Homes of the Park City*. The Friends of the Highland Park Library, who commissioned this book, envisioned a glossy coffee table book of perhaps 100 lovely houses accompanied by a sprinkling of laudatory prose. They hoped the book would not only draw attention to the neighborhood's treasures, but also raise awareness that many of them were being demolished, a phenomenon confronting suburbs of similar age all across the country. In the hands of three authors and community support, the project grew into the lavishly illustrated story of how a pair of early twentieth century suburbs grew to enhance the city of Dallas.

Utah

Jared Farmer, Stony Brook, NY, for the publication, *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*. Utah Valley has been the subject of several studies by local historians, but it has never been the focus of a volume that goes beyond the valley's geographical confines to uncover how stories about local peoples and landscapes connect with larger American trends. This volume has done this with the theme of historical memory and historical forgetting at its core. Farmer's work is a model of how local history can be written with national context in mind. In its pages, local historians find concrete ideas for better contextualizing their own work and making it more relevant to wider audiences.

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Virginia

Minotaur Mazes, Seattle, WA, and **The Virginia Living Museum**, Newport News, for the exhibit, *Survivor: Jamestown*. As a nature museum, the Virginia Living Museum's goal for this exhibit was to create an exhibit that not only presented the human endeavors of the Jamestown colonists, but also specifically introduced the natural environment that the colonists encountered and how they interacted with it successfully or unsuccessfully. Utilizing the strategy of role-playing to demonstrate how the settlers made decisions and dealt with their consequences made fascinating connections between the natural world and human survival. This exhibit is a model for creating social interaction with history exhibits within families and groups as they share their choices and learn from the consequences of others.

Washington

Mary Dodds Schlick, Goldendale, for bringing a new respect to Native American arts. Ms. Schlick's lifelong work has contributed significantly to both the renaissance of plateau basketry as a living art form and to the scholarship that serves as a basis for our understanding of Plateau basketry and its historic and contemporary role in Plateau culture today. Beginning in the 1950s when she first arrived at the Colville Indian Reservation, Mary began to learn about the art and culture of the Plateau eventually specializing in the art of basketry. As her knowledge grew, she became an invaluable resource to museums and collectors across the west and served as an advocate for native arts. She authored the book *Columbia River Basketry: Gift of the Ancestors, Gift of the Earth* and taught workshops on the no-longer-practiced Wasco twining skills reviving the art form.

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, for the project, *Blue vs. Gray: The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest*. When MOHAI decided to bring the traveling exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* to the Puget Sound region, staff historian Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, decided to research what the war years were like in Washington. This exhibit is the result of her research and served as a companion to the traveling exhibit. The goal of the exhibit was to increase awareness between the Northwest and the Civil War. The project also included a Newspapers in Education series, Living History Day, a lecture series, and the 2008 Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Conference hosted by MOHAI focusing on the Civil War in the Northwest.

Skagit County Historical Museum, La Conner, for the project, *Harvesting the Light: Images of Contemporary Skagit Farm Life*. This project was a partnership of eleven photographers, the Skagit County Historical Museum, and Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, a local farmland preservation organization. The collaborative goal of this partnership was to tell the story of disappearing family farms through the voice of farmers and the lens of contemporary photographers. The project included an exhibit, catalog, and public programming. The project resulted in record-breaking attendance at the exhibit preview, a dramatic increase in new members for both organizations, the development of new programs for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, and a greater interest in preservation of farms and historic barns.

2009 AASLH AWARD of Merit Winners

Wisconsin

Robert Booth Fowler, Madison, for the publication, *Wisconsin Votes: An Electoral History*. This is the first full history of voting in Wisconsin from statehood in 1848 to the present. Fowler both tells the story of voting in key elections and investigates electoral trends and patterns over the course of the state's history including the impact of race, gender, and religious affiliation. This is the kind of crucial history that every state library will want in their collections and will be of interest to classes in Wisconsin history and political science.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, and **Chipstone Foundation**, Milwaukee, for the *Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database*. This project is a publically accessible online catalog of decorative arts objects made in Wisconsin in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and held in the collections of local historical societies and museums throughout the state. The database is the first and only resource to bring together in digital form hundreds of examples of the state's early material culture. The project includes a blog and Flickr page to provide users with regular updates on newly added database content.

Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Madison, for the publication, *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story*. This groundbreaking textbook and accompanying Teacher's Edition and Student Activity Guide, reaches out to young readers of all backgrounds through the stories of individuals—young immigrants, clever inventors, hard-working laborers, and brave activists. The new textbook incorporates the ten themes and eras defined in the Wisconsin history standards. The authors utilized an inquiry-based approach called "Thinking Like a Historian." By encouraging students to ask questions about history, they develop skills that can be used when visiting and exploring local museums and historic sites.

Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Madison, and **Wisconsin Public Television**, Madison, for the publication, *Fill 'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations*. The ordinary places that we build and use in our daily lives can tell us a great deal about our past. A book about historic gas stations around the state enabled the Wisconsin Historical Society to highlight the significance of these humble structures while telling the stories of change through the century. The authors tell the story of the evolution of the gas station from its beginnings to the current time and posit that modest buildings in small towns and big city neighborhoods are important because their individual histories connect to larger state and national themes.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to these regional and state leadership teams who

National Awards Chair

Don Zuris

**Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
Corpus Christi, TX**

Region 1: Todd Burdick, Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield

Maine: Carolin Collins, Maine Historical Society, Portland
Massachusetts: Jennifer Pustz, Historic New England, Boston
New Hampshire: Gail Nessell Colglazier, American Independence Museum, Exeter
Vermont: Jan Albers, Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury

Region 2: Scott L. Wands, Connecticut Humanities Council, Middletown

Connecticut: Deborah Rossi, Shelton Historical Society, Shelton
New Jersey: Katie Witzig, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, Holmdel
New York: Peter Wisbey, The Seward House, Auburn and Liselle LaFrance, Historic Cherry Hill, Albany
Rhode Island: Terry Dickinson, Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport

Region 3: Amy Kilpatrick Fox, Somerset Historical Center, Somerset

Delaware: Michele Anstine, Director, Read House and Gardens, New Castle
Maryland: Jason Illari, City of Bowie Museums, Bowie
Pennsylvania: Edward Reidell, Fonthill Museum, Doylestown
Washington, DC: Rebecca Martin, The National Archives

Region 4: Don Rooney, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta

Alabama: Jessamyn Boyd, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery
Florida: Lea Ellen Thornton, Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee and Michelle Severino, Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso
Georgia: Laura McCarty, Georgia Humanities Council, Atlanta

Region 5: Tracy Bryan, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond

Kentucky: Chris Goodlett, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort
North Carolina: Jo Ann Williford, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh and Elizabeth Buford, North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh
South Carolina: Casey Connell, Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site, Union
Virginia: Norman O. Burns, II, Maymont Foundation, Richmond and Nancy Perry, Portsmouth Museums, Portsmouth
West Virginia: Vacant

Region 6: Trina Nelson Thomas, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis

Illinois: Martha Downey, Bishop Hill State Historic Site, Bishop Hill and Patricia Miller, Illinois Heritage Association, Champaign
Indiana: Janna Bennett, Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis
Michigan: Scott M. Peters, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing
Ohio: Jody Blankenship, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

KYOU!

Who help make the AASLH Leadership in History Awards possible.

Region 7: Cherel Henderson, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, TN

Arkansas: Vacant
Louisiana: Jenny Poulter, Magnolia Mound Plantation, Baton Rouge
Mississippi: Shelley Ritter, Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale and Marilyn Jones, Manship House Museum, Jackson
Tennessee: Deborah Montanti, Heritage Alliance, Jonesborough

Region 8: Milita Rios-Samaniego, USAF Security Forces Museum, Lackland Air Force Base, TX

New Mexico: Stephanie Long, City of Las Cruces Museum System, Las Cruces
Oklahoma: Erin Brown, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
Texas: Lisa Kalmus, Sanders Corps of Cadets Center, Texas A&M University, College Station

Region 9: Matt Carpenter, The History Museum at the Castle, Appleton, WI

Iowa: Jerome Thompson, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines
Minnesota: Melinda Hutchinson, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul
Wisconsin: Kelly Herold, Buffalo County Historical Society, Alma

Region 10: Vicki Kaffenberger, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO

Kansas: Mary Madden, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka
Missouri: David Moore, University of Missouri, Columbia
Nebraska: Lynne Ireland, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln

