



Humanities Council Director Announces Retirement

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Charleston, WV – Ken Sullivan, executive director of the West Virginia Humanities Council, announced his retirement at the organization’s summer board meeting on July 20 in Clarksburg. Sullivan has led the Humanities Council since February 1997.

“It’s been a great run,” Sullivan said. “We’ve bought and restored a wonderful historic house in my time with the Council, and published the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* in both the print and online versions. I guess you could call those my babies in particular, but more importantly, we’ve pumped millions of dollars into humanities projects and events throughout the state.”

The Humanities Council bought the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House on Charleston’s Kanawha Boulevard two years after Sullivan became executive director and dedicated the historic property as its headquarters on West Virginia Day, 2000. The *West Virginia Encyclopedia* was published as a 927-page book in June 2006 and online as *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* in 2010. The Humanities Council continues to operate the online encyclopedia, which may be viewed at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Before coming to the Humanities Council Sullivan was editor of *Goldenseal*, West Virginia’s official state folklife magazine. He is a longtime board member and former officer of the West Virginia Faculty Merit Foundation, which annually chooses West Virginia’s Professor of the Year, and previously served as a board member and treasurer of the National Federation of State Humanities Councils. In 2015, Sullivan received the Vandalia Award, West Virginia’s highest folklife honor.

Humanities Council board president Charlie Delauder thanked Sullivan for his service. “He’s done a great job for us, both in leading our state council and in representing West Virginia in the national humanities community,” Delauder said. “We’ve been fortunate to have a person of his experience and abilities at the top of our organization.”

Sullivan’s retirement is effective on October 12. In a separate statement, the Humanities Council announced that it has hired Dr. Eric Waggoner of West Virginia Wesleyan College as the organization’s new executive director. The West Virginia Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council at wvhuman@wvhumanities.org or (304)346-8500.

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Founded in 1974, the West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization serving West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. The Council's board of directors is composed of 24 citizens from across the state. The board meets three times per year, throughout the state. For more information visit the Council's website at www.wvhumanities.org or call (304) 346-8500.