

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
February 5-6, 2024  
Virtual Meeting, Chicago, IL**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report: Chief Executive Officer  
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Chief Executive Officer**

**Headquarters Update**

For the first time since the pre-COVID era, the Society is now operating with a complete staff. Please see below for the latest staff updates.

Savanah Tiffany, who assumed the role of Assistant Director of Publications on January 26, 2024, is a recent addition to the Society. Savanah brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous position at the San Diego County Bar Association, where she oversaw content, advertisement, and publication schedules.

Sharon Berry, initially joining the Society as a temporary staff member in the finance department, has transitioned into a full-time permanent position as a Staff Accountant. Sharon's finance career began as a bookkeeper for an international coffee company, and after attending Harvard Business School, she worked as a staff accountant for a Fortune 500 company.

Jill Burgos has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Governance. Joining the Society from the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance, Jill managed volunteers from eighty-five components and served as a liaison for three councils/committees. Her tenure with SAA begins on February 12, 2024.

**Governance Highlights**

The weekly meetings with the President and President-elect have covered various topics, including collaboration with other groups, budget discussions, appointments, staff updates, and addressing requests/questions from committees and sections.

**Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA) Developments**

CORDA recently submitted a grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services ([IMLS\) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#). The grant aims to facilitate a discussion related to RoadMap, and out of 141 applications received, CORDA is among the eighty-three that advanced to the second phase.

## **Annual Meeting Insights**

170 proposals were received for the upcoming Annual Meeting, comprising 147 educational sessions and 23 poster proposals—an increase of 30 proposals compared to 2023. The Program Committee's inaugural meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024.

## **Noteworthy Negotiations**

Pre-COVID, the Society secured a contract with the Hilton based on prior meeting attendance. Post-COVID, the contract was renegotiated, resulting in significant savings of \$66,000. Over the past three years, staff negotiation efforts have led to overall savings of approximately \$330,000.

## **Affiliated Activities Update**

SAA maintains a seat on the National Coalition of History (NCH) board of directors, with current involvement as co-chair/president. January's board meeting covered the Coalition's 2024 goals and priorities, succession planning for the Executive Director, and potential revenue streams.

The Joint Working Group (JWG), comprising members from the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), the Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC), and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administration (NAGARA), meets monthly to discuss synergistic issues, including legislative updates and government budget matters. Bryan Whitley shared thoughts and concerns regarding America 250 during a recent meeting with the president and president-elect.

Monthly meetings between SAA and CoSA focus on identifying priorities, with an emphasis on expanding advocacy efforts beyond SAA's Annual Meeting.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) continues to hold quarterly meetings inviting members of the archival profession, with Helen and Tomaro attending the last session.