

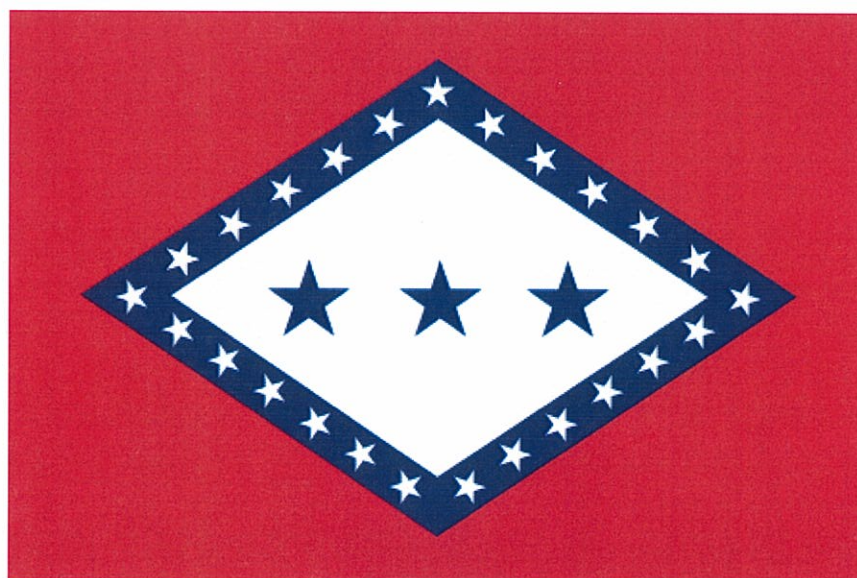


**Final Report**

**Arkansas Legislative Task Force  
on the  
Assessment and Improvement  
of  
Arkansas History Education in Public Schools**

**Submitted  
to the  
House Interim Committee on Education  
and the  
Senate Interim Committee on Education**

**June 1, 2011**



Design created by [Willie Kavanaugh Hocker](#) of [Wabbaseka](#)  
from a field of sixty-five entries in a 1912 contest.

# ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

Senator Mary Anne Salmon  
Senate Co-Chair

Representative Betty Overbey  
House Co-Chair

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education

FROM: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair  
Representative Betty Overbey, Co-Chair  
Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

SUBJECT: Final Report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

DATE: June 1, 2011

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Pursuant to the provisions of Act 1462 of 2009, we are submitting the Final Report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools for your review. The Task Force has worked diligently towards completion of the responsibilities assigned to it by Act 1462. These include:

- (1) Assess the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- (2) Compile information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes;
- (3) Investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education;
- (4) Review Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers;
- (5) Identify means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history;
- (6) Investigate ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas; and
- (7) Develop a set of written recommendations for the General Assembly that will improve the Arkansas history curriculum taught in public schools.

The Task Force divided itself into two (2) subcommittees, the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee and the Education System Subcommittee, to facilitate its work. The Subcommittees were created on the basis of the Task Force's statutory mandates.

During the 2011 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly, the Task Force put forth proposed legislation, Senate Bill 171 by Senator Salmon, to address several areas of concern it had identified regarding the teaching of Arkansas history. Unfortunately, this legislative effort was not favorably received.

The Task Force continued with its deliberations and produced the recommendations outlined below:

- Development of a sustainable dialogue with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), the Arkansas Education Association (AEA), the Arkansas Rural Education Association (AREA), and the Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA) concerning the teaching of Arkansas history in the state's public schools
- Review and revision of the current statutory requirements concerning the teaching of Arkansas history to ensure compliance and to address the issue of defining what constitutes a "unit" of Arkansas history to be taught in Grades K through Six (6)
- Continuation of the development efforts currently underway in the state to provide educators with classroom materials and educational resources needed to enhance the teaching of Arkansas history as a discrete course and used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas
- Recognition of the state's status as a leader in the creation of educational resources and development of methodologies to inform and encourage the use of these resources by the state's educators, as exemplified by the development of the Arkansas History Hub, a collaborative effort between the Arkansas Department of Heritage and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALIS)
- Recognition and encouragement of the collaborative efforts currently underway to enhance the availability and dissemination of educational resources concerning the teaching of Arkansas history, which are often funded by nonprofit organizations such as Arkansas Community Foundation's Bridge Fund Endowment
- Recognition by policymakers and educational leaders of the opportunity presented by the development and implementation of the Common Core Standards to fundamentally reshape and refocus, with input from the various stakeholder groups, all facets of the state's Social Studies curriculum, including Arkansas history

We hope you will find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us or the staff person assigned to the Task Force, Mr. Mark Hudson, if you have any questions or need additional information. Mark's telephone number is 501-537-9173.

**History is who we are and why we are the way we are. ~ David McCullough**

Final Report  
Arkansas Legislative Task Force  
on the  
Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools

**Table of Contents**

Members of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force.....	1-2
Charge to the Task Force.....	3
Recommendations of the Task Force.....	4
Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee.....	5
MEMBERS.....	5
CHARGE.....	5
Education System Subcommittee.....	6
MEMBERS.....	6
CHARGE.....	6
Presentations to the Task Force.....	7-8
Presentations to the Subcommittees.....	9

Appendix

- A. Act 1462 of 2009
- B. Senate Bill 171 of 2011
- C. Minutes of November 24, 2009 Meeting
- D. Minutes of January 25, 2010 Meeting
- E. Minutes of April 20, 2010 Meeting
- F. Minutes of May 25, 2010 Meeting
- G. Minutes of August 4, 2010 Meeting
- H. Minutes of November 16, 2010 Meeting
- I. Minutes of May 27, 2011 Meeting
- J. History of Arkansas State Flag\*

\*Article from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture

**Members of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force  
on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education  
in Public Schools**

- (1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;  
**Ms. Taniesa Moore, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock, AR (Commissioner's Designee)**
- (2) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;  
**Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair**
- (3) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
**Representative Betty Overbey, Co-Chair\***
- (4) Two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor;  
**Dr. Harry Readnour, Conway, AR**  
**Ms. Mary McJunkins, Mineral Springs, AR**
- (5) Two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public school system appointed by the Governor;  
**Ms. Kara Oosterhous, Glenwood, AR**  
**Ms. Memorie Dickson, Monticello, AR**
- (6) Two (2) school administrators selected by the Arkansas Association of School Administrators;  
**Dr. Tony Prothro, Former Superintendent, Benton School District**  
**Dr. Greg Murry, Superintendent, Conway School District**
- (7) Two (2) teachers of Arkansas history selected by the Arkansas Council for Social Studies;  
**Ms. Jan Loyd, Cabot, AR**  
**Mrs. Leigh Sullivan, Paragould, AR**
- (8) Two (2) members appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Educational Television Network;  
**Mr. Tony Brooks, Deputy Director and COO, AETN**  
**Ms. Kathleen Branton, Director of Governmental Relations, AETN**
- (9) Two (2) members appointed by the Arkansas State Historian;  
**Ms. Jane Hooker, Archival Manager, Arkansas History Commission**  
**Ms. Peggy Lloyd, Archival Manager, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives**  
**Arkansas History Commission\*\***

\* Replaced former Representative Rick Saunders of Hot Springs, whose term of office ended on December 31, 2010

\*\*Replaced Mrs. Deranda Granade, retired history teacher, Arkadelphia, AR, who resigned from the Task Force in May 2010

- (10) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas History Education Coalition;  
**Mr. Tom Dillard, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition**  
**Dr. Tom DeBlack, Vice President, Arkansas History Education Coalition**
- (11) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas Historical Association;  
**Mr. Lloyd Clark, Powhatan, AR**  
**Dr. Blake Wintory, Director, Lakeport Plantation Museum, Lake Village, AR**
- (12) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage; and  
**Dr. Trey Berry, Deputy Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock, AR**  
**Ms. Starr Mitchell, Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AR**
- (13) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism.  
**Mr. Jay Miller, Administrator of Program Services, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism**  
**Mr. Ben Swadley, Director, Plantation Agriculture Museum, Scott, AR**

## **Charge to the Task Force**

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was established pursuant to Act 1462 of 2009. The General Assembly sought to address specific issues concerning the teaching of Arkansas history, engaging all concerned stakeholders as full and valued partners in the process. The Task Force was explicitly charged with:

- Assessing the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- Compiling information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes;
- Investigating ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education;
- Reviewing Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers;
- Identifying means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history;
- Investigating ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas; and
- Developing a set of written recommendations for the General Assembly that will improve the Arkansas history curriculum taught in public schools.



