

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
November 14–16, 2016  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Appoint SAA Representative to the National Historical  
Publications and Records Commission  
(Prepared by SAA President Nance McGovern)**

**BACKGROUND**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is a 15-member body, chaired by the Archivist of the United States and composed of representatives of the three branches of the Federal government and of professional associations of archivists, historians, documentary editors, and records administrators.

As noted on the Commission’s website, “The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.”

SAA has named a representative to NHPRC for at least the past 20 years; previous representatives have included Nicholas Burckel, Lee Stout, and Tim Ericson. Peter Gottlieb is SAA’s current representative (January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2016). Although Commission members may serve for more than one four-year term, Gottlieb has indicated his desire not to renew.

See the current roster of Commission members here:

<https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/about/commission-members.html>.

See SAA’s description of the representative position here:

[http://saa.archivists.org/4DCGI/committees/SAAR-NHPRC.html?Action=Show\\_Comm\\_Detail&CommCode=SAA\\*\\*R-NHPRC](http://saa.archivists.org/4DCGI/committees/SAAR-NHPRC.html?Action=Show_Comm_Detail&CommCode=SAA**R-NHPRC).

**DISCUSSION**

Per correspondence from NHPRC Executive Director Kathleen Williams: “As a practical matter, the work of the Commission requires members to do a lot of reading as well as exhibit a knowledge of the current issues, concerns and priorities of their organizations and their members. They must be able to travel to Washington, DC, a minimum of two times per year, for

four years. Our current schedule has us meeting in May and November annually. Commission members must be able to find pockets of time on their calendars during those months when they can devote an entire day to a meeting. On occasion we hold additional meetings as well, and these are scheduled as necessary.”

Under federal statutes, SAA is represented by a single representative chosen for a (renewable) four-year term by the SAA Council upon recommendation by the SAA President.

Given his thorough knowledge of the archives profession and its issues, his deep understanding of the practice of archives, and his long-standing involvement with SAA, I recommend that Dennis Meissner be selected as SAA’s representative to the NHPRC for the period January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2020. Dennis has consented to serve.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Dennis Meissner be appointed to serve as SAA’s representative to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2020.**

**Support Statement:** Given his thorough knowledge of the archives profession and its issues, his deep understanding of the practice of archives, and his long-standing involvement with SAA, Dennis Meissner is a most worthy representative of SAA to the NHPRC.

**Relation to Strategic Plan:** Particularly relevant to Goal 1.2., Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists and Goal 1.3., Provide leadership in ensuring the completeness, diversity, and accessibility of the historical record.

**Fiscal Impact:** All Commission meetings and expenses are funded by NHPRC.