

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 28 - 30, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois**

**President's Report  
(Prepared by Kathleen D. Roe)**

This report covers activities since the November 2014 Council meeting. During this period my time has been focused on governance, issues raised to the Council, activities relating to raising awareness of archives and of the Society of American Archivists, and planning for the Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

As noted in my previous report, SAA staff have been incredibly responsive and supportive. My heartfelt thanks go to Nancy Beaumont, Rene Craig, Peter Carlson, Matt Black, Solveig De Sutter, Teresa Brinati, Carlos Salgado, and all the staff in the SAA office. This has been an active quarter for members of the Council and officers who have been in communication with a range of membership groups, addressed governance issues, and continued the ongoing leadership work of the Society. My sincere appreciation to everyone for providing positive and productive direction and operation of SAA throughout this time.

Specific activities I have pursued in my role as president include:

**Governance/Administration**

- CoSA/NAGARA/SAA Presidents/Executive Directors monthly conference calls. These calls serve as an opportunity to share work under way in each organization, have briefings quarterly from Meg Phillips on developments at the National Archives, and discuss common issues, including areas for advocacy such as development of a joint statement on use of private email for conduct of public business.
- Nancy Beaumont, Vice President/President-Elect Dennis Meissner, and I conduct weekly telephone calls to discuss issues and share information.
- In collaboration with the Executive Committee, I prepared a performance appraisal for the Executive Director.
- Dennis, Nancy Beaumont, and I have had a number of conversations about grant opportunities (see Dennis's vice president's report) for SAA. Related, we have also stayed in touch with work underway on SAA's behalf by Donna McCrea, our lead representative to the Coalition on Advancing Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums, as well as Danna Bell (Prototype Group) and Helen Wong Smith

(Mapping the Landscape Project) who are involved in related CALALM projects on behalf of SAA.

- As president, I am a member of the SAA Foundation Board, and in that capacity attended the Board's meeting in Chicago, March 13-14, 2015.

### **Addressing Issues Raised to the Council/Leadership**

A number of situations involving archival issues were brought to our attention for possible support or a statement on behalf of SAA. With recommendations from the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy, as well as input from affinity groups including the Issues and Advocacy Roundtable, the College and University Archives Section, the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable, the Intellectual Property Working Group, and the Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct, among others, we either issued a statement, wrote a letter of support, or signed on to a letter for the following:

- Statement regarding release of information on the [purchase price of the University of Texas at Austin acquisition of the papers of Gabriel García Márquez](#).
- Statement regarding [University of Oregon Records Release Incident](#).
- Statement on [Use of Non-government Email Accounts for the Conduct of Public Business](#).
- Statement on [Indiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Subsequent Action by Indiana General Assembly and Governor](#).
- Testimony submitted to the [District of Columbia Council in support of the District of Columbia Archives](#).
- Letter to Rhode Island Secretary of State in support of the State Archives.
- Approved Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable letter to [Johnson Publishing Company regarding the sale of its photo archives](#).

### **Outreach/Advocacy/Awareness**

- Communication with the membership: Blog posts for "Off the Record" were provided by me and other Council members generally once a week; *Archival Outlook* columns were submitted for November through May; as possible I participate in twitter chats hosted by the Students and New Archives Professionals Roundtable and the Women Archivists Roundtable. I receive very occasional email comments/requests from individual members on a range of topics, mostly relating to advocacy or how to get involved in SAA.
- Presentations/meetings attended as SAA president: I spoke about current archival issues and why archives matter at: the Center for Jewish History/Archivists Roundtable of New York *Archival Leaders Advocate* series in February; at the Buffalo State College *Charles Penney Lecture*; and at the 9/11 Tribute Center *Seminar on 9/11 Oral Histories*; and did a question-and-answer session with archives program students and Reuther Library staff at Wayne State University (my alma mater).

- Archival Education Course at Clayton State University: In my role as SAA president I spoke to students in Cheryl Oestreicher's online Reference and Outreach Programs for Archives course.
- "Year of Living Dangerously for Archives": We have put forward monthly "challenges" with ideas and options for advocacy and awareness actions that members/archival community members might pursue.

### **SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland 2015**

- The Host Committee, chaired by Jennie Thomas (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame) and Janet Carleton (Ohio University) has developed a range of tours and opportunities for the Annual Meeting and has launched a very active blog sharing information on Cleveland attractions, neighborhoods, food options and (best of all) identified 12 coffee shops.
- The Program Committee, chaired by Carl Van Ness (University of Florida) and Lynn Eaton (James Madison University) finalized the regular program sessions and will shortly be soliciting ideas for the "pop up" sessions. They have introduced some new approaches and ideas, based on the Annual Meeting Task Force, of which Carl and Lynn were both active members.
- With Nancy, I have been working on the development of the Plenary I session which will be focusing on opportunities and approaches that archivists can use in raising awareness of the value of archives.