## Recommendations of the Task Force

- Development of a sustainable dialogue with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), the Arkansas Education Association (AEA), the Arkansas Rural Education Association (AREA), and the Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA) concerning the teaching of Arkansas history in the state’s public schools
- Review and revision of the current statutory requirements concerning the teaching of Arkansas history to ensure compliance and to address the issue of defining what constitutes a “unit” of Arkansas history to be taught in Grades K through Six (6)
- Continuation of the development efforts currently underway in the state to provide educators with classroom materials and educational resources needed to enhance the teaching of Arkansas history as a discrete course and used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas
- Recognition of the state’s status as a leader in the creation of educational resources and development of methodologies to inform and encourage the use of these resources by the state’s educators, as exemplified by the development of the Arkansas History Hub, a collaborative effort between the Arkansas Department of Heritage and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALIS)
- Recognition and encouragement of the collaborative efforts currently underway to enhance the availability and dissemination of educational resources concerning the teaching of Arkansas history, which are often funded by nonprofit organizations such as Arkansas Community Foundation’s Bridge Fund Endowment
- Recognition by policymakers and educational leaders of the opportunity presented by the development and implementation of the Common Core Standards to fundamentally reshape and refocus, with input from the various stakeholder groups, all facets of the state’s Social Studies curriculum, including Arkansas history

## Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

### MEMBERS

● **Chair:** Starr Mitchell

- Trey Berry
- Tony Brooks
- Jane Hooker
- Jay Miller
- Kara Oosterhous
- Tony Prothro
- Ben Swadley
- Blake Wintory

### CHARGE

The Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was appointed to focus wholly or in part on the following areas:

- Compilation of information concerning the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes
- Investigation of ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education
- Investigation of ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas

## Education System Subcommittee

### MEMBERS

- **Chair:** Tom Dillard
- Kathleen Branton
- Lloyd Clark
- Tom DeBlack
- Memorie Dickson
- Jan Loyd
- Peggy Lloyd
- Mary McJunkins
- Taniesa Moore
- Greg Murry
- Harry Readnour
- Leigh Sullivan

### CHARGE

The Education System Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education in Public Schools was appointed to focus wholly or in part on the following areas:

- Assessing the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;
- Compilation of information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes
- Reviewing Arkansas history preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers
- Identifying the means for recognizing outstanding teachers of Arkansas history
- Investigation of the ways Arkansas history can be used to reinforce instruction in other subject areas

## Presentations to the Task Force

DATE	PRESENTER/ORGANIZATION	TOPICS
<b>November 24, 2009</b>	<p><b>Senator Mary Anne Salmon</b> Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p><b>Representative Rick Saunders</b> Task Force Co-Chair</p>	<p>Background of Act 1462 of 2009 Discussion of Organizational Issues Suggestions to the Task Force</p> <p>Background of Act 1462 of 2009 Discussion of Organizational Issues Suggestions to the Task Force</p>
<b>January 25, 2010</b>	No Scheduled Presenters	<p>Accountability--communicating with school districts to make them aware of Act 787 of 1997;</p> <p>Coursework--making certain that teachers understand what they're teaching; social studies standards; uniformity of teaching methods; and</p> <p>Resources--communicating with teachers about resources that are available.</p>
<b>April 20, 2010</b>	<p><b>Ms. Starr Mitchell</b>, Chair Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Mr. Tom Dillard</b>, Chair Education System Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Ms. Heather Larkin</b> President and CEO Arkansas Community Foundation</p>	<p>Report on the Meeting of the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Report on the Meeting of the Education System Subcommittee</p> <p>Arkansas Community Foundation and the Bridge Fund</p>
<b>May 25, 2010</b>	<p><b>Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN):</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Tony Brooks</b> Deputy Executive Director and COO</p> <p><b>Ms. Kathleen Branton</b> Director of Government Relations</p> <p><b>Ms. Chris Caram</b> Director of Education</p> <p><b>Ms. Colleen Flory</b> Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator</p> <p><b>Ms. Carole Adornetto</b> Director of Production</p>	Discussion of services and resources regarding Arkansas history available through the Arkansas Educational Television Network

**Presentations to the Task Force (continued)**

DATE	PRESENTER/ORGANIZATION	TOPICS
<p><b>May 25, 2010</b> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>Dr. Tom Kimbrell</b> Commissioner Arkansas Department of Education</p> <p><b>Ms. Susan Gray</b> Assessment Program Manager Arkansas Department of Education</p>	<p>Discussion of assessment and monitoring issues regarding the teaching of Arkansas history in public schools</p>
<p><b>August 4, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Starr Mitchell</b>, Chair Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Mr. Tom Dillard</b>, Chair Education System Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Teaching Artists</b> Trike Theatre of Bentonville</p>	<p>Report on the Meeting of the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Report on the Meeting of the Education System Subcommittee</p> <p>Performance of play, <i>Digging Up Arkansas</i>, at the Old State House Museum</p>
<p><b>November 16, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Starr Mitchell</b>, Chair Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Mr. Tom Dillard</b>, Chair Education System Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Task Force</b></p>	<p>Report on the Meeting of the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Report on the Meeting of the Education System Subcommittee</p> <p>Discussion of proposed legislation for consideration by the 88<sup>th</sup> Arkansas General Assembly</p>
<p><b>May 27, 2011</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Josh Jenkins</b> Computer Support Specialist Department of Arkansas Heritage</p> <p><b>Task Force</b></p>	<p>Update on the Arkansas History Hub, an Arkansas history resource website for educators</p> <p>Discussion of resource and systemic issues related to the teaching of Arkansas history</p>

## Presentations to the Subcommittees

DATE	PRESENTER/ORGANIZATION	TOPICS
<p><b>April 20, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Kay Bland</b> Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Central Arkansas Library System</p> <p><b>Dr. Jack Bennett, CEO</b> Archeological Assessments, Incorporated</p>	<p>Presentation to the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee concerning the Arkansas history resources and services available through the Butler Center</p> <p>Presentation to the Education System Subcommittee concerning the comprehensive set of textbooks and instructional materials known as the Arkansas Studies Curriculum</p>
<p><b>August 4, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Vicki Stroud Gonterman</b> Gibbs Magnet School of International Studies and Foreign Languages Little Rock School District, and 2009 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year</p> <p><b>Mr. Andrew Hillis</b> Lakeside High School Lakeside School District, and Teach For America Participant</p> <p><b>Mr. Roy Wilson</b> Sheridan Intermediate School Sheridan School District</p>	<p>Presentation to the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee concerning resource needs of educators</p>
<p><b>November 16, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Cecilia Patterson</b> Arkansas Community Foundation Retired</p> <p><b>Mr. David Stricklin</b> Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Central Arkansas Library System</p> <p><b>Ms. Marie McNeal</b> Little Rock School District</p> <p><b>Mr. Chris Love</b> Arkansas Community Foundation</p> <p><b>Mr. Josh Jenkins</b> Department of Arkansas Heritage</p>	<p>Discussion by the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee concerning new resources for accessing information and materials related to Arkansas history</p>

# Appendix A

Act 1462 of 2009

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

**Act 1462 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 452

4  
5 By: Senators Salmon, Madison, Elliott, Teague  
6 By: Representatives Saunders, Ragland, House

## For An Act To Be Entitled

7  
8  
9  
10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK  
11 FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF  
12 ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND  
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14  
15  
16 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK  
17 FORCE ON THE STATUS OF ARKANSAS HISTORY  
18 EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

19  
20  
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

### SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE - DO NO CODIFY.

22  
23  
24 (a) There is created the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Arkansas History Education.

25 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

26 (1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

27 (2) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
28 Senate;

29 (3) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
30 House of Representatives;

31 (4) Two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor;

32 (5) Two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public school system appointed by the  
33 Governor;

34 (6) Two (2) school administrators selected by the Arkansas Association of School  
35 Administrators;



1                   (7) Two (2) teachers of Arkansas history selected by the Arkansas Council for the Social  
 2 Studies;

3                   (8) Two (2) members appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Educational  
 4 Television Network;

5                   (9) Two (2) members appointed by the Arkansas State Historian;

6                   (10) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas History Education

7 Coalition;

8                   (11) Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Arkansas Historical

9 Association;

10                  (12) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Arkansas

11 Heritage; and

12                  (13) Two (2) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Parks and

13 Tourism.

14                  (c)(1) The member of the House of Representatives and the member of the Senate appointed to  
 15 the task force under subsection (b) of this section shall serve as cochairs of the task force.

16                  (2) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1) time every three (3) months  
 17 but may occur more often at the call of the cochairs or by petition by a majority of the members.

18                  (3) The task force may solicit, accept, and expend gifts and grants.

19                  (d) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the  
 20 original appointment.

21                  (e) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting business.

22                  (f) Legislative members of the task force shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for expenses  
 23 and per diem at the same rate and from the same source as provided by law for members of the General  
 24 Assembly attending meetings of interim committees.

25                  (g) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting any  
 26 business of the task force.

27 (h) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task force.

28                  (i) The task force shall be abolished on June 1, 2011.

29  
 30 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE - DO NOT CODIFY.

31 (a) The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Arkansas History Education shall:

32                  (1) Assess the status of Arkansas history education in public schools;

33                  (2) Compile information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for  
 34 Arkansas history classes;

35                  (3) Investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other  
 36 interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education;



## Appendix B

Senate Bill 171 of 2011

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

*As Engrossed: S3/15/11*  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 171

4  
5 By: Senator Salmon  
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO IMPROVE ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC  
9 SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

10  
11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO IMPROVE ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN  
14 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

15  
16  
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18  
19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-124 is amended to read as follows:

20 6-16-124. Arkansas history — Required social studies course.

