

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 23 – 26, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the President
(Prepared by Danna C. Bell)**

This report covers my activities from August 19, 2013, to December 20, 2013.

Strategic Plan

Kathleen Roe, Michelle Light, Lisa Mangiafico, Nancy Beaumont, and I worked on refining the actions suggested for the Strategic Plan. I hope to have them reviewed and accepted during the upcoming Council meeting.

Governance

Nancy and I spent a lot of time working with the Intellectual Property Working Group and Council to find ways to fund Bill Maher's attendance at the December WIPO meeting. I am grateful that Council was willing to supply the funding to allow Bill to attend, especially now that SAA has Permanent Observer Status. I am certain he will represent us well.

We worked with the leaders of the Academy of Certified Archivists to approve the appointment of Gregor Trinkas-Randall for a one-year term as our organizations' joint representative to the International Council on Archives Section on Professional Archival Associations (ICA/SPA). Nancy drafted and the Executive Committee approved a memorandum of agreement between the two organizations that provides guidelines for appointment of future ICA/SPA representatives. This position was included in the open call for volunteers and the four-year appointment will take effect in August 2014.

Kathleen Roe, Frank Boles, Nancy Beaumont, and I worked on the transition of the Government Affairs Working Group to the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy. This included reviewing the new charge and getting agreement from Council and the CAPP members on the new charge and appointments process. Kathleen deserves many thank yous for handling much of the heavy lifting during this process. The Council will have the first CAPP issue briefs to review at the January Council meeting.

Diversity Committee Chair Twyanna Whorley made a request for a change in the governance of the committee, asking that a Vice Chair be appointed. This will require a

change in the committee description, which we plan to bring to the Council for online discussion soon.

The Task Force on Member Affinity groups (for which I serve as Council liaison) has begun its work. See 0114-VII-Q-MemberAffinityGroupsTF for that group's interim report.

I participated in a conference call with the co-chairs of the Membership Committee's Mentoring Program Subcommittee, Council liaison Terry Baxter, and Nancy Beaumont regarding the ARL/SAA Mosaic Program and mentoring issues. We agreed that we hope to encourage ARL/SAA Mosaic Program participants to participate as mentors in the SAA Mentoring Program when they feel they can. However, at present ARL and SAA will be working with the host institutions to supply mentors for the ARL/SAA Mosaic Program participants.

I have participated in online conversations with Rebecca Goldman and Mark Matienzo regarding development of an anti-harassment policy and code of conduct for SAA conferences. I have informed Mark and Rebecca that, just as SAA does not have the infrastructure to "enforce" its Code of Ethics, it is unlikely that we could enforce an anti-harassment policy or code of conduct at conferences. I have provided them with information and deadlines for submitting a proposal for the January Council meeting.

Appointments

2014 Host Committee: Carole Prietto, Morgan Sawicki, Jenny Kinniff, Peter Perry, and Kathleen Bell

Committee on Education: Erin Faulder

Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy: James Cross, Jeremy Brett, Debra Davendonis-Todd, and Mary Anne Hamblen

Advocacy

In October 2013 we were informed that Target Corporation had decided to close its archives and heritage department and lay off the two staff members who had operated the archives. The Issues and Advocacy Roundtable sent a letter expressing its concerns to Target headquarters. The headquarters office and Council learned about this action after the fact, which raises a potential discussion point for the Council regarding the extent to which SAA component groups may/should act alone as agents of the Society. I intend to place this topic on a future Council meeting agenda.

***Off the Record* Blog Posts**

There have been eleven *Off the Record* posts since I became president in August. The post on the ten reasons why people don't submit session proposals got lots of interesting responses and led to extending the deadline for session proposals for the 2014

conference. *American Library's* website linked to the post "The Government Shutdown from an Archives Point of View."

Special thanks to Kathleen Roe, Michelle Light, and Arlene Schmuland for their excellent posts. I hope to have additional guest posts in 2014 and will be looking to Council members and component group leaders to provide posts.

Other Writing Projects

I have written three president's columns for *Archival Outlook* as well as a follow-up article on my appointments process (co-authored by Herbert Hartsook and Sharmila Bhatia of the Appointments Committee). I received a number of comments regarding the column called "Fixing a Hole" (September/October 2013), including some from people who wanted to know more about getting involved in the Society.

Foundation Board and Fund Raising

Several fund-raising appeals were sent out at the end of November and beginning of December. Special thanks to Fynnette Eaton, Carla Summers, and Mark Duffy for their work on these appeals. Also a number of Foundation Board members contacted Fellows, Past Presidents, and other targeted groups to encourage donations. I appreciate their work on this important project.

It was also interesting to hear from a member who wanted to earmark her donation to support development of the DAS curriculum. I hope that Nancy and I were able to answer her questions and that she will donate funds to support the DAS program and other educational programming.

2014 Conference

I am currently exploring options for a plenary speaker. I will be meeting via conference call with the current presidents of CoSA and NAGARA in early January to discuss options for a plenary speaker or panel.

I'm extremely pleased with the work of the 2014 Program Committee and the 2014 Host Committee. They have been motivated and innovative and are working very hard to ensure that there will be an outstanding conference for all attendees. We have confirmed the Great Hall at the Library of Congress as the All-Attendee reception venue. Nancy is working with the LC Special Programs staff on reception logistics.

Outside Engagements

It was a great honor to return to my alma mater, **Miami University**, as a guest of the library in early October. I delivered an address to the library faculty and staff, met with staff from the Diversity Office, and had the opportunity to speak to a group of undergraduate history students. It was wonderful to visit the archives for Miami and the

Western College for Women and too see how they are working to preserve the history while also helping move the institution into the future.

While in Ohio I also had the opportunity to do several workshops at the **Society of Ohio Archivists conference**. It was interesting to meet with archivists from a variety of institutions and discuss ways to improve access and to support the needs of K-12 students using archival repositories.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the **October DC Digital Archivists Meetup** and talk to those on the cutting edge of digital archives and digital humanities about SAA and about their goals and how SAA can support them.

I had the great honor of being a guest at the **Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Member Meeting** in Arlington, Virginia. I was able to speak to the ARL Leadership Fellows (including our own Tim Pyatt) and to attend discussions on ARL's diversity initiatives and on ways to transform special collections in the digital age.

The Library of Congress American Folklife Center sponsored a **Cultural Heritage Symposium at the Library** and I was honored to serve as the keynote speaker for the symposium. Attendees covered a wide spectrum and included anthropologists, folklorists, digital humanists, historians, and archivists from around the world. The theme of my speech was building bridges and I think we have an opportunity to learn effective ways to work with the members of the cultural heritage community, especially those archivists who are members of the American Folklore Society, to find connections between our groups and perhaps others that are interested in cultural heritage issues.