



**Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission
Minutes
May 1, 2026 Meeting**

Attendees: Commissioner Dee Dee Simon, Chair
Commissioner Dana Humphrey
Commissioner Dorian Stuber
Commissioner Leah Strid, Dept. of Higher Education Designee
Commissioner Sam Devinki
Commissioner Lolle Boettcher
Commissioner Brad Prager, University of Missouri System Designee
Commissioner Jason Pounds, Secretary

Absent: Commissioner Devy Goldenberg
Commissioner Tyler Janke, DESE Designee
Commissioner Yosef Landa

Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chair Dee Dee Simon

Mission Moment

- a. Commissioner Brad Prager provided the Mission Moment, describing a presentation he gave about films on the Holocaust and noting that some widely assumed “common knowledge” films are not as well known as expected.
- b. Commissioner Leah Strid is scheduled to provide the July Mission Moment.

Approval of March Minutes

- a. Amendment for corrections to the March minutes. Motioned by Commissioner Dana Humphry and seconded by Commissioner Lolle Boettcher.

Old Business

a. Commission Technology

Chair Dee Dee Simon reported that Phase One of the IT project is complete and will be put into practice during the next professional development session. Phase Two is scheduled to be completed by June 22, 2026.

b. Lest We Forget School Initiative

Chair Dee Dee Simon and Commissioners Dana Humphrey and Jason Pounds provided an update on the Houston and Sedalia exhibits held in April, 2026. Both were successful; Houston High School doing an outstanding job with peer-to-peer teaching around the portraits.

c. Website Calendar of Events

The Commission's digital calendar is now active on the website. Events are being updated regularly by Commissioner Dana Humphrey. Any new event updates should be sent directly to Dana.

d. Graduate Credit Hours

Commissioner Jason Pounds reported that teachers attending Level 1 Commission workshops will be eligible to apply for one graduate credit from Lindenwood University for \$80. Teachers will be responsible for paying the fee.

e. 2026 Events Committee Update

The committee confirmed an agreement with the State Archives in Jefferson City to display the USHMM's Some Were Neighbors exhibit from May 18, 2026, to mid-August 2026. The exhibit is then scheduled to be displayed in Houston, Missouri.

f. Budget Justification Report

Chair Dee Dee Simon provided an update on the Commission's FY2025/26 budget and expressed concern about a possible allocation cut for FY 2026/27 by the Governor. Commissioner Leah Strid reported that the request was passed by the House and the Senate. The allocation request is for \$122,354.

New Business

a. FY 2025/26 Funding

Chair Dee Dee Simon led a discussion on spending the remaining funds for FY 2025/26. The Commission unanimously decided to collaborate with the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum and provide \$20,000 to support research, design, production, and installation of the "Nazis Next Door" exhibition at the museum on view from June 12, 2026, to January 31, 2027.

b. In-Person Meeting

The Commission discussed an in-person meeting for originally considered for September 3. Because Commissioner Dorian Stuber will be unable to due to starting a new job, the meeting was rescheduled to November 5. This will be an all-day meeting in Columbia or Jefferson City.

Comments/Announcements

- a. Commissioner Sam Devinki announced he is taking 19 teachers to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on July 8th.
- b. July Meeting date was changed to July 17th due to the 4th of July holiday.

Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings 2026

July 3, 2026

September 4, 2026

November 6, 2026