21 (a) ~~Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year:~~

22 (1)(A) A unit of Arkansas history shall be taught as a social studies subject at each  
23 elementary grade level in every public elementary school, including public charter schools, in this state,  
24 with greater emphasis at the fourth and fifth grade levels.

25 (B) A unit of Arkansas history shall include a minimum of ten (10) hours of  
26 documented instruction, which may include on-site instruction time during field trips, in kindergarten, first,  
27 second, third, and sixth grade and a minimum of twenty (20) hours of documented instruction, including  
28 field trips, in fourth and fifth grade. and

29 (2) At least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be taught to all students at the  
30 seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade level in every public secondary school, including  
31 public charter schools, in this state.

32 (3) Instruction provided at all grade levels shall conform to the course content guidelines  
33 adopted by the State Board of Education.

34 (b)(1) Annually, the administrators of each public school in each public school district,  
35 including public charter schools, shall:

36 (A) Maintain records for each school in the district that document for each grade

1 the:

- 2 (i) Amount of time spent on Arkansas history instruction;
- 3 (ii) Materials utilized for Arkansas history instruction; and
- 4 (iii) Curriculum or course guidelines used for Arkansas history

5 instruction; and

6 (B) Certify to the Department of Education that the school district is in  
7 compliance with this section by submitting a copy of the annual records prepared under subdivision (c)(1)  
8 of this section.

9 (2) A public school district or public charter school that fails to offer the minimum  
10 required Arkansas history instruction at each grade level may be subject to sanctions by the department  
11 for failure to meet standards for accreditation.

12 (3) The department shall send a letter of reprimand to the school district board of  
13 directors, which shall be placed in the school superintendent's personnel file, for each school district that  
14 fails to comply fully with this section.

15 (4) The department shall submit the name of each school district that fails to comply with  
16 the requirements of this section annually to the interim House Committee on Education and the interim  
17 Senate Committee on Education.

18 (c) The department shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this section.

19 ~~(b)(1) Course guidelines shall ensure that the courses represent the most accurate and~~  
20 ~~historically sound account of the prehistory, history, and culture of Arkansas, including the significant~~  
21 ~~contributions and achievements of all segments of the population.~~

22 ~~(2) Any revisions in the Arkansas history course content guidelines shall be reported to~~  
23 ~~the public schools and the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on~~  
24 ~~Education no later than July 1 of the year the course guidelines are to be implemented.~~

25  
26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an additional  
27 section to read as follows:

28 6-16-141. Arkansas history education advisory panel - Course content guidelines.

29 (a)(1) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a twelve (12) member advisory panel  
30 consisting of:

31 (A) Six (6) professional historians, geographers, archeologists, political  
32 scientists, and economists with expertise in Arkansas history;

33 (B) Three (3) Arkansas history teachers from a public secondary school; and

34 (C) Three (3) Arkansas history teachers from a public elementary school.

35 (2) An advisory panel chair shall be selected from the membership and shall serve as a  
36 non-voting member of the advisory panel.



## Appendix C

Minutes of November 24, 2009 Meeting

MINUTES

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE  
ON THE  
ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

11:00 A.M.  
Tuesday, November 24, 2009  
Room 151, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the first meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:**

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair; and Representative Rick Saunders, House Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Ms. Memorie Dickson; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Mary McJunkins; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Tony Prothro; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; Dr. Ellen Treadway for Ms. Taniesa Moore; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

Remarks by the Co-Chairs

Senator Salmon and Representative Rick Saunders, the House Co-Chair of the Task Force, welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force members were recognized and introduced themselves to their colleagues:

- Dr. Blake Wintory**, Director, Lakeport Plantation Museum, Lake Village, AR, Chicot County, representing the Arkansas Historical Association.
- Mr. Ben Swadley**, Superintendent, Plantation Agriculture Museum, Scott, AR, representing the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.
- Dr. Harry Readnour**, Retired history professor, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor.
- Dr. Tony Prothro**, Superintendent, Benton School District, Benton, AR, representing the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.
- Ms. Kara Oosterhous**, Glenwood, AR, serving as one of the two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public schools appointed by the Governor.
- Dr. Greg Murry**, Superintendent, Conway School District, Conway, AR, representing the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.
- Dr. Ellen Treadway**, Deputy Associate Director/ELL Assessment Specialist, Arkansas Department of Education, sitting in for **Ms. Taniesa Moore**, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education's designee.
- Mrs. Leigh Sullivan**, Arkansas history teacher, Greene County Tech High School, Paragould, AR, representing the Arkansas Council for Social Studies.



- Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Education Director, Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AR, representing the Department of Arkansas Heritage.
- Mr. Jay Miller**, Administrator of Program Services, Chief of Interpretation and Education, Arkansas State Parks System, representing the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.
- Ms. Mary McJunkins**, Mineral Springs, AR, Howard County, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the Governor.
- Ms. Jan Loyd**, Arkansas history teacher, Cabot Junior High School South, Cabot, AR, representing the Arkansas Council for Social Studies.
- Ms. Jane Hooker**, Archival Manager, Arkansas History Commission, serving as one of the two (2) members at large appointed by the State Historian.
- Mr. Tom Dillard**, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, and Head of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas, representing the Arkansas History Education Coalition.
- Ms. Memorie Dickson**, Monticello, AR, serving as one of the two (2) parents of children enrolled in the public schools appointed by the Governor.
- Dr. Tom DeBlack**, Vice President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, and Interim Dean, College of Arts and Humanities, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR, representing the Arkansas History Education Coalition.
- Mr. Lloyd Clark**, Arkansas history teacher, Powhatan, AR, representing the Arkansas Historical Association.
- Mr. Tony Brooks**, Deputy Director and COO, Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), Conway, AR, representing AETN.
- Ms. Kathleen Branton**, Senior Director of Education and Governmental Relations, AETN, Conway, AR, representing AETN.
- Dr. Trey Berry**, Deputy Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock, AR, representing the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Following a summation by Senator Salmon of the provisions of the legislation that created the Task Force, Act 1462 of 2009, there was a general discussion about the issues to be reviewed. These included:

- o Reimbursement of travel-related expenses for members of the Task Force
- o Embedding Arkansas history throughout the curriculum
- o Providing "meaningful" in-service training to practitioners
- o Assessing instructional materials, other history related resources, and instructional methodologies
- o Establishing a central "clearing house" for Arkansas history materials
- o Recognition programs for excellence in Arkansas history instruction
- o Exploring funding sources for history-related activities
- o Need for a plan to inform target audiences about the recommendations to be developed by the Task Force

Senator Salmon thanked the Task Force members for their attendance. Senator Salmon announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2010, in Room 151 of the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

## Appendix D

Minutes of January 25, 2010 Meeting

MINUTES

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND  
IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

1:30 P.M.

Monday, January 25, 2010  
Room 151, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Rick Saunders, the House Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair; and Representative Rick Saunders, House Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Mrs. Deranda Granade; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Mary McJunkins; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Tania Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

*Without objection, the minutes of November 24, 2009, were approved as written.*

Representative Rick Saunders made a preliminary statement that he and Senator Mary Anne Salmon were in agreement that Act 1462 was important legislation for them to carry during the Regular Session, but by no means did they have their minds made up about what ought to happen with the Task Force. He described the Task Force as a stand-alone entity in carrying out its responsibilities, with the co-chairs offering guidance through the process. He said that, ultimately, the Task Force will make a final report to both the House and Senate Education Committees, and it will be up to those committees to carry out the recommendations. Since the committees, heretofore, have not involved themselves with structural issues of the curriculum, the recommendations made by the Task Force are very important.

Discussion of the Operational Aspects of the Task Force

Representative Saunders asked the Task Force to review several handouts prior to having a general discussion.

**Mr. Tom Dillard**, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, was recognized, and discussed the handout, "Some Possible Objectives for the Task Force." He said that the Coalition believes the Task Force should

- 1) be familiar with the provisions of Act 787 of 1997;
- 2) determine if the provisions are being implemented;
- 3) define "units" at the elementary level;
- 4) address the term, "substantive and meaningful in-service training";
- 5) investigate and make recommendations on testing for comprehension;
- 6) investigate availability of instructional materials in Arkansas history; and
- 7) consider the use of Arkansas history as a venue for reinforcing other educational objectives.

Representative Saunders thanked Mr. Dillard for his remarks.

**Ms. Taniesa Moore**, Public School Program Advisor, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. In response to questions from Representative Saunders, Ms. Moore answered that

- the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) currently has social studies standards;
- there currently isn't any funding for social studies testing;
- the ADE considers a school district to have satisfied the accountability factor in Act 787 of 1997 when each school district submits assurance that it is teaching the framework during accreditation, when each school district verifies that it is teaching the framework during monitoring by the standards department, and when each school district verifies that teachers have received two hours of professional development; and
- school improvement plans contain provisions for literacy, math, and science, but not for social studies standards.

Representative Saunders thanked Ms. Moore for the information.

