

National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

<u>Member Contact</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jack Leighow, Director of The State Museum of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission	Harrisburg, PA
<p>John (Jack) Leighow began work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1975, as an interpreter at the Daniel Boone Homestead. Jack is a Penn State graduate and has an M.A. in American History from Kutztown University. Leighow was appointed the director of Bushy Run Battlefield in 1981. In 1984, he was assigned to lead an additional site, the Somerset Historical Center. Leighow moved to the PHMC headquarters, in Harrisburg, to take charge of the Property Placement Program in 1987 and in 1989 was appointed as Division Chief in the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums, where he developed and led the Niagara Project that rebuilt Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's Flagship from the Battle of Lake Erie (1813).</p> <p>In 2001, Jack joined the staff of the State Museum to head-up a newly created Division of Education and Operations and to spearhead the renovation project for the Museum. In 2007, he was named Director of The State Museum of Pennsylvania. His major accomplishments, along with the Niagara Project, include the development of the PHMC Historic Weapons Safety Training Program, Disaster Planning, Long Range Strategic Planning, Capital Projects, research and exhibit development.</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is the government agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania responsible for the collection, conservation and interpretation of Pennsylvania's historic heritage. The commission cares for historical manuscripts, public records, and objects of historic interest; museums; archeology; publications; historic sites and properties; historic preservation; geographic names; and the promotion of public interest in Pennsylvania history.</p> <p>PHMC was established June 6, 1945, by state Act No. 446, merging the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Pennsylvania State Museum and Pennsylvania State Archives. As of April 2008, the chairman is Wayne Spilove and the executive director is Barbara Franco.</p> <p>Sites administered by the PHMC include Washington Crossing Historic Park, Eckley Miners' Village, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, Fort Pitt Museum, Conrad Weiser Homestead, Hope Lodge, the Daniel Boone Homestead, the Joseph Priestley House and many others.</p> <p>The PHMC administers the Historical Marker Program, which installs bronze plaques to commemorate individuals, events and landmarks throughout the state. The program was launched in 1914 by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, the predecessor to the PHMC.</p> <p>PHMC also publishes <i>Pennsylvania Heritage</i> magazine in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Historical Society.</p> <p>For more information, visit www.phmc.state.pa.us</p> <p>The State Museum of Pennsylvania is a separate bureau in the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The State Museum of Pennsylvania covers all aspects of Pennsylvania history, culture and natural history. The Museum holds significant artifact collections that relate to some of America's most important events and well-known people. The State Museum is the official museum of the Commonwealth, where the public can experience the full expanse of the Keystone State heritage and its connections to the national experience. Through permanent and changing exhibits, visitors can discover their own personal connection to Pennsylvania's past and find their place in the rich, storied history of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>For more information, visit www.statemuseumpa.org</p>		

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