

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

**Report of SAA Representative to the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission
(Prepared by Peter Gottlieb, January 30, 2015)**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) met in Washington, DC, on January 30, 2015. The main items on the agenda were an update and overview of Congressional relations by NARA Director of Congressional Affairs John Hamilton, a presentation on the Freedman and Southern Society Project by project director Leslie Rowland, and a discussion of NHPRC staff's proposal on using deferrals for grant applications for this funding cycle.

Congressional Relations: Hamilton described for the Commission the legislative process through which NHPRC gets its annual appropriation. He pointed out that the newly elected Congress might be less friendly toward maintaining the current appropriation than the former one was. He identified the current chairs and ranking minority party members of the key appropriations committees and speculated that these individuals and other committee members may need to get a lot of information about NHPRC and its grants funding.

Freedman and Southern Society Project: Dr. Leslie Rowland gave a presentation on this project's editorial procedures and on its accomplishments since 1976. Concerned with the project's progress, the Commission had requested this presentation. Following Rowland's talk, Commission members talked about how to encourage the project to increase its rate of progress while maintaining its outstanding record of publishing valuable editions.

Deferrals: As part of her Executive Director's report, Kathleen Williams explained why NHPRC staff was recommending that the Commission defer decisions on several funding applications. She said that the deferrals would be a way 1) to stretch available funding over two funding cycles; 2) for the Commission to evaluate some applications against a wider field of funding proposals; 3) to give some applicants more time to meet mandatory performance standards on existing grants or supplement applications with critical information. (The Commission later endorsed the recommended deferrals.)

In addition to these major topics, Williams also told the Commission that no progress had been made on developing a strategic plan for NHPRC.