A general discussion of issues concerning the teaching of Arkansas history ensued. Topics raised included

- the significant number of schools not abiding by Act 787 of 1997;
- inconsistencies in accountability;
- teachers not using Arkansas history to implement the units provision of Act 787 of 1997;
- the online professional development system and monitoring for compliance;
- lack of teacher training in Arkansas history;
- correlating courses and using Arkansas history as a mechanism for reinforcing other educational objectives;
- variances in teaching Arkansas history: junior high vs. high school, as an elective vs. a required course;
- efforts that need to be made by the ADE regarding verification of compliance by schools for the implementation of Act 787 of 1997;
- the need for Arkansas history to be a relevant part of the K-12 curriculum;
- educational service cooperatives and staff development;
- what it means to be "approved" by the ADE regarding professional development training;

- "significant learning expectations" for world history that bumps out Arkansas history;
- defining what a "unit" is; and the content that should be taught within a unit; integrated or stand-alone; and
- facts about Arkansas history on the Benchmark as it relates to what is being tested are not necessarily appropriate; closing the disparity gap on what's on the Benchmark for literacy as opposed to what's being taught.

The consensus among Task Force members was that the ADE needed to address the following issues:

- 1) Accountability--communicating with school districts to make them aware of Act 787 of 1997;
- 2) Coursework--making certain that teachers understand what they're teaching; social studies standards; uniformity of teaching methods; and
- 3) Resources--communicating with teachers about resources that are available.

**Mr. Lloyd Clark**, Arkansas history teacher, Powhatan, AR, was recognized. He responded to a question raised by Senator Salmon about whether teachers in districts with successful programs ever have the opportunity to talk to teachers in other districts that are still formulating programs. He said a good place for teacher interaction is the Arkansas Conference on Teaching that takes place each fall in Little Rock. It runs a full offering of all the disciplines and many good social studies programs, including Arkansas history, each year. The problem is, however, that many schools won't let teachers off to attend or won't allow teachers credit for in-service hours because of being out of school while at the conference.

#### Preliminary Discussion of the Resources Available to Educators for Teaching Arkansas History

**Mr. Mark Hudson**, Senior Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized to discuss a tentative structure for the Task Force. Mr. Hudson said the purpose of the structure was to focus the work of the Task Force toward a common objective.

Representative Saunders suggested that the Task Force organize into the outline presented by Mr. Hudson and break up into subcommittees: Subcommittee A, Arkansas History Resources, and Subcommittee B, Education System. Without objection, Representative Saunders appointed chairs for the subcommittees

Subcommittee A - Ms. Starr Mitchell  
Subcommittee B - Mr. Tom Dillard

Representative Saunders directed the Task Force to pose questions to ask the ADE and educational service cooperatives; and asked if there were others the Task Force would like to have at a future meeting.

Mr. Dillard was recognized and requested that the Task Force invite Mr. Jack Bennett from Nashville, AR to come and talk about his efforts to produce a thorough curriculum with the necessary teaching materials at the K-5 grade level. Mr. Dillard also recommended inviting

Ms. Heather Larkin, Director, and Ms. Cecilia Patterson, Administrator, of the Bridge Fund at the Arkansas Community Foundation, in Little Rock. He said the Fund's mission is to help improve Arkansas history education and improve library services in the state; and its administrators are aware of some of the problems that are systemic with this effort.

Senator Salmon thanked the members for their attendance.

Representative Saunders announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled for April in Room 171 of the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## Appendix E

Minutes of April 20, 2010 Meeting

## MINUTES

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF  
ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

1:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, April 20, 2010  
Room 171, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Jan Loyd; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

*Without objection, the minutes of January 25, 2010, were approved as written.*

Report from the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

**Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Chair, Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee, was recognized. Ms. Mitchell advised the members of the Task Force that the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m. in Room 138 of the State Capitol. She stated that the Subcommittee reviewed those portions of Act 1462 of 2009 pertaining to the Subcommittee's task and held preliminary discussions on how to address its statutory obligations. The first topic to be discussed was the statutory mandate to investigate ways state agencies, museums, libraries, professional groups, and other interested parties can contribute to Arkansas history education. Ms. Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee made a preliminary list of the entities that could be helpful in addressing this issue. Included in this listing were:

- 193 state agencies
- 44 museums that comprise the Arkansas Museums Association, which includes national park museums, state park museums, museums of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, museums at colleges and universities, regional museums, county, city, and privately-owned museums
- 52 state parks, of which 44 have interpretive programming, 23 are historic sites, and 11 include museums
- Arkansas Historical Association and the 118 county historical and genealogical societies
- 45 colleges and universities
- the Arkansas History Commission
- the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
- the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville's special collections
- 213 public libraries
- National Register properties
- the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's four (4) nature centers



- Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) has 58 videos related to Arkansas studies and 8 professional development courses fashioned out of some of their other videos
- 136 chambers of commerce
- 122 professional education organizations
- Arkansas Humanities Council
- Arkansas Living History Association, the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association, History Helpers, and the Arkansas Country Dance Society

Ms. Mitchell stated that the second statutory mandate discussed by the Subcommittee was the requirement to compile information on the need for and availability of instructional materials for Arkansas history classes. She noted that there is no Arkansas history textbook for the elementary grades. According to Ms. Mitchell, the educators on the Subcommittee advised them that a list of resources that teachers can use to develop lesson plans would be beneficial.

Ms. Kay Bland from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies met with the Subcommittee to demonstrate their educator-friendly Web site, which contains 104 lesson plans and links to other Arkansas history resources.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the Subcommittee planned to survey teachers and hold focus groups to help assess their needs, as well as meet with resource holders to help them determine how to make the resources in their care more accessible.

Senator Salmon thanked Ms. Mitchell for her report.

#### Report from the Education System Subcommittee

**Mr. Tom Dillard**, the Chair of the Education System Subcommittee, was recognized. Mr. Dillard stated that the Education System Subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m. in Room 149 of the State Capitol. He noted that the Subcommittee reviewed in detail the provisions of Act 787 of 1997. Act 787, which is codified as Arkansas Code Annotated §6-16-124, §6-17-418, and §6-17-703, requires that, beginning with the 1997-98 school year, a unit of Arkansas history must be taught at every elementary grade level and at least one semester at either the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. It further provided that beginning July 1, 2000, persons must have three hours of college credit in Arkansas history to be certified as a social studies teacher or elementary teacher and that, no later than July 1, 1997, the director of the Department of Education must distribute course content guidelines statewide. Among the issues discussed by the Subcommittee was the definition of the term “unit” for use in the elementary grades. The establishment of in-service training for new teachers was noted as a positive element in the historical implementation of the Act.

Mr. Dillard reported that the Subcommittee also reviewed the overall status of the state’s social studies curriculum. They found several areas of concern, including the lack of assessment of social studies courses in the state’s K-12 testing program, the elimination of geography as a discrete course from the curriculum, and the secrecy and lack of inclusion in the state’s standards-setting process.

Mr. Dillard stated that the Subcommittee heard a presentation by Dr. Jack Bennett from Nashville, Arkansas, who is the proprietor of a company that developed a deep, deep interest in Arkansas history education and put together a comprehensive set of textbooks and instructional materials known as the Arkansas Studies Curriculum. Dr. Bennett discussed with the Subcommittee the difficulties faced in trying to get this whole package of materials into the schools of the state. Mr. Dillard stated that Dr. Bennett’s difficulties were emblematic of a systemic problem with the Department of Education as it relates to the teaching of Arkansas history. He expressed his hope that this problem was being mitigated and that an enhanced relationship with the ADE would be established.

Mr. Dillard went on to summarize the issues discussed by the Education System Subcommittee :

- ⇒ No testing means no emphasis on Arkansas history
- ⇒ Need for vigorous accountability by both schools and the ADE
- ⇒ Need for definition of the term “unit” at the elementary level and a sequential approach to teaching Arkansas history at this level
- ⇒ Need for meaningful professional development as it relates to Arkansas history and the implementation of the appropriate administrative rules to ensure this occurs

**Dr. Greg Murry**, the Superintendent of the Conway School District, was recognized. Dr. Murry discussed the points he had raised during the Subcommittee’s morning meeting regarding the accountability system presently in place, and the testing that teachers and students prepare for every summer. Dr. Murry noted that there is an increasing amount of pressure being placed on classroom teachers as it relates to the preparation for standardized tests. As it relates to the specifics of Arkansas history, he said that he absolutely understood the point of accountability and the point of the necessity for measuring what actually happens in the classroom; because if it’s not measured, it may or may not be taught. He said that testing is the result of a federal mandate, at which level, social studies is not addressed. Until social studies is addressed at the federal level, he stated his belief that it would not be an issue at the state level. Dr. Murry said there are two reasons why he would not stand in favor of a test for Arkansas history: 1) additional pressure placed on teachers that also transfers to students, and 2) lack of available state or ADE resources for standardized testing. Dr. Murry said there’s not a way to guarantee a guaranteed curriculum for students in Arkansas history. He said that other ways have to be found for such a curriculum, and testing is not the right way.

