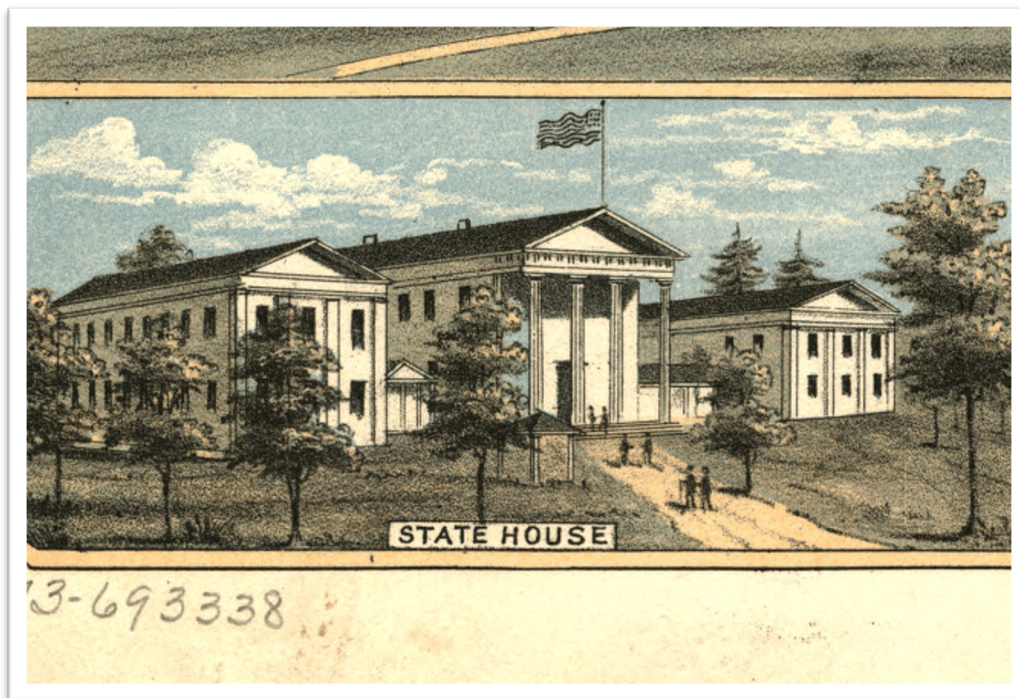


**The Annual Meeting of the  
Arkansas Association of College History Teachers**

October 5-6, 2023

Old State House Museum

Little Rock, Arkansas



Arkansas State House. *From Bird's Eye View of the City of Little Rock, the Capitol of Arkansas, 1871.*

Drawn & published by A. Ruger. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division



**The Annual Meeting of the  
Arkansas Association of College History Teachers  
October 5-6, 2023  
Old State House Museum  
Little Rock, Arkansas**



September 19, 2023

Welcome, AACHT members!

Halleluiah, we are gathering in-person two years in a row! It was so wonderful to finally see colleagues last year and recall why this organization is so special. We are truly blessed with members who are willing to share their research as well as their triumphs and challenges in navigating academia in the twenty-first century.

Our Vice President David Adams has put together a great program this year with a wide variety of research topics as well as panels that address some of the most pressing issues that we, as History faculty, face today. With a changing political and demographic landscape, it has never been more important to discuss, debate, and discover. As an organization with members dedicated to the ethical and empathetic pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, we are in a perfect position to contribute to shaping the future of the field of History and its place in higher education. I look forward to meeting this challenge with you all.

I want to thank Dr. Clint Young, past AACHT President, for his support during my first year as president. Clint has been generous with his time and experience and has provided great advice in helping me meet some challenges this year. Thank you, Dr. Young!

Our keynote speaker this year is Joe David Rice, author of *Arkansas Backstories*. Rice's deep knowledge of Arkansas, gained through extensive exploration as well as a thirty-year stint as the state's Director of Tourism, will be appreciated by both the historians of Arkansas in our midst as well as those among us looking for new lenses through which to view our chosen subjects. Welcome, Joe David!

I would like to extend a special thanks to Georganne Sisco and the crew here at the Old State House Museum. They not only provide a gorgeous space, but continue to make us feel welcome and appreciated. Be sure and thank Georganne, her staff, and the maintenance and grounds crew who help our event run smoothly year after year.