Region 11: Genia Hesser, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND

Colorado: Betty Kilsdonk, Estes Park Museum, Estes Park
Montana: Dr. Robert Brown, Historical Museum at Ft. Missoula, Missoula
North Dakota: Diane Rogness, DeMores State Historic Site, Medora
South Dakota: Jay Vogt, South Dakota Historical Society, Pierre and Julie Breu, Siouland Heritage Museums, Sioux Falls
Wyoming: Erin Rose, Fort Caspar Museum, Casper

Region 12: Keith Petersen, Idaho State Historical Society, Moscow, ID

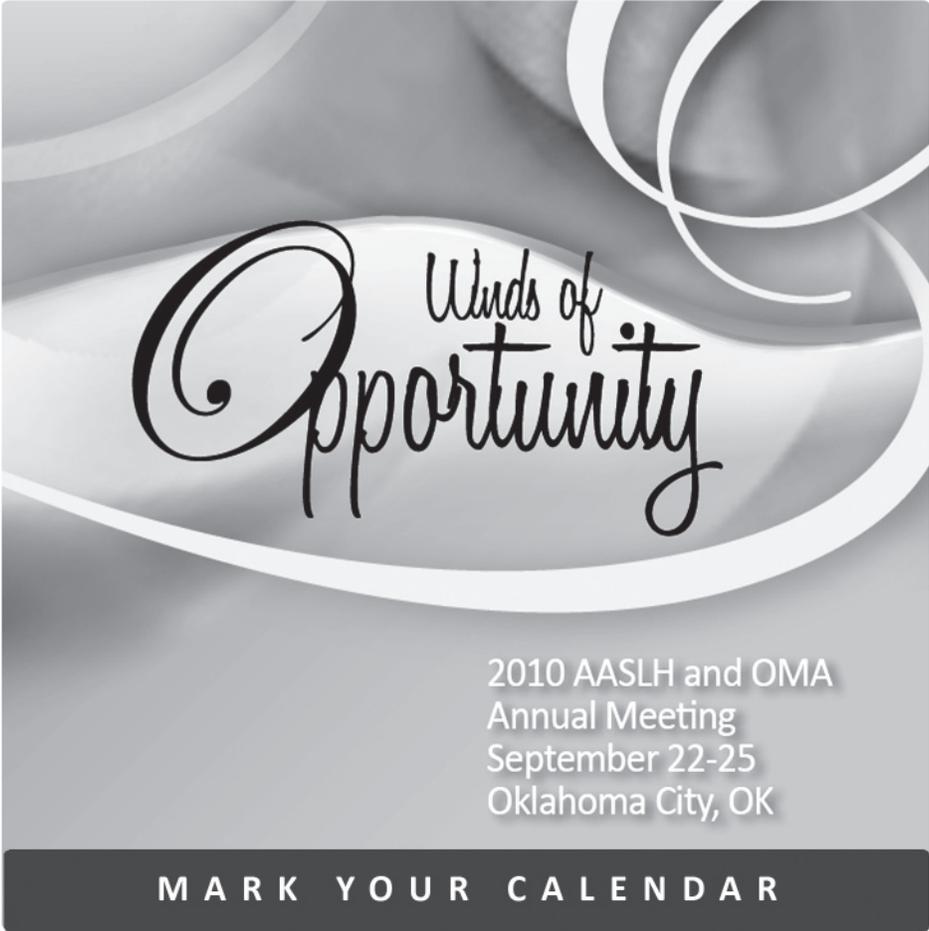
Alaska: Dennis Chapman, Wrangell Museum, Wrangell and Joan Antonson, Alaska Office of History, Anchorage
Idaho: Shelby Day, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise and Suzi Pengilly, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise
Oregon: Vacant
Washington: Dr. Lorraine C. McConaghy, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle

Region 13: Karen Wade, Homestead Museum, City of Industry, CA

California: Wendy Franklin, California State Parks, Sacramento and Alexandra Rasic, Homestead Museum, City of Industry
Hawaii: Mary Requilman, Kauai Historical Society, Lihue

Region 14: Craig Fuller, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT

Arizona: Deborah Shelton, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson
Nevada: Brian Alvarez, Nevada Museum of Art, Nevada Museums Association, Reno
Utah: Brandon Johnson, Utah Humanities Council, Salt Lake City



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