

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 7–9, 2018
Chicago, Illinois**

**Implementation of SAA’s 2018
Legislative Agenda and Action Plan
(Prepared by the Committee on Public Policy)**

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

In January 2018, the SAA Council approved a [2018 Legislative Agenda and Action Plan](#) that is intended to:

1. Supplement SAA’s more wide-ranging Public Policy Agenda, which is intended to identify a limited set of broad priorities that serves to guide SAA’s advocacy efforts in the public policy and legislative arenas;
2. Provide focus and direction to the organization’s advocacy efforts; and
3. Encourage members to take individual action in support of archives and archivists.

As a follow up, the Committee on Public Policy has considered how the responsibilities within the Action Plan might be assigned and we recommend the following.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the following SAA 2018 Action Plan for Legislative Priorities be approved and implemented.

SAA 2018 ACTION PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
Advocate with Congress to support SAA’s legislative priorities by collaborating with CoSA, NAGARA, and RAAC to sponsor “Archives on the Hill” event at August 2018 Joint Annual Meeting.	CoSA-NAGARA-RAAC-SAA Joint Working Group Committee on Public Policy	<i>April – August 2018:</i> Plan, implement, and evaluate Hill event. <i>August 2018:</i> Discuss planning and coordination of work plan with Issues and Awareness JWG.

	CoSA Board NAGARA Board RAAC Board SAA Council	<i>September – November 2018:</i> Develop joint charge for Issues and Awareness JWG to coordinate planning and implementation of other actions.
In collaboration with CoSA, NAGARA, and RAAC (via the Issues and Awareness Joint Working Group), develop a white paper on federal funding that addresses the essential need for additional and stable funding of archives programs. The white paper will serve as the basis for, and be informed by, a profession-wide discussion of high-priority funding needs (e.g., management/preservation of born-digital and digitized records; disaster response/recovery; online access initiatives; and other issues recommended by the archives community).	SAA Council Ad Hoc Group (including SAA VP, one Council member, one COPP member) Ad Hoc Group / Issues and Awareness Joint Working Group Issues and Awareness JWG Issues and Awareness JWG	<i>May 2018:</i> Council appoints <i>ad hoc</i> group to work with JWG to develop white paper. <i>June 2018:</i> Discuss with CoSA, NAGARA, and RAAC (via JWG) a plan for collaboration on a profession-wide approach to development and fielding of white paper. <i>August 2018:</i> Meet at 2018 Joint Annual Meeting to discuss first draft and plans for seeking comment. <i>September – November 2018:</i> Field draft for member comment. <i>December 2018:</i> Issue white paper.
Develop and provide tools for members' use in advocating on issues related to SAA's legislative priorities. Raise awareness of SAA's legislative priorities via SAA media.	Committee on Public Awareness (in consultation with COPP and/or other relevant component groups based on content/topic area). Committee on Public Awareness / Committee on Public Policy	<i>May - August 2018:</i> Develop and provide (via website) templates for op-ed columns, letters to the editor, and other media strategies. <i>August 2018:</i> Meet to decide on content of 1-2 op-ed pieces/ letters to be developed and distributed during American Archives Month. <i>October 2018:</i> Create a list of topics for templated letters and op-ed pieces that can be predicted. Present to the SAA Council at its November 2018 meeting.

Monitor actions in the Congress and Executive branch for issues that affect or involve archival records and programs and/or the archives profession.	Committee on Public Policy	<i>May – December 2018:</i> Monitor legislation and draft statements or action alerts for approval by the Executive Committee or Council.
Solicit individuals and/or groups to advocate in support of SAA’s legislative priorities via op-ed pieces, letters to the editor, and/or direct contact with policy makers.	SAA Staff SAA Council SAA President (and/or assignees) SAA Council Committee on Public Awareness / SAA Staff	<i>May 2018:</i> Provide the Council with a list of past Jameson Award winners (and others) to approach <i>May 2018:</i> Prioritize individuals and groups to approach. Solicit additional names if needed from component groups. <i>May – August 2018:</i> Solicit identified supporters; report to August 2018 Council meeting. Council to identify additional supporters. <i>August 2018:</i> In cooperation with SAA staff and COPA, Council determine how to proceed in identifying additional individuals and using statements in 2019. <i>September - October 2018:</i> Identify and work with 2-3 supporters to pilot test op-eds/ letters to the editor during American Archives Month.

Support Statement: The 2018 Action Plan for Legislative Priorities provides members and other prospective audiences with an understanding of how SAA intends to address its priorities related to federal legislation that has an impact on archivists, archives, the profession, and the communities that we serve.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: Addresses Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists, Strategy 1.1. Provide leadership in promoting the value of archives and archivists to institutions, communities, and society; 1.2. Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists; 1.3. Provide leadership in ensuring the completeness, diversity, and accessibility of the historical record; and 1.4. Strengthen the ability of those who manage and use archival material to articulate the value of archives.

Fiscal Impact: Implementation of the legislative agenda will require SAA to expend funds and support staff time on specific advocacy efforts. The proposed budget for FY 2019 includes adequate funding to address these actions.