

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 22 – 24, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

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

This report covers my activities from January 27 to May 1, 2014.

Governance

As a result of some of the suggestions that came from members, Nancy, Kathleen, Beth Yakel, and I discussed effective ways to develop a quick salary survey. I have hopes that we may be able to develop something soon or work with SNAP, as one member has begun to work on this.

I spoke with Tywana Whorley on issues facing the Diversity Committee and ways to modify the committee description and procedures to better direct the committee. The mega issue discussion will focus on the committee and other diversity issues, and I anticipate holding a vote on the suggested changes to the group's description during the Council meeting.

I approved a request from the SAA's Intellectual Property Working Group that two of its members, Jean Dryden and Eric Harbeson, attend and speak on behalf of SAA at a two-day discussion on orphan works and digitization held by the U.S. Copyright Office on March 10 and 11. They provided an excellent report, and IPWG asked that SAA provide comments to the Register of Copyright on the "Study on the Right of Making Available." The group crafted an outstanding letter, which was sent over Kathleen's signature (given my employment with the Library of Congress).

I consulted with the Task Force on Member Affinity Groups on their survey. I encouraged them to revise their survey, which is currently available online. I anticipate that the first draft of their report will be available at the May Council meeting.

I thank all of those who submitted information for the evaluation of Executive Director Nancy Beaumont. I have completed the evaluation and reviewed it with her.

I responded to a query from Christopher Felker, in which I indicated that SAA does not plan to pursue an arrangement with Doing Archives at the present time.

Advocacy

There was a lot of work in the area of advocacy. I worked with Nancy, Kathleen, Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy Chair Frank Boles, and Council Liaison Tanya Zanish-Belcher on a guide for members who want to bring a public policy issue to SAA's attention.

I worked with Nancy and Kathleen to develop a statement in response to the new NHPRC guidelines. Thanks to Executive Committee members Mark Duffy and Bill Landis for their additional support and guidance in crafting the statement.

Frank, Tanya, and I researched and developed a response to the removal of the records from the Bethune House Historic Site to the National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. When some members of CAPP and other SAA members expressed concern about the response, I provided follow-up information.

I attended the Council of State Archivists Washington briefing and forum, where the group discussed their activities and explored ways for all attendees to work together. At the CoSA briefing, I met Gail Ravnitzky Silberglid of the American Association of Museums' Advocacy Office. A few days after the forum, we discussed how we might enhance and focus the work of the SAA/ALA/AAM Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums (CALM) and also deal with advocacy issues of interest to both organizations. As AAM has been less involved in CALM in the recent past, this may help CALM regain its footing and explore other activities.

Nancy, Kathleen, and I participated in conference calls with leaders of CoSA and NAGARA to discuss issues of importance. Meg Phillips, External Affairs Liaison at the National Archives and Records Administration, has also joined us for a couple of calls to keep us informed on NARA's activities.

I attended a web conference on NARA's strategic plan led by Meg Phillips and Archivist of the United States David Ferriero. They discussed the basics of the plan and answered questions from attendees.

I attended a meeting on the status of the District of Columbia Archives and Record Center. At present money has been allocated for a new building, but with the current mayor's defeat in the primary, there is concern that this funding may be used to cover other projects. There is also concern that funding will be available for a new building but there will be no additional funding to increase staffing and to support the activities of the archives, including developing an electronic records policy and actually working with District of Columbia government employees to implement a records management policy. Following review by Nancy and the Executive Committee, my written testimony expressing SAA's concerns and support of the DC Archives was submitted to the DC Council on May 6.

I was informed that Julie Sweetkind-Singer was elected to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee. The SAA Executive Committee had written in support of her election last August. I conveyed my congratulations to her and my thanks to those who brought this request to me.

Off the Record Blog Posts: I posted seven posts on the *Off the Record* blog. Two posts, "The Jobs Thing" and "Throwing the Cat Amongst the Pigeons," received quite a few comments. Both of these posts were inspiration for a couple of my columns in *Archival Outlook*.

2014 Joint Annual Meeting: I participated in a meeting with the *ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2014* Host Committee to discuss their plans and to answer questions. I am in regular contact with the co-chairs and all appears to be going well. I also worked with the CALM leadership to develop a session for the conference. Session 106: *Archival Education: Outcomes and Opportunities* will take place from 10:00 to 11:00 am on Thursday, August 14.

Outside Engagements: I will be attending the Association of Research Libraries Membership Meeting, May 6-8 in Columbus, Ohio.