In the discussion session that followed Dr. Murry’s comments, topics raised included:

- ❖ A definition for the term, End-of-Course (EOC) test, as it differs from other testing
- ❖ Relative costs of EOC tests vs. Benchmark testing
- ❖ Knowledge of any court cases that have defined the kind of rigor that has to go into the development of EOC tests
- ❖ An EOC test for Arkansas history developed as a good work by educators and others in Arkansas
- ❖ Changes made in the 2009 General Session related to student performance on the EOC exam, student remediation, and credits for graduation
- ❖ The EOC tests and grade-inflated schools
- ❖ Contracting outside of the state of Arkansas for EOC tests and grading
- ❖ “Quizzing” instead of “testing” to measure learning
- ❖ When and at what grade level to teach Arkansas history
- ❖ Correlating Arkansas history into the curriculum; availability of K-5 materials

Senator Salmon thanked Dr. Murry for his remarks. She thanked Mr. Dillard for his Subcommittee meeting report.

Discussion of the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Bridge Fund

**Ms. Heather Larkin**, President and CEO, Arkansas Community Foundation, was recognized. Ms. Larkin thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to discuss the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Bridge Fund with them. Ms. Larkin discussed the connection between the work of the Arkansas Community Foundation and that of the Task Force, and how a collaboration with the Task Force could help work in Arkansas history education move forward.

Ms. Larkin explained that the Arkansas Community Foundation was formed in 1976 as a charitable entity. It works in all 75 counties in the state. It has about \$130 million in assets. She noted that the

Foundation gave away a little over \$8 million in grants throughout the state in 2009, and has given away nearly \$75 million since its inception. The Foundation is the largest grant-maker in Arkansas. Its Board of Directors is composed of 17 members who come from every congressional district in the state. There are 27 local offices around the state, and local boards and citizens provide information on their communities and ways to improve Arkansas.

Ms. Larkin said that the Arkansas Community Foundation does three things: engage people, connect resources, and inspire solutions. The Foundation believes in Arkansas and knows the value of Arkansas history. It believes that the teaching of Arkansas history, in any and all forms, tells a distinctive story, and creates pride, a strong sense of place, and a stronger sense of community. The Foundation believes the teaching of Arkansas history creates better and more engaged citizens; and that is what it's going to take to move Arkansas forward. Ms. Larkin continued that there are many priorities in education today; and, as part of the Foundation, believes strongly that Arkansas history has a place in the state's education system. She believes that the work of this Task Force has the potential to have a huge impact on creating a better Arkansas.

Ms. Larkin explained that in 1993 the Arkansas Community Foundation engaged with an anonymous donor, whose passion was Arkansas history, to establish a fund, the Bridge Fund, at the Arkansas Community Foundation. Its purpose was to serve as a bridge from our past to our future by promoting Arkansas history, helping Arkansans understand who they are, and increasing knowledge through education in Arkansas history.

Ms. Larkin concluded by saying that the Arkansas Community Foundation Board of Directors and the Bridge Fund Grants Committee are extremely interested in the success of the Task Force's work. They would be most interested in a proposal to collaborate with the Task Force in finding solutions for Arkansas history education.

Senator Salmon thanked Ms. Larkin for the information.

Senator Salmon announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 2010 at the offices of the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) in Conway, Arkansas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

## Appendix F

Minutes of May 25, 2010 Meeting

## MINUTES

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT  
OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

10:00 A.M.  
 Tuesday, May 25, 2010  
 AETN  
 Conway, Arkansas

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:**  
 Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:**  
 Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

*Without objection, the minutes of April 20, 2010, were approved as written.*

Senator Salmon welcomed **Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd**, Archival Manager, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Arkansas History Commission, as a new member of the Task Force, replacing Mrs. Deranda Granade, who resigned.

**10:00 a.m. - Morning Session**

Discussion of Arkansas History Resources Available through the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN)

**Mr. Tony Brooks**, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, AETN, and Member, Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, **Ms. Kathleen Branton**, Director of Government Relations, AETN, and Member, Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, **Dr. Chris Caram**, Director of Education, AETN, **Ms. Colleen Flory**, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, AETN, and **Ms. Carole Adornetto**, Director of Production, AETN, were recognized.

Mr. Brooks welcomed the members of the Task Force to the offices of AETN. He then invited Ms. Kathleen Branton, who had been instrumental in the creation of AETN's Arkansas Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools (IDEAS) portal, to speak about the portal and how it got started. Ms. Branton gave a brief history of working with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and developing this resource to give certified teachers across the state equal access to professional development courses via the Internet, for which credit could be earned. She said the idea for the resource was presented to the legislature and passed as Act 2318 of the 2005 Regular Session. The portal was launched by AETN in 2006.

Mr. Brooks next introduced Dr. Chris Caram, who opened the presentation by giving the Task Force a handout that summarized professional development requirements, courses, workshops and support, and registered users/statistics for the IDEAS portal.

Dr. Caram turned the presentation over to Ms. Colleen Flory. Ms. Flory described AETN's Education Division as having three departments, Education, Production, and IT, that work together to create the courses on the portal. The Education Department has licensed educators who travel throughout the state informing teachers about the resource, and furnishing training in its use. The Production Department creates new productions, many of which relate primarily to Arkansas history. The IT Department provides assistance with technology. Ms. Flory, using Prezi, an alternative to PowerPoint, provided the Task Force with a presentation about what AETN does for educators through the portal. She mentioned that the portal houses an Arkansas studies library, within which there are 17.5 credit hours currently online; and an additional 12.5 credit hours will be available by July 1. The portal has 18,261 registered users, and 209,684 professional credit hours have been earned as of January 27, 2010. The Web site for the portal is at [www.arkansasIDEAS.org](http://www.arkansasIDEAS.org)

Ms. Flory discussed the Build Your Own Workshop, teacher workshops that can be created by AETN to meet a school's specific needs, and can be offered either face-to-face or through the IDEAS portal. The workshops are available for professional development credit. She also spoke of AETN's productions, often centered on Arkansas topics, that are on the portal. Many of the productions have associated classroom resources available on the public side of the portal, including videos that can be pulled and streamed to the classroom, that teachers can use for cross-curricula instruction in the classroom.

Throughout the discussion and demonstration of the Arkansas IDEAS portal, topics raised included:

- o Accountability for online courses,
- o Benefits for rural districts,
- o Record retention and report generation,
- o Parental involvement hours,
- o Tests for courses,
- o Accreditation,
- o Administrative rights to monitor test results,
- o Credit hours of courses in the Arkansas studies library,
- o Arkansas "history" expanded to Arkansas "studies" for cross-curricula instruction, and
- o Possibilities for a national and regional context for Arkansas history.

The next presenter was Ms. Carole Adornetto. Ms. Adornetto called the Task Force's attention to a handout titled, "AETN Production Original Programs Re-purposed into ADE-approved, Arkansas History Online Professional Development Courses for Arkansas Teachers." She noted that the seven (7) listed courses had gone through extensive vetting by AETN's Education Division and the ADE before being put on the IDEAS portal. Each production has a companion teacher's guide based on the Arkansas frameworks.

Ms. Adornetto commented that additional programs are under consideration for re-purposing into courses on the portal, one of those being "Silent Storytellers" (2010), a history of the preservation and restoration of cemeteries in Arkansas. It's a 78-minute film that PBS wants to distribute nationally. Another handout was given to the Task Force, and members were asked to give opinions on which archived programs should be selected for future re-purposing. Ms. Adornetto then demonstrated the steps that a certified teacher would take to access and load productions on the portal. She said programs are available in four major genres: arts and culture, history and special documentaries, outdoors and the environment, and public affairs. Funding for this programming comes from many sources, but the majority (38%) comes from the State of Arkansas.

Topics raised for discussion included:

- The meaning of *re-purposing*,
- A grant for development of the Arkansas history project that was not funded,

- Helping to plan the sesquicentennial celebration with the Arkansas History Commission, and
- A progressive, good structure for grades K-6, that meets the definition of *unit*, and is worked into the AETN infrastructure.

Tour of AETN Facility and Lunch

**1:00 p.m. - Afternoon Session**

Discussion of the Assessment of Arkansas History and the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP)

**Dr. Gayle Potter**, Associate Director, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, was unable to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion as scheduled because of illness.

**Dr. Tom Kimbrell**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, and **Ms. Susan Gray**, Assessment Program Manager, Curriculum, Assessment and Research, Arkansas Department of Education, were recognized, and conducted a forum with the Task Force about issues related to Arkansas history education.

Dr. Kimbrell opened the conversation with thoughts about the total assessment system and how it impacts the teaching of Arkansas history, for which there is no assessment program. He said that as a result of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, the focus of testing on literacy and math has driven most instruction issues and what is going on in the public schools. There is a set of frameworks and standards in literacy and math, on which the assessment program is based, that are articulated to the local school districts, and where emphasis has been placed. As a result, over the last eight years, the focus of teaching has moved away from science, history, Arkansas history, etc.

Dr. Kimbrell's concern, and one that's in the state's Race To The Top application, is to try and move away from the focus on just literacy and math and to re-focus on the whole child. This involves not only the other academic areas, but also areas of physical and mental health, and social development, in order to provide the type of student that will become a leader of tomorrow. If the Race To The Top application is approved, some funding, hopefully, can be pulled back into other areas. The ADE is also working with legislative leaders in Washington, D.C., as the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is in progress, to try to deemphasize the issues of literacy and math, and to open it up to include other areas.

