

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

Contact: David Reinfeld, Vice President, Development  
Chester County Historical Society  
[dreinfeld@chestercohistorical.org](mailto:dreinfeld@chestercohistorical.org)  
610.692.4800 x 267

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**Chester County Historical Society Bids Farewell to Kimberly Hall and  
Appoints Dr. Robert Lukens President**

Chester County Historical Society Chairman Vincent Donohue recently announced that Kimberly A. Hall has resigned from her current position as President of the Chester County Historical Society effective September 30, 2011. The Search Committee of the Board of Trustees has appointed Robert Lukens, PhD, to succeed Ms. Hall as President. He is expected to start his new responsibilities on October 3, 2011.

"Since her arrival in early 2007, Kimberly Hall has done an outstanding job. She has managed and built a wonderful team of dedicated professionals at the Chester County Historical Society. In addition to operating a premier history museum and educational center, Kim and her team have positioned the organization as an important steward in our community for history education, cultural diversity and economic impact," said Mr. Donohue. "The Historical Society is in a much stronger and more stable financial position now than when Kim joined us. We achieved budget surpluses for 2009 and 2010 as well as a projected surplus operating budget adopted for 2011. We are very grateful for Kim's service and wish her much success in her future endeavors."

"I am extremely grateful to the Board, staff, and patrons of the Chester County Historical Society for having given me the opportunity to support the operations of this extraordinary Historical Society," said Ms. Hall. "I know Rob will be an excellent leader for the organization and help strengthen our mission and donor support."

"Robert Lukens is a respected museum professional who brings strong leadership skills to CCHS. His professional background and range of experience will be a real asset to our institution. Together with our Board and our excellent staff, he will continue to build the Chester County Historical Society's reputation for excellence," said Mr. Donohue.

"I am honored to lead the Chester County Historical Society in this next stage of growth and development and am looking forward to working closely with the Board, the staff and the community as we move forward together" remarked Dr. Lukens. "I am grateful to Kimberly Hall whose leadership has been a steady force over the last four years. I also thank Chairman Donohue and the entire search committee for this opportunity," said Dr. Lukens.

Dr. Lukens's first experience in museums came as a volunteer at Chester County Historical Society nearly twenty years ago. He also interned at CCHS early in his career. He worked as the organization's Collections Manager from 1998-2003, supporting exhibitions such as *Just Over the Line: Chester County and the Underground Railroad* and various collections initiatives. He later served as Chief Curator and later Head of Collections at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, where he was responsible for implementing a new collections and exhibitions program. From 2005 to 2009, Dr. Lukens led Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, West Pikeland Township. During his tenure, the organization underwent a merger process through which it merged with the Chester Springs Studio art center.

Since 2009, Dr. Lukens has been the Exhibits and Education Director at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington D.C. At the Capitol Visitor Center he was responsible for overseeing the 16,500 square foot exhibition *E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many, One* and educational initiatives for the center's more than 2 million annual visitors.

Dr. Lukens is no stranger to West Chester, Chester County, or the Historical Society. A former resident of West Chester, Dr. Lukens contributed over 75 articles to the *Daily Local News* between 2003 and 2008 on the county's heritage. He mixes his academic with professional interests, with a PhD from Temple University in American History. Portions of his dissertation, researched in the Historical Society's collections, were published in *Pennsylvania History* and contributed to his work as guest curator of CCHS's exhibition *Chilling Reality: Chester County's Arctic Explorers*, which opened last fall.

Dr. Lukens is a former member of the West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board, former Vice-Chair of the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, and Commonwealth Speaker with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council in 2008 and 2009. Dr. Lukens has a certificate in non-profit management from the Non-Profit Center at LaSalle University. He lives with his wife Rebecca and their two children, Abbie and Finley, in North Wilmington, Delaware.

The search committee for the new President was led by CCHS's Chairman Vince Donohue, Board Vice-Chair George Zumbano, Board Treasurer Francis Jacobs with the assistance of former Board Chairman Mark Myers.

### **About CCHS**

The Chester County Historical Society is a not-for-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the history of Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting that history and its relationship to the region, and nation beyond, to audiences of all ages and interests. For more information, call 610-692-4800 or visit us at [ChesterCoHistorical.org](http://ChesterCoHistorical.org) or Facebook at [facebook.com/ChesterCoHist](https://facebook.com/ChesterCoHist).