



**America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes**

[Watch the Recording](#)

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco, Chair
Jason Mancini, Co-Chair
Michael Werner
Megan Baker
Deborah Schander

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:03.

1. Minutes Approval

- a. [May 12, 2025](#)
- b. [June 11, 2025](#)
- c. [July 9, 2025](#)

The subcommittee agreed to approve all minutes in a single vote.

Motion: J. Mancini, Second: D. Schander, Vote: Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

2. America250 Update

Jason Mancini noted that his takeaway from the America250 convening in Washington, D.C. was that state and territory commissions are approaching this work in lots of different ways, and generally with minimal funding. There is potential for funding from the Department of the Interior, which is administering \$150M of funds that has been allocated to America250.

Arienne Orozco attended the National Association of Secretaries of State conference last week, where there was more conversation about the 250th than in years past. She confirmed that SOTS offices have differing levels of involvement, and that funding seems to be a concern in most states.

3. Affiliate Program Discussion & Approvals

- a. Discussion on any flagged applications
 - i. [Application Review Form](#)
 - ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
 - iii. [Full Applications](#)
- b. Vote on applications

Subcommittee members agreed to hold the Spencer Trask & Co. application pending further details on the question for which they responded "no." Michael Werner noted that he felt it would be a strong addition to the affiliate network. Generally, subcommittee members agreed, and wanted to remain consistent with how applications with "no" responses have been handled in the past. R. Gonzalez will add a question to the affiliate application requesting additional information if any responses are "no" to cut down on follow up in the future.

Motion to vote on the remaining 6 applications -

Motion: M. Werner, Second: A. Orozco, Vote: Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

4. Updates on Affiliate Outreach

Upcoming plans for affiliate outreach include: a virtual information session in October with the Connecticut Library Association and inclusion in an upcoming CT Humanities grants newsletter. Additional discussion on strategies to expand the program included a specific ask to current affiliates. There may be a possibility to create some sort of incentive to recruit additional affiliates. To facilitate this, we would need to add a question to the application form asking whether they were referred/how they found out about the program. Another option may be to have a competition by town - the most affiliates in a single town/city.

5. Other Business as Needed

No other business.

The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 10:00-10:30 AM