

**PA History Society  
Archival & Website Committee  
ZOOM Conference Call Minutes  
February 16, 2023**

*Trustees/Historians Participating:* Rich Vause, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C, FCPP, DFAAPA, *Chair*  
Bill Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA  
Deb Munsell, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA  
Sophi Leah Scarnewman, PA-S  
Steve Wilson, PA-C, *President*

*Trustee Excused:* Robin Hunter-Buskey, DHSc, CPHP, CCHP, CDCES,  
PA-C, Captain USPHS

*Staff Participating:* Lori Konopka-Sauer, *Managing Director*  
Tricia Marriott, *Historian*  
Michelle Schabowski, *Senior Archivist*

Committee Chair Rich Vause called the meeting to order on February 16, 2023, at 3:05p.m., and welcomed everyone to the video call.

Chair Vause asked Ms. Konopka-Sauer for a status update on the process of the website homepage refresh. The Managing Director said that the design team recently started implementing a concept mock-up where the menu tabs for the different sections are placed along the top of the homepage for easier user access. She added that the process may take many months due to the complexity and size of the Society’s site.

Dr. Vause provided committee members with a brief review of the PAHx Trustee responsibilities regarding the number of biographies, oral histories, website exhibits and newsletter articles each Trustee is expected to contribute as a member of a “working board”. He added that if each of the 10 board members wrote three BIOs a year, we would add 30 biographies to the Society’s collection annually. Chair Vause explained that as members of the Archival & Website Committee, each committee member should strive to set an example to the other Trustees by fulfilling these responsibilities. Trustee Munsell said that she would be working on a BIO for Steve Shelton and Student Trustee Scarnewman said that she would like to write both a biography and conduct an oral history with her advisor and PAEA President-Elect, Nicole Burwell. Ms. Konopka-Sauer shared that Trustee Thomas was contacting Ted Ruback and would be writing his biography. Chair Vause asked that each committee member please plan to complete one BIO by the April 23rd Board Meeting. Ms. Konopka-Sauer offered to draft an email to the entire board with the same request. Dr. Vause added that he was currently working on two biographies that would be completed by the spring meeting. President Wilson said that he appreciated Chair Vause’s effort to rally the committee members and Trustees to garner greater participation this year. Trustee Kohlhepp noted that sometimes individuals are very humble and will need a gentle nudge to get them to agree to have their biography drafted. Dr. Vause reminded everyone that the Society aspires to capture the complete history of the PA profession which includes the stories from PAs doing the “regular” day-to-day work of a physician assistant. Historian Marriott commented that sometimes it just takes that initial step of creating a rough draft from an individual’s CV to get the process going for a BIO. The discussions included the process for writing a biography. Chair Vause reviewed the Society’s BIO instructions, BIO Sketch Form and BIO & Photo Permission Form. Dr. Vause referenced the questions that

President Wilson has sent to his individuals when preparing to write their biography and asked the Managing Director to share those questions with the committee members. Chair Vause also explained that biographies need to be written for PAs and other advocates of the profession who have passed. He said that reaching out to family members and friends of the deceased as well as contacting the university archives for a faculty member who has passed away are good options for compiling biographical material. President Wilson reiterated that biographies, oral histories, newsletter articles, etc., do not get posted on the website or social media without final approval of the featured individual.

Chair Vause also mentioned creating articles and online exhibits for the Society website. He asked the Trustees to review the [Historical Happenings](#) and [PA Historical Perspectives](#) sections of the website as a way to generate new ideas. Student Trustee Scarnewman said that she would be interested in creating a future exhibit on Vivien Thomas and his contributions as a surgical assistant in the 1930-1940s who trained surgeons in groundbreaking techniques used in heart and lung operations. Dr. Kohlhepp suggested that she contact Disty Pearson, PA-C, who has spent her career in cardiology and specializes in congenital heart defects in children. Senior Archivist Schabowski shared that she is working on oral histories with PAs working with COVID patients to have a collection of interesting stories from PAs involved in the pandemic and then to write an essay. Ms. Schabowski asked if any of the Trustees know of someone who has an interesting COVID story to share, to please ask them to contact her [[michelles@nccpa.net](mailto:michelles@nccpa.net)]. Chair Vause also suggested that the staff write their biographies as they are members of the PA History Society and for their contributions to preserving PA history.

### **Closing Comments**

With no further discussions, Chair Vause adjourned the conference call at 4:00 p.m.

/lks