Dr. Kimbrell advised the Legislative Task Force on Arkansas History Education that there are strong advocates for literacy and math, science, and engineering, pushing these curricular areas from the perspectives of NCLB, economic development, and meeting the need to provide a capable workforce for the jobs that the state is hoping to attract. Dr. Kimbrell said there are a lot of issues that public schools are facing, including the expansion opportunities in other curricular areas, such as the fine arts and foreign language.

The following were among the topics raised for discussion:

- ⇒ The lottery scholarship and its potential for the state,
- ⇒ Defining grade inflation, and whether the definition is an indicator of success,
- ⇒ Implementing the elementary provisions of Act 787 of 1997 that requires public schools to teach Arkansas history, or modifying the law,
- ⇒ Opportunities for elementary teachers to see how to implement and utilize strategies in teaching Arkansas history in the professional development courses on the Arkansas IDEAS portal; developing Arkansas history courses that integrate cross-curricula programs,
- ⇒ How Act 787 is being interpreted in the classrooms of the State of Arkansas,
- ⇒ Underutilization of teaching resources,
- ⇒ Accountability with regard to teaching Arkansas history;

- ⇒ Reminders to school districts that Arkansas history is a mandated part of the secondary level curriculum; refinement is necessary in the elementary level instruction,
- ⇒ Need for “unit” to be defined,
- ⇒ Grade-specific Student Learning Expectations (SLE) for Arkansas history are embedded in the social studies framework; the need for SLEs to be based upon a concept of what children should know about the State of Arkansas; insuring that SLEs are taught,
- ⇒ Deviation from the professional development in a district’s approved ACSIP Plan in on-site delivery,
- ⇒ How changes in standards are communicated to school districts; ways school districts handle changes in standards,
- ⇒ Requiring a school to go through transformation if it is not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP),
- ⇒ Absence of emphasis on teaching Arkansas history and heritage in the public school system despite the availability of more and better materials,
- ⇒ Arkansas History Education Coalition and the ADE working cooperatively,
- ⇒ Participation of representatives of the teacher’s union in discussions for the implementation process,
- ⇒ Swinging back to the “whole child” concept, and insuring that a child gets a well-rounded education instead of one that is narrowly focused,
- ⇒ Building an ADE portal as the single-source for resources, including Arkansas history resources, and
- ⇒ An ADE Commissioner’s Memo and a video for the next school year reminding school leaders and teachers about implementing Act 787.

Senator Salmon remarked that Dr. Richard Abernathy, Superintendent, Bryant School District, and Ms. Donna Morey, President of the Arkansas Education Association (AEA), or her representative, would be invited to the next meeting of the Task Force.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Kimbrell asked the Task Force members, and the meeting guests, to introduce themselves. Those present were:

Task Force:

Dr. Trey Berry  
Ms. Kathleen Branton  
Mr. Tony Brooks  
Dr. Tom DeBlack  
Mr. Tom Dillard  
Ms. Jane Hooker  
Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd  
Ms. Jan Loyd

Ms Starr Mitchell  
Ms. Taniesa Moore  
Dr. Greg Murry  
Ms. Kara Oosterhous  
Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair  
Mrs. Leigh Sullivan  
Mr. Ben Swadley  
Dr. Blake Wintory

Guests:

Ms. Donna Smith, CFO, AETN  
Ms. Michelle Griffin, ADE

Mr. Chris Harrod, Southeast Arkansas College

Bureau of Legislative Research:

Mr. Mark Hudson, Staff

Ms. Juanita Giles, Administrative Assistant

Senator Salmon thanked Dr. Kimbrell and Ms. Gray for participating in the discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.



## Appendix G

Minutes of August 4, 2010 Meeting

## MINUTES

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT  
OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION**

**12:30 P.M.**

**Wednesday, August 4, 2010**

**Room 151, State Capitol**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative R.D. Saunders, the House Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative R.D. Saunders, House Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Trey Berry; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd; Ms. Jan Loyd; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mrs. Leigh Sullivan; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

*Without objection, the minutes of May 25, 2010, were approved as written.*

In opening remarks, Representative Saunders commented that his absences from several Task Force meetings have been due to running in, and winning, the primary election for Garland County Judge. He mentioned that at today's meeting, Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair, would not be present due to her attendance at the Southern Legislative Conference, and added that Representative Robert Moore, Speaker-Designate of the House of Representatives, who believes strongly in the work of the Task Force, has been invited to make remarks. Finally, Representative Saunders congratulated Dr. Richard Abernathy on his appointment as Executive Director of the Arkansas Rural Education Association (AREA).

**Mark Hudson**, Senior Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Mr. Hudson announced that, at the recess of the meeting at the Capitol, transportation would be available to take the Task Force to the Old State House Museum for a presentation of an abbreviated version of *Digging Up Arkansas*. *Digging Up Arkansas* is a theatrical production about Arkansas history being presented by the Walton Art Center, Fayetteville. Mr. Hudson said the meeting would be adjourned following the presentation until the call of the chair for the next meeting. Representative Saunders added that Representative Uvalde Lindsey would open the meeting and be the legislative point at the Museum.

Report from the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

**Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Chair, Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee, was recognized, and reviewed the accomplishments of the Subcommittee in its previous meetings:

- ⇒ discussed the breadth of resources available in Arkansas,
- ⇒ shared ideas about institutions in each member's area of interest,
- ⇒ listened to Ms. Kay Bland of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies address the Subcommittee and demonstrate the Center's lesson plans in Arkansas history, and
- ⇒ toured the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) facilities in Conway and received information about its resources in Arkansas history.

Ms. Mitchell related how she had informally surveyed about 50 teachers over the summer, looking for responses that would inform the Task Force on teaching Arkansas history. Survey questions covered possible places to find resources, the greatest obstacles to teaching Arkansas history and how those obstacles could be overcome, and the usefulness of a centralized Web site with links to teaching materials and resources. The responses indicated problems with finding resources and materials, with having the time to teach Arkansas history, with motivating and engaging students, and with grade appropriateness of content. The teachers were unanimously for a centralized Web site.

Ms. Mitchell said that four teachers had been invited to today's meeting of the Subcommittee to express ideas on Arkansas history education. She summarized that a lot of ideas were expressed on how obstacles could be overcome, for example, bringing into the building what can't be seen on the limited number of field trips, networking through the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies (ACSS), and attending a week-long Arkansas history institute for teachers. Ms. Mitchell said that teachers all think that field trips around the state and seeing parks and museums first-hand make Arkansas history real. One teacher, a Teach for America student, gave his perspective on Web sites that have been useful to him, and on Web sites that are specifically designed for Teach for America.

Ms. Mitchell made closing comments about Web site development and ensuring the availability of three-dimensional resources for every school and educational service cooperative.

Following the presentation by Ms. Mitchell, the discussion included:

- Awareness of the grade-specific lesson plans of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture,
- Workshops sponsored by the Arkansas Historical Association that are no longer active,
- Coordination and refinement of professional development training throughout the state,
- Staff development for Arkansas history at the Arkansas Department of Education, and
- Relevance of educational service cooperatives for staff development and curriculum support, including that related to Arkansas history.

Report from the Education System Subcommittee

**Mr. Tom Dillard**, Chair, Education System Subcommittee, was recognized.

Mr. Dillard said that the basic law that governs Arkansas history education, Act 787 of 1997, specifies two major things. The first thing is that at the elementary level, there shall be a unit in Arkansas history taught at each grade level, with greater emphasis at Grades 4 and 5. He said the Subcommittee today dealt a great deal with the meaning of the term "unit" and the fact that it is not defined in the law. The other major aspect of that law requires that a one-semester course be taught at the secondary level. The impression of the Arkansas History Education Coalition (AHEC) is that the second provision, while not perfectly implemented, is beginning to be carried out. Mr. Dillard thought a great majority of the school districts in the state are implementing that provision of the law for the secondary level, but the situation is different at the kindergarten through sixth grade level.

The units that are required by Act 787 do not specify a duration and do not specify content. The original bill was purposely left undefined because educators requested that they not have their hands tied and wanted something left up to local discretion. As a result, what is being understood from conversations with teachers, parents, and students around the state, is that at the elementary level the law is not being

implemented and units are not being taught. The reason given is that so many calls are made on elementary educators and emphasis is being placed on literacy, science, and math.

Mr. Dillard passed out a document that was developed by the AHEC in an effort to do something toward defining a unit. He said that today the Education System Subcommittee discussed eight general areas that AHEC sees as being important to Arkansas history education at the elementary level. Upon completing an elementary education, Arkansas students should:

- 1) Be familiar with Arkansas's basic geographic elements
- 2) Be aware of the different elements of Arkansas's economy
- 3) Understand the basic elements of Arkansas's governmental structure and the principles on which this is constructed
- 4) Know the most dramatic drivers of historical change within Arkansas's development
- 5) Appreciate the diversity inherent in Arkansas's historical development
- 6) Understand that all our geographic, economic, political, and historical elements are interrelated
- 7) Be acquainted with the major resources available for understanding Arkansas's past
- 8) Have some sophistication in assessing competing accounts of our history.

