

**The California Mid-State Fair
Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

September 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Torgerson.

BODs Present: Susan Beebe, Dave Belmont, Mike Coon, JD Cronin, Joanne Cummings, Debbie Dusi, Daren Friedle, Brenda Fletcher, Deana Nelson, Justin Perino, John Peschong, Ross Tenhaeff, Michael Torgerson

BODs Absent:

Members/Guests: Steve Baker, Colleen Bojorquez, Deb Ciprano, Michael Ciprano, Jan Dallons, Jon Dallons, Chuck Fletcher, Ed Hale, Thomas Humphrey, Randy Lawrence, Steve Nakamoto, Susie Torgerson, Angel York

Approval of Agenda: Susan Beebe made a motion to approve the agenda. Brenda Fletcher made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Daren Friedle moved to approve the corrected minutes from the September 10, 2025, meeting. Joanne Cummings seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes:

Dave Belmont made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed session meeting. JD Cronin made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements/Introductions/Member Comments:

Chairman Torgerson asked the guests to introduce themselves and indicated this was the time for questions regarding items not on the agenda.

Financial Report:

The balance sheet and profit and loss statement through September 10, 2025, were distributed to the Board.

After some discussion, Mike Coon made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Daren Friedle made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson presented the list of checks written since the last meeting and indicated that the checks written to the Paso Robles Event Center were donations. Daren Friedle made a motion to ratify the checks written, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson indicated there was an unpaid bill from Bonnie Loftus for food provided at the pick-up party and during the fair.

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Board Business:

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee - Michael Torgerson indicated the executive committee had met and discussed the updates to the bylaws, Wild Apricot, Committee Appointments for 2026, and agenda items for the September 10, 2025, meeting.
2. Budget/Audit/Endowment – no report.
3. Bylaws – Debbie Dusi reported that the bylaws committee had its fourth meeting on August 26, 2025. Debbie presented the final draft of the bylaws to the Board for approval. Deana Nelson made a motion to approve Article V, Section 4, which had previously been tabled. Kaci Marcotte made the second to the motion. After some discussion, Chairman Torgerson called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously. Brenda Fletcher made a motion to approve Article V, Section 7, which had previously been tabled. Ross Tenhaeff made the second to the motion. After some discussion, Chairman Torgerson called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously. Justin Perino made the final motion to approve the total bylaw updates. Daren Friedle made the second to the motion, which unanimously passed. Debbie indicated the bylaws will be sent to the membership via Wild Apricot on October 24, 2025, with the vote to close on October 31, 2025.
4. Concessions – Dave Belmont stated that this was a good fair for concessions, and payroll costs were lower this year. A few bills are still coming in, but it looks like concessions had \$1.3 million in sales, with net profits around \$400,000. Dave indicated the concessions committee will meet to finalize these numbers.
5. Elections – Deana Nelson reconfirmed the dates for the membership to adopt the bylaw changes.
6. Facilities – Ross Tenhaeff stated he purchased a new table for the Board meetings.
7. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe indicated staying with the committee’s thought, that the CMSF Heritage Foundation needs to be more active on social media. Susan turned to John Peschong to explain the new platform. John reported that the Foundation is now on Instagram, and the committee will continue to use Instagram to reach out to our members.
8. Membership—Brenda Fletcher stated that the membership committee would be having a meeting by the end of the month.
9. Balcony – Mike Coon reported there are still 68 on the waitlist and reiterated that people wishing to be put on the waitlist for balcony seats must already be foundation members.
10. Scholarships – Joanne Cummings – no report.
11. Strategic Plan – Justin Perino reported that the strategic committee met and continues to formalize a strategic plan. Justin will have further information at the next meeting.

B. Special Committee Reports:

1. Hugh Pitts Memorial Fund Capital Project – Dave Belmont – no report.
2. Legal Task Force – Dave Belmont – no report. Michael Torgerson received an email that the trip/fall lawsuit has been finalized for the Foundation.
3. Capital Improvements – Deana Nelson indicated that we had approved \$55,000 towards the improvements requested by the Fair, which was covered by the AgWest Grant; however, the total cost was \$10,502.61 over what was approved by the Board. After some discussion, Deana Nelson made a motion to pay the additional \$10,502.61. Brenda Fletcher made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Barn – Daren Friedle – no report.

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Old Business:

1.

New Business:

1. Annual Membership Meeting Festivities – Brenda Fletcher indicated she will be reporting at the next meeting the details for the Annual Membership Meeting Festivities.
2. CMSF Board Liaison – Nancy Wheeler-Nichols – no report.
3. Fair Update – Colleen Boroquez CMSF CEO reported that staff was cleaning up after the Fair and getting everything balanced. Interim events are going strong. Sabrina is currently working on bringing a home show back to the Fair. Colleen indicated that there had been a problem with the locks on the back rodeo gate. If you have an issue with these locks, please contact Mike Esser. Debbie Dusi indicated she would text his phone number to the Board.

Board Comments:

Joanne Cummings and Debbie Dusi indicated they would be interested in attending WFA in January.

John Peschong stated we are up to 16 followers on Instagram.

Adjourn to Closed Session at 7:01 p.m.

Reconvene to Closed Session at 7:06 p.m.

Adjourn Closed Session at 7:40 p.m.

Reconvene the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman Torgersen reported that the CMSF Heritage Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously during the closed session meeting to terminate 2 memberships for cause.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dusi,
Secretary

*The Next Regular Board Meeting:
Wednesday, October 8, 2025*