Again, welcome. And enjoy and appreciate the organization to which you all have contributed throughout the years.

Cheers!

Shari Silzell  
AACHT President  
Associate Professor of History  
University of Arkansas at Monticello

# **AACHT 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Old State House Museum  
300 W. Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9685

## **Thursday, October 5**

### **2:00 P.M. On-site Registration opens at the Old State House Museum**

Conference registration, including annual AACHT dues, and Friday lunch is \$50.00

### **3:00-3:50 Session 1A: Minorities and the Expansion of the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

Moderator: David Adams, Harding University

“The Constitution of the Administrative Liberian Archives: Black Awareness of African Colonization”

Caree A. Banton, University of Arkansas

“Crazy Horse and the Struggle to Find Peace”

Jeffrey V. Pearson, Arkansas Tech University

### **4:00 – 4:50 Session 1B: Panel**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

Moderator: Clint Young, University of Arkansas at Monticello

" Teaching Queer History and Why it Matters"

Arley Ward and Marie Totten, University of Arkansas



OLD STATE HOUSE  
MUSEUM

Join us for a

**Reception**  
**Thursday, October 5 at 5:00**

Jointly sponsored by AACHT and the Old State House Museum

Come enjoy a refreshing beverage and catch up with your colleagues from the  
Arkansas Association of College History Teachers.

**We will meet on the first floor of the Old State House Museum.**



Thank you to our Conference sponsor:

**Ouachita Baptist University History Department**

# Conference Schedule

## Friday, October 6

### **8:00 Officers' Breakfast**

@The Corner, 201 E. Markham Street

Sponsored by Ouachita Baptist University History Department

All former and current AACHT officers are welcome to attend.

### **9:20-10:20 Session 2A: Challenging the Status Quo in the 1960s**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

Moderator: Shari Silzell, University of Arkansas at Monticello

"Abolishing Arkansas's Poll Tax: A Working-Class Reform"

Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas

“Voices of Grambling: A Digital Humanities Exploration of the 1967 Grambling Protest”

Brian M. McGowan, University of Arkansas

### **10:30-11:05 Session 2B: Changing Tech and the College Classroom**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

"History Students Tackle AI"

Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

### **11:10-11:40 Session 2C: Engagement**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

“Reinvigoration and Bridge Building through History Day Arkansas”

Angela Adams, University of Central Arkansas

### **11:50-12:20 AACHT Business Meeting**

Riverfront Room – First Floor, Old State House Museum

We will be discussing the future of the organization and the Conference, and soliciting input from you about these things. We encourage all to attend!

## **12:30-2:00 Luncheon**

Catered by Whole Hog Cafe  
Riverfront Room, Old State House Museum

### **Presentation of conference awards:**

- ❖ Pat Ramsey Outstanding Secondary School History Teacher Award  
Committee: John Henris and Clint Young
  
- ❖ James S. Chase Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Presentation  
Committee: James Conway and Walter Everett

And

## **2022 Plenary Address**



### **“Arkansas Backstories”**

#### **Joe David Rice, Author**

Born in Paragould, Arkansas, and raised in Jonesboro, Joe David Rice attended the University of Arkansas before earning a graduate degree in environmental planning from the University of Illinois. A former operator of a canoe outfitting business on the Buffalo River, he also owned the second largest cave in the state at one time. He retired from the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism in 2017 after 30 years as the state’s tourism director, serving under five governors.

Taking advantage of his vast knowledge of the state, Rice wrote *Arkansas Backstories*, a two-volume book exploring the state’s lesser-known aspects. Few Arkansans realize the state produced a challenger to John F. Kennedy in the 1960 race for the Democrat Party’s Presidential nominee or that Arkansas hosted the world’s first UFO conference way back in 1975. These and other fascinating tidbits make *Arkansas Backstories* a must for residents and ex-pats alike.

# Arkansas Association of College History Teachers

## Business Meeting Minutes Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR Friday, October 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11:31, President Kelly Houston Jones presiding.

Chris Mortenson moved to approve the minutes from 2021; Shari Silzell seconded the motion.