Mr. Dillard added that if something similar to these goals can be adopted, then units will be ready to be structured. He went on to describe AHEC suggestions for possible emphasis in units from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Mr. Dillard closed by saying that he'd like to come to the next meeting with a definition of elementary grade units in Arkansas history as a point of departure for the whole Task Force.

Topics of discussion during the session that followed Mr. Dillard's presentation included:

- Consideration of social studies frameworks, and
- Implementation of the requirement that teachers of Arkansas history at the elementary level have to have courses in Arkansas history.

**Representative Robert Moore**, Speaker-Designate of the House of Representatives, was recognized, and commented that it was a pleasure to be at the meeting since he is deeply interested in the work of the Task Force. He said he looked forward to working with the members to advocate the importance of this issue in the educational curriculum, which is vital to the future and personal success of young people and to the development of the state.

Mr. Dillard raised a point of personal privilege and spoke about the mother of Speaker-Designate Moore, Miss Dorothy, who was well-known throughout the state until her recent death. He said she was a person who could remember history so clearly and shared it with him and lots of other people. Mr. Dillard related an anecdote saying that she had once told him she graduated from high school in 1927, but in May of 1927, when she should have received her diploma, Arkansas City and a great deal of eastern Arkansas was under water. So, the school superintendent of Arkansas City brought the diploma to her, passing it to her through a window in her home. He was in a boat going around town passing diplomas out. Mr. Dillard expressed that it's great to have a Speaker-Designate who comes from a household where an understanding of ourselves as Arkansans is really high on the list.

**Representative Garry Smith** was recognized and mentioned the annual Chautauqua program, and the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources State Park in Smackover, AR, which support the issues for which the Task Force is responsible. He commented that too many Arkansans graduate without having exposure to the state's history.

The Task Force recessed at 2:15 p.m., and reconvened at the Old State House Museum for the production of *Digging Up, Arkansas*.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the production.

## Appendix H

Minutes of November 16, 2010 Meeting

## MINUTES

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT  
OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION**

**1:30 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

**Room 151, State Capitol**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE  
ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON  
THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Trey Berry; Ms. Kathleen Branton; Mr. Tony Brooks; Mr. Lloyd Clark; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Ms. Memorie Dickson; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd; Ms. Jan Loyd; Ms. Mary McJunkins; Ms. Starr Mitchell; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

*Without objection, the minutes of August 4, 2010, were approved as written.*

Senator Salmon announced that there would be a deviation from the published agenda and the Task Force would first take up Item D.

Report from the Education System Subcommittee

**Mr. Tom Dillard**, Chair, Education System Subcommittee, was recognized. Mr. Dillard discussed possible legislation related to the teaching of Arkansas history which would be considered by the 88<sup>th</sup> Arkansas General Assembly. He spoke from "Proposed Amendments to Act 787 of 1997," a document that had been reviewed in the Subcommittee's morning meeting and passed out to the Task Force. He said the purpose of the proposed legislation is to augment the effectiveness of teaching Arkansas history, one of the charges given to the Task Force in the last session.

Mr. Dillard discussed the document in detail, indicating areas in the legislation where proposed changes would fall:

- Section 1
  - wording to include charter schools
- Four proposed sections to be inserted before Section 2
  - 1) documentation or assessment of successful course completion
  - 2) composition of the units of study in grades K-3 and 6 and grades 4 and 5
  - 3) appointment of an advisory group by the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE)
  - 4) mission of the advisory group

- Section 2
  - ♦ addition to the wording regarding course guidelines
- Sections 3 and 4
  - ♦ *No changes recommended*
- Two proposed sections to be inserted before Section 5
  - 1) development of an Internet-based guide containing the definitive collection of resources for Arkansas history instruction
  - 2) annual records maintenance and review
- Section 5 (a) and (b)
  - ♦ addition to the wording in 5(a) regarding the form and review of a superintendent's annual certification of compliance submitted to the ADE
  - ♦ new language to be added to 5(b) about non-compliance with the Act
- A proposed section to follow Section 5
  - ♦ additional language added: "The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules to implement all provisions of this law."

In the discussion that followed, topics included:

- ♦ Effect of requirements on a student moving to Arkansas and coming into a school at the end of a school year,
- ♦ Time spent on field trips qualifying as contact hours in Arkansas history,
- ♦ Availability of trained personnel in the Arkansas Department of Heritage to make lesson plans,
- ♦ Future meetings of the Task Force, and
- ♦ Drawing up the amendments.

Senator Salmon thanked Mr. Dillard for his presentation and the Education System Subcommittee for their work.

Senator Salmon said the Task Force would now return to Item C on the agenda.

Report from the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee

**Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Chair, Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee, was recognized. Ms. Mitchell reported on the Subcommittee's morning meeting during which new resources for accessing information and materials related to Arkansas history had been discussed. She introduced guests that had been in attendance and had added to the discussion:

**Ms. Cecilia Patterson**, Program Director, Retired, Arkansas Community Foundation  
**Dr. David Stricklin**, Head, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System  
**Ms. Marie McNeal**, Director, Social Studies, Little Rock School District  
**Mr. Chris Love**, Program Director, Arkansas Community Foundation

Ms. Mitchell said the focus of the meeting was the Web site seen as a solution to connecting resources to teachers. Previous meetings, at which testimony from producers of materials and teachers who might use such a resource had been given, had led up to this discussion of criteria that the Subcommittee would like to see on the site. Ms. Mitchell stated that Dr. Trey Berry of the Department of Arkansas Heritage had engaged Mr. Josh Jenkins, an employee of the Department, to take a stab at the building of such a site. By the end of the Subcommittee morning session, Dr. David Stricklin had pledged the cooperation of the

Butler Center and use of half of an employee's time to work on this site. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to continue the work on this concept.

**Dr. Trey Berry**, Assistant Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage, was recognized, and introduced Mr. Josh Jenkins.

**Mr. Josh Jenkins**, Computer Support Specialist, Department of Arkansas Heritage, was recognized. Mr. Jenkins discussed a template for the design and content of the proposed Web site, "Arkansas History Hub, a community for educators." Mr. Jenkins reviewed the proposed Web site in detail, and talked about the two things the Hub would provide: 1) resources, and 2) community.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued. Topics included:

- ✓ Developing new resources,
- ✓ Researching relevant legal precedents,
- ✓ Fund-raising for the project,
- ✓ How professional development would be used on the Web site,
- ✓ Communications program for the site, and
- ✓ Lack of a launch deadline.

Senator Salmon thanked Ms. Mitchell, Dr. Berry, and Mr. Jenkins for their presentations and the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee for their work.

**Mr. Tom Dillard** was recognized, and thanked Senator Salmon for the leadership she provided, both in sponsoring the legislation that created the Task Force, and for serving, with Representative Rick Saunders, as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

Senator Salmon announced that the next meeting would be at the call of the Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.



## Appendix I

Minutes of May 27, 2011 Meeting

## MINUTES

### ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION

10:00 A.M.

Friday, May 27, 2011

Room 151, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, the Senate Co-Chair of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN

**ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Senate Co-Chair; and Representative Betty Overbey, House Co-Chair.

#### NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN

**ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Trey Berry; Mr. Tony Brooks; Dr. Tom DeBlack; Mr. Tom Dillard; Ms. Jane Hooker; Ms. Peggy S. Lloyd; Ms. Jan Loyd; Mr. Jay Miller; Ms. Taniesa Moore; Dr. Greg Murry; Ms. Kara Oosterhous; Dr. Harry Readnour; Mr. Ben Swadley; and Dr. Blake Wintory.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Billy Gaskill; Representative Buddy Lovell; Representative Mike Patterson; Representative Randy Stewart; and Representative Jon Woods.

*Without objection, the minutes of November 16, 2010, were approved as written.*

Senator Salmon introduced the new House Co-Chair of the Task Force, Representative Betty Overbey.

**The Honorable Betty Overbey**, State Representative, District 69, was recognized. She commented that she was a history lover and believed that we can't go into the future without knowing what happened in the past. Representative Overbey expressed her hope that the work of the Task Force would lead to a continuing dialogue on the subject of Arkansas history education.

Senator Salmon announced that there would be a deviation from the published agenda, and requested Mr. Tom Dillard to present an overview of the outcome of proposed legislation concerning Arkansas history education during the Regular Session of the 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**Mr. Tom Dillard**, President, Arkansas History Education Coalition, and Chair, Education System Subcommittee, was recognized. Mr. Dillard said the Task Force's legislation, Senate Bill 171, was introduced and assigned to the Senate Education Committee. He commented that Senate Bill 171 did not get out of Committee and the motion to approve did not receive a majority. He said that he and Senator Salmon discussed various approaches to take, but decided that the time was not propitious for the success of the legislation. They concluded that, given current pressures and the guidance of elected public officials and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), it was time to stay the course and not introduce new matters. Mr. Dillard said he appreciated the work done by the Task Force and, in particular, by Senator Salmon.

Senator Salmon thanked Mr. Dillard for his remarks.

