

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

**President's Report  
(Prepared by Tanya Zanish-Belcher)**

**Executive Activities**

Participated in weekly policy and process calls with the Executive Director and periodic calls with the Executive Committee and Vice President to deal with current issues and prepare items for Council discussion.

Participated in monthly calls with the CoSA/NAGARA/SAA Leadership Group to work through areas of mutual concern.

Worked with the Executive Director (as well as the Governance Coordinator and Vice President) to develop Council meeting agendas.

Oversaw the evaluation of the SAA Executive Director with comments received from SAA Council, SAA staff, the SAA Foundation, and allied executive organizations. Also coordinated the work of the Executive Committee in revising the Executive Director's contract.

Signed on to the following Letters and Statements:

- Goals for the Semiquincentennial (drafted by the AASLH Task Force) for the National Coalition for History.
- Demand Progress and Demand Progress Action Letter in support of a markup of a smart transparency bill, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (ACMRA). ACMRA would require agencies to provide a copy of all the reports they are required by law to provide to Congress to the Government Publishing Office, which would post them online (subject to redaction under FOIA).
- Six individual letters thanking Senators Leahy and McCain and Representatives Quigley, Lance, Yoder, and Tim Ryan for successfully pushing for public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports.
- SAA has signed on to letters to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

drafted by the Census Task Force of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, urging oversight hearings on the 2020 decennial Census citizenship question.

Invitations extended to David Ferriero, Carla Hayden, and Professor Zeynep Tufekci to deliver remarks and a keynote address at the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting.

## **Member Communications**

Assisted in the drafting, revising, and writing of the  
“SAA Statement on Sexual Assault and Harassment:”

<https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-statement-on-sexual-assault-and-harassment>

Suggested language for pop-up survey for mid- to late-career archivists.

Portal for Policies project: Compiled list of members interested in working on such a project, and forwarded them to Matt Black.

Wrote President’s column for publication in *Archival Outlook*:

- Your Talents Needed! (November-December)
- Updates from the SAA Council and Foundation (January-February)
- Challenges for SAA and the Archives Profession (March-April)
- SAA and the Archives Profession: Research Needs (May-June)

Wrote blog posts for *Off the Record*, which were also shared with the SAA Leader List, Twitter, and the new Announcements List:

- International Council on Archives Annual Meeting, Mexico City
- Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk—Final Call for Comments
- A Final Note from the ICA Meeting
- Incerto Exitu Victoriae (Of Uncertain Victory), or the Successful Job Hunter’s Lament
- Humanities Day in Washington, D.C.

Appointed Vice Chair (Sarah Quigley) for the Committee on Public Policy, with the resignation of Barbara Teague (who was named Executive Director, Council of State Archivists).

Communicated with the Task Force on Accessibility to forward resources and answer questions.

Discussed 2018 Joint Annual Meeting preparations with the Executive Director and presidents of CoSA and NAGARA.

## **Governance**

Coordinated comments for the SAA Council, SAA staff, and allied organizations for evaluation of the SAA Executive Director. Final evaluation shared and signed in March 2018.

Coordinated renewal of the Executive Director’s contract (extension and 3-year) (April 2018).

Reviewed schedule for SAA membership to review and comment on Annual Meeting Principles, Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Education, and Best Practices for Volunteers.

## **Representation**

Telephone conference call with John Dichtl, Executive Director of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Collaboration on workshops and publications, assistance with 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of US.

Lunch scheduled with Jeff Ubois, MacArthur Foundation.

E-mail correspondence with NARA External Affairs Liaison Meg Phillips.

Held monthly phone calls with RBMS Chair Athena Jackson.

## **SAA Foundation**

The Foundation is currently reviewing grant applications received for the 2018 cycle.

The Foundation also recently awarded disaster recovery grants to five repositories struck by hurricanes and earthquakes in late 2017:

- **Department of Cultural Affairs of the Autonomous Municipality of Caguas (Puerto Rico)** was awarded \$1,896 to purchase equipment and cleaning supplies to stabilize and restore their collections from damage following Hurricane Maria.
- **Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja (Puerto Rico)** received \$4,300 to buy cleaning and safety supplies for the restoration and rescue of documents and records damaged during Hurricane Maria.
- **Galería 8 of the National Archives of Mexico (Mexico)** was awarded \$2,500 to hire staff to relocate part of the collections following strong earthquakes in September 2017.
- **Historical Archives of the Luis Muñoz Marín Foundation (Puerto Rico)** received \$5,000 to clean documents affected by Hurricane Maria and place them in new archival boxes or containers.
- **St. Thomas Historical Trust Museum (US Virgin Islands)** was awarded \$3,500 to purchase materials and pay volunteers to recover approximately 50% of the photograph collection that suffered water damage from Hurricane Maria.