Jones called for nominations for Vice-President of AACHT. Silzell nominated David Adams and he accepted the nomination. Jeff Pearson seconded the nomination. As there were no other nominations, a vote was called and David Adams was elected Vice-President without dissent.

Jones called for a discussion about using VENMO as a means of payment instead of PayPal which charges 2.5%. Jones explained that the change was due to the switch to a free version of Wild Apricot, the host of the AACHT website. At the urging of Chris Mortenson, members decided to turn the decision over to AACHT leadership.

Jones stated that Institutional Memberships had declined, in part, due to use of VENMO. Members discussed university administration issues with institutional dues vs. sponsorships. It was agreed to stick with institutional dues and offer sponsorships of lunch, the reception, etc.

Jones called for a discussion on Conference location. Silzell explained that the State House is free and provides exceptional customer service, but that some members had suggested rotating the meeting location around the state. It was agreed that leadership would explore other options and decide on the most cost effective and convenient location for the 2023 annual meeting.

It was also decided that AACHT leadership would work more closely with Arkansas History Day to solicit nominations for Secondary Teacher of the Year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

### AACHT Officers, 2022-2023

**President**  
**Sharon Silzell, Ph.D.**  
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Behavioral Sciences  
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**Secretary-Treasurer**  
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(479) 619-4149;  
jamiforrester@haashall.org



## **NHD Annual Report to Arkansas Association of College History Teachers (AACHT)**

Arkansas History Day had a great 2022-2023 year. We had 5 in person contests held at NWACC, HU, UALR, UAFS, and the Museum of Natural Resources. 663 students advanced from their school competitions to attend these Regional Contests. The state contest was held at UCA on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year I added activities and speakers to make it a day of learning. Some said that in the past the day was about “waiting to see if you lost,” so my goal was to make it a memorable event for all who attended. I also arranged for university and government leaders to speak at the Awards ceremony to make it more special for students and teachers. Arkansas Representative Les Eaves, United States Representative French Hill, UCA President Dr. Houston Davis, and Provost Dr. Patricia Poulter were all part of the Awards Ceremony. Students were happy to have their medals placed on them by the Congressmen. We had a great delegation of 60 Arkansas Students and teachers that made it to the National contest held at the University of Maryland at College Park on June 11-15<sup>th</sup>. More than that had advanced, but not all could go, primarily due to lack of funding.

At Nationals I arranged for a group ticket for the delegation to go to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. After that our group went on a visit I set up with Arkansas Senator John Boozman. He asked every Arkansas student in attendance about their project and took a picture with the group and with every family. There is a parade of states at the National award ceremony, and we bought large diamond pool floaties to carry for Arkansas. We also got the students fake diamond rings. We had a wonderful time, but only had 1 large Arkansas flag and need more before next year’s ceremony. We are looking to get enough small ones donated so every Arkansas student can carry one in the parade.

On the school level lots of the growth was due to a new program I created called “Hello History Day,” modeled on a meal delivery kit where everything is ready to go. The idea was to create something like that for teachers implementing History Day. Hello History Day included an introduction Power Point, sub plan, calendar and other resources that were premade, so that adding History Day would not seem like such a huge undertaking. Last fall the national office called a meeting of all state and US territory Coordinators in MN, and I was asked to present our new program.

Previous targeted teacher emails called History Day a “rigorous yearlong project.” We now describe it as a way to let your students shine in a variety of talent areas and mention *Hello History Day* and the classroom support you get. This was highly successful and behind much of the growth.

One of the main issues with History Day is fatigue and attrition. The follow-up visits helped keep several new schools from giving up. One new school in Melbourne had me introduce the project but did not send students to Regionals. However, all other new schools completed the project. There were some big successes, like two schools from the Searcy School District, two schools in the Midland District from Pleasant Plains and Floral, one school from the Lake Hamilton School District in Pearcy, an FBLA club at Harding Academy, and a new History Club in Benton. This represented a growth of over 1000 students. The goal in the ADE report was listed as 71 new students. I made 45 in person visits to schools and conducted numerous Zoom visits to support teachers and students.