#### Update on the Arkansas History Hub, an Arkansas History Resource Website for Educators

**Dr. Trey Berry**, Assistant Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage, and Member, Arkansas Legislative Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, was recognized. Dr. Berry cited the creation of a one-stop resource center for teachers that came out of the work of the Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee. The Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) partnered with The Butler Center to support development of the Arkansas History Hub (The Hub). Dr. Berry said that Mr. Josh Jenkins, whose time was donated by the DAH, created and developed this Website using ideas provided by the Subcommittee, and will continue on as its technical guru. Dr. Kay Bland of the Butler Center will be the overseer of both the content of the Website and some of its budget items. Dr. Berry stated that The Hub is unlike anything else in the nation and that Arkansas will be the first state to have such a Website. He said that a substantial grant from the Arkansas Community Foundation's Bridge Fund will enable its further development. Dr. Berry then introduced Mr. Josh Jenkins.

**Mr. Josh Jenkins**, Computer Support Specialist, Department of Arkansas Heritage, was recognized. Mr. Jenkins, using a PowerPoint presentation (*See attached*), furnished a detailed description of The Hub, a community of educators. He announced that there will be a "soft" launch, a posting without telling anyone, of the Website in a few weeks, with a public launch on July 15, 2011.

Following the presentation, a discussion ensued. Topics included:

- Teachers using The Hub to plan for the next school year,
- Password protection for users,
- The importance of communicating the availability of The Hub and having teachers buy in,
- The need for a multi-year awareness campaign plan,
- Presentation of The Hub at a joint meeting of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education,
- Possible use of the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies (ACSS) listserv to distribute information on The Hub,
- Using conferences as a venue for communicating information about The Hub,
- Preserving the integrity of The Hub; use as a template for other disciplines, and
- The Hub as a community where multiple educators/institutions from throughout Arkansas can be involved and have their resources integrated into its database.

**Mr. Seth Blomeley**, Director, Communications, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Blomeley described various means that the ADE has for communicating the availability of The Hub, including use of a Commissioner's Memo online, the ADE blog, sending emails to school officials, and having the Professional Development Unit get the word out.

**Mr. Tony Brooks**, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), and Member, Task Force on the Assessment and Improvement of Arkansas History Education, was recognized, and said that The Hub would be immediately listed as a resource on the AETN professional development portal.

Senator Salmon commented that following the filing of the final report of the Task Force at a joint meeting of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education, an invitation could be extended to Mr. Jenkins to make a presentation to the Committees.

Senator Salmon recognized and introduced **Dr. Kay Bland** of the Butler Center; then gave credit to both Dr. Bland and **Ms. Starr Mitchell**, Chair, Arkansas History Resources Subcommittee, who was not able to attend the meeting, for their support of the Website.

A discussion of unresolved issues pertaining to Arkansas history education ensued. The topics discussed included:

- Reaching students in a meaningful way in the absence of any requirement to define what consists a “unit” of Arkansas history,
- The ADE furnishing a report on how many schools are teaching Arkansas history and how often,
- Requirements of the law as it exists on the books regarding the teaching of Arkansas history,
- Possibility of repealing the elementary provision instead of enforcing it,
- Financial support of Arkansas history education,
- Arkansas history *is* being taught with K-8 emphasis, at least; issue of time; tests driving curriculum,
- People needing to think that Arkansas history is important in order to emphasize its teaching,
- Priority of teaching American history over Arkansas history,
- Changing the word “history” to “studies” or to “geography” to encourage interest in the subject, and
- Movement of Arkansas history education must come from within the educational community of Arkansas.

#### Discussion of Task Force’s Next Steps

Based on the preceding discussion of unresolved issues, the members of the Task Force made the following suggestions:

- ✓ Arkansas History Education Coalition will continue to work on this issue,
- ✓ Possibility of establishing a larger “super” coalition dedicated to the issue, and
- ✓ The Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education can continue to review some of the issues.

**Mr. Mark Hudson**, Senior Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Mr. Hudson advised the Task Force that legislation had been passed during the 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly mandating the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education conduct a review of the length of the school day and the length of the school year. He then presented an overview of a draft of the final report, which will be finalized and sent out for the Task Force’s final approval prior to being submitted to the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education.

Senator Salmon thanked Mr. Hudson for his remarks. She went on to thank the members of the Task Force for their work and urged them to remain involved in efforts to enhance the teaching of Arkansas History in the state’s public schools.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

## Appendix J

### History of Arkansas State Flag



## [Home](#) / [Browse](#) / **Official State Flag**

[Return to Search Results](#)

### Official State Flag

An official Arkansas state flag did not exist prior to 1913. During the [Civil War](#), Arkansas soldiers fought under a variety of banners and flags, but none enjoyed the state's official cachet. A military requirement, however, led to the creation of a civil flag for the state.

In 1910, the keel was laid for the U.S. Navy's newest battleship, the *Wyoming*-class [USS Arkansas](#). Early in 1912, with the *Arkansas's* scheduled commissioning just nine months away, the [Pine Bluff \(Jefferson County\)](#) chapter of the [Daughters of the American Revolution \(DAR\)](#) resolved to present a "stand of colors" (a national flag, a naval battalion ensign, and a state flag) to the new ship. The chapter contacted Arkansas secretary of state Earle W. Hodges requesting information on obtaining the state's flag. Hodges informed the chapter that in fact no state flag existed. The DAR chapter thereupon launched a statewide design contest to create one. Hodges agreed to chair a committee for selecting the winning design. Ultimately, some sixty-five designs—including crayon drawings, watercolor sketches, and even miniature silk flags—were submitted. Some design elements appeared on more than one entry. The apple blossom, Arkansas's state flower, appeared in one entry centered on a field scattered with stars representing the United States, with thirteen rays recalling the original states. On another, the flower was repeated four times within colorful blocks. Another design combined the state's outline with its great seal. One entrant memorialized territorial governor [James Miller](#), a hero of the War of 1812, emblazoning "I'll try, sir," his famous battlefield utterance, upon a blue field. In early 1913, the committee met in Hodges's office in the new [Arkansas State Capitol](#). After due deliberation, the committee chose a red, white, and blue design submitted by [Willie Kavanaugh Hocker](#) of Wabbaseka (Jefferson County).

Hocker's design featured a rectangular red field upon which was centered a white rhombus diamond bordered by twenty-five white stars on a blue band. Three blue stars, centered on the flag's horizontal axis on a white field within the rhombus, completed the plan. The three blue stars in the center field bore several meanings: first, that Arkansas had successively belonged to three countries—France, Spain, and the United States—before statehood; second, that 1803 was the year of the Louisiana Purchase, which included present-day Arkansas; third, that Arkansas was the third state created from the purchase. The twenty-five white stars symbolized that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union. The diamond marked Arkansas's status as the nation's only diamond-producing state.

The committee decreed that the flag ought to bear the state's name. Hocker assented and suggested that the three blue stars be rearranged, one above the name and two below. On February 26, 1913, the General Assembly adopted this design as the state's official flag. The design remained unchanged until 1923, when the General Assembly added a fourth star to the central diamond to represent Arkansas's membership in the Confederate States of America. At first, the stars were arranged with two above and two below the state's name, but the Second Extraordinary Session in 1924 placed three stars below and one above, with the three lower stars arranged as an inverted triangle. A new element of symbolism was added: the twin stars immediately below the state's name would suggest the "twin" relationship of Arkansas and Michigan, which were admitted to the Union within approximately seven months of each other, maintaining the balance between free and slave states in Congress. The Arkansas Code misstates this relationship by asserting that the states were admitted together on June 15, 1836; by the terms of an act of that date, both states were slated for

admission, and Arkansas joined the Union on that date, but Michigan was delayed until January 26, 1837.

The Arkansas state flag is today flown over thousands of governmental and private locations throughout the state. The Arkansas Code lists a handful of specifications concerning the flag, including occasions upon which it may be flown at half-staff and requiring that it be flown at every public school in the state, displayed on the same pole as the national flag. The Arkansas [Secretary of State's](#) Office offers a booklet outlining protocol appropriate for display and use of the state flag. This protocol is not considered part of the Arkansas Code as such but incorporates elements of the U.S. Flag Code and reflects common usage throughout the states.

**For additional information:**

"Arkansas (U.S.)." *Flags of the World*. <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/us-ar.html> (accessed May 18, 2007).

Arkansas Secretary of State. *Protocol for the State Flag*. Little Rock: Secretary of State's Office, n.d.

Shankle, George Earlie. *State Names, Flags, Seals, Songs, Birds, Flowers, and Other Symbols: A Study Based on Historical Documents Giving the Origin and Significance of the State Names, Nicknames, Mottoes, Seals, Flags, Flowers, Birds, Songs, and Descriptive Comments on the Capitol Buildings and on Some of the Leading State Histories, with Facsimiles of the State Flags and Seals*. Rev. ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1970.

Shearer, Benjamin F., and Barbara Smith Shearer. *State Names, Seals, Flags and Symbols: A Historical Guide*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.

**David Ware**  
**Arkansas Secretary of State's Office**

**Related Butler Center Lesson Plans:**

[Flying High in Arkansas \(Grades K-4\)](#); [N is for Natural State \(Grades 3-4\)](#); [Symbols of Our State \(Grades 1-4\)](#)

*Last Updated 11/20/2009*

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