This is a highly successful but incredibly time-consuming model. History Day State coordinator is supposed to be a half time position. So, I have the model for success, but hope to find a way to do it without so many volunteer hours.

Each year I am focusing on shoring up a weak Region. Last year's goal was Region 8. In 2022 its contest had 2 schools and 37 students in attendance. This year it had 10 schools and 140 students.

My last goal was to increase Arkansas History Day's social media presence. Previously it had no Instagram and had 15 Facebook posts for the entire 2021-2022 year. I created an Instagram account and have created over 100 posts and increased our Facebook posts 10-fold. We have seen direct growth from that. We have 2 new schools that saw social media posts and contacted History Day asking to join. They wanted what they saw in those pictures for their students.

The future is bright for History Day, we just need to figure out how to sustain and support our massive growth with the limited personnel that we have.

Thank you for your support and I hope many of you will consider being Judges at our 2024 State contest on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Angela Adams

State Coordinator Arkansas History Day



**BYLAWS OF THE  
ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE HISTORY TEACHERS**

{adopted October 5, 1974}

{revised October 3, 2008; September 30, 2010; October 6, 2011}

**ARTICLE I**

Name

The name of this organization shall be The Arkansas Association of College History Teachers.

**ARTICLE II**

Object

The object of this Association shall be to improve the teaching of History for all levels of instruction; to advance the professional interests of its membership; and to establish closer rapport among the various History faculties.

**ARTICLE III**

Members

Section 1. Membership is open to all teachers or former teachers of History in two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the State of Arkansas on payment of dues set by the organization.

Section 2. Associate membership is open to graduate students and secondary school teachers in History and Social Studies on payment of dues set by the organization. Associate members shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, of voting, and of holding office.

**ARTICLE IV**

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for two years, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3. No member shall hold more than one term in the same office except for the Secretary-Treasurer.

**ARTICLE V**

Meetings

Section 1. The Association will meet at least once a year for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 2. Special meetings can be called by the President or by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VI**  
The Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of the Association and the immediate past president shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Association, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Association, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Association.

**ARTICLE VII**  
Committees

Section 1. A Program Chair shall be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to plan the annual program of the Association.

Section 2. Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as the Association or the Executive Board shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Association. The President shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

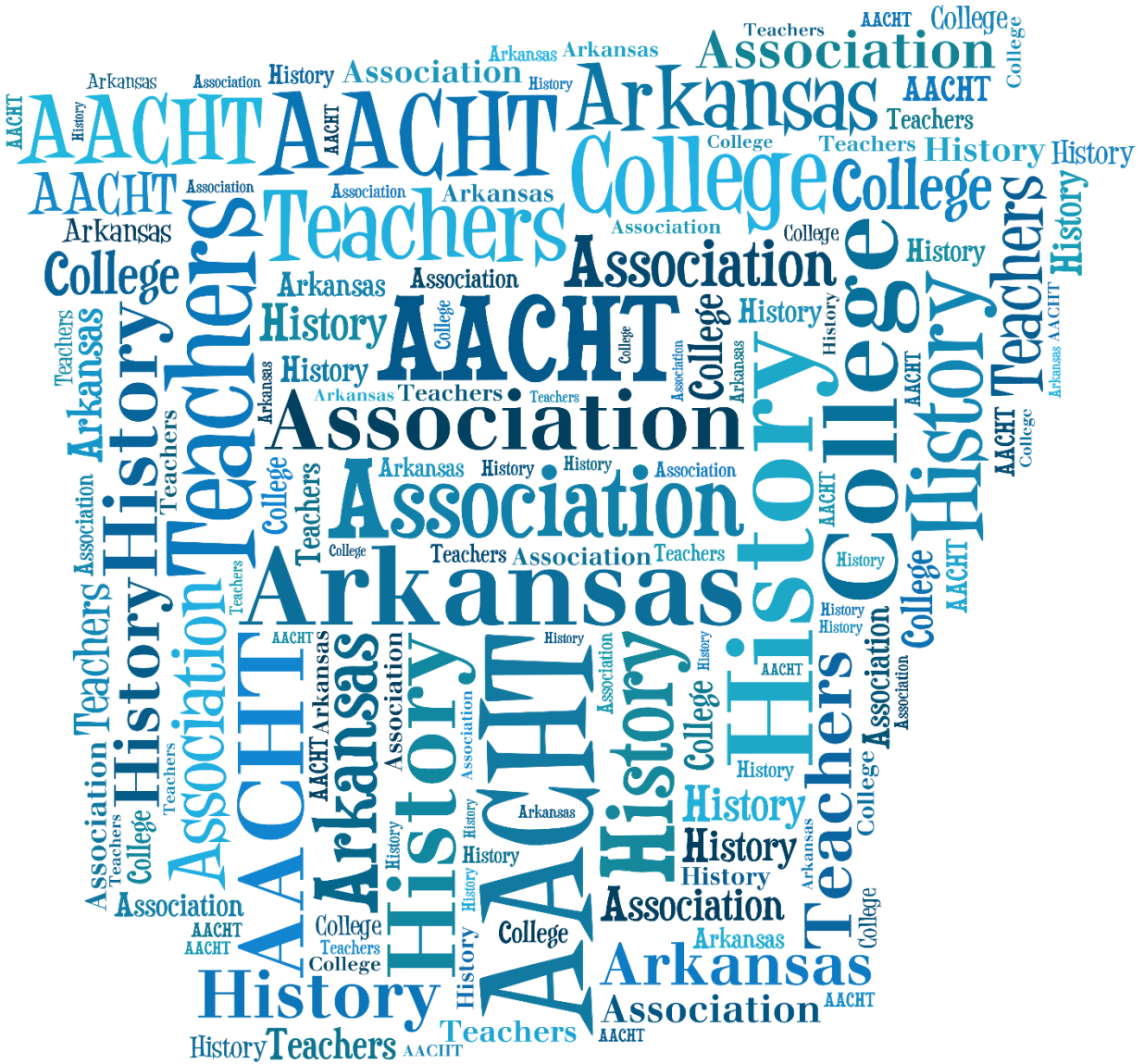
**ARTICLE IX**  
Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a majority of those present and voting, provided that the amendment has been distributed to the members of the Association at least one month prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted on.

## **Arkansas Association of College History Teachers Officers**

Two-year term dates based upon officers at time of annual meeting, not dates of election.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY/TREASURER</b>
1975-76	James Chase	C.K. McFarland	Raymond Muncy
1977-78	C.K. McFarland	Jane B. Fagg	Raymond Muncy
1979-80	Raymond Muncy	Fred Williams	Mike Hammond
1981-82	Fred Williams	Timothy Donovan	Mike Hammond
1983-84	Timothy Donovan	Everett Slavens	Mike Hammond
1985-86	Everett Slavens	Hal Smith/Foy Lisenby	Fred Jewell
1987-88	Hal Smith	Larry Ball	Fred Jewell
1989-90	Larry Ball	Jerry Pyle	Fred Jewell
1991-92	Jerry Pyle	Ann Smith	Fred Jewell
1993-94	Ann Smith	David Edwards	Fred Jewell
1995-96	David Edwards	Alexander Sydorenko	Fred Jewell
1997-98	A. Sydorenko	Ben Johnson	Fred Jewell
1999-2000	Ben Johnson	Ken Barnes	Fred Jewell
2001-02	Ken Barnes	Phyllis Pobst	Fred Jewell
2003-04	Phyllis Pobst	Thomas DeBlack	Fred Jewell
2005-06	Thomas DeBlack	Charles Bolton	Fred Jewell
2007-08	Charles Bolton	Wayne Bowen	Jan Jenkins
2009-10	Trey Berry*	Kyle Day	Jan Jenkins
	Kyle Day (Acting)		
2011-12	Kyle Day	Chris Mortenson	Jan Jenkins
2013-14	Chris Mortenson	Jami Forrester	Jan Jenkins
2015-16	Jami Forrester	Jeff Pearson	Jan Jenkins
2017-18	Jeff Pearson	Clint Young	Jan Jenkins
2019-20	Clint Young	Kelly Houston Jones	Jami Forrester
2021-22	Kelly Houston Jones	Shari Silzell	Jami Forrester
2022-23	Shari Silzell	David Adams	Jami Forrester



**ESTABLISHED 1974**