

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
12-13 August 2013
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**President's Report
(Prepared by Jackie Dooley)**

This report covers the period from 1 May through 22 July 2013.

Strategic Planning

Our continued work on SAA's new strategic plan required considerable time on the part of all members of the Council. Having adopted goals and strategies at our May meeting, we proceeded to draft a set of detailed "actions" to flesh out the plan. These were opened to the membership for comment on July 16.

Annual Meeting Task Force

The Council discussed the AMTF's final report in May, and, as Council liaison to the Task Force, I am in the lead on determining next steps for implementation. The Council will determine priorities for action in August. We have meaty material on which to base our discussion: both the AMTF's own report and a document prepared by three members of the Council. We're committed to active communication with members about the outcomes of the reports, the priorities we establish, and the ways in which we already are and will continue to move forward with evaluation of and changes to the meeting. The AMTF will remain active at the NOLA Joint Annual Meeting: they will host a forum, which I will moderate, that will enable attendees to move us forward by discussing possible next steps in tackling some of the complex issues, such as how to approach gradual deployment of online content, whether/how to shorten the overall conference, and identifying new types of sessions. In addition, the group will once again have a table near the registration desk for accepting comments from members.

Collaboration with ARL for DAS Workshops

ARL has now scheduled four weeklong DAS sessions at ARL libraries during September-December 2013. The locations are the University of Illinois at Chicago, University of New Mexico, Ohio State University, and UCLA. Seven other ARL host institutions have been scheduled to host the DAS workshops in 2014; dates will be announced later this year. I'm avidly looking forward to seeing how successful this collaboration with ARL turns out to be, as it could be a wonderful model for future

arrangements with other organizations whose members need in-depth training in managing born-digital archival materials within a research library environment.

International Council on Archives

The Council held a conference call with Trudy Peterson on 17 July to discuss issues related to SAA's participation in ICA. She gave us excellent insights that will help the Council determine priorities for SAA's future involvement. (She was our representative for five years, and we want to understand the ICA landscape before selecting our future rep and giving that person directives for how to lead SAA's involvement.) Trudy prepared for us in advance of the call a document that details how ICA and its various subgroups operate to give context to our discussion. Topics of discussion included our involvement in SPA (the Section on Professional Associations) and NAANICA (ICA's North American branch, which is composed of the U.S. and Canada). Our August Council agenda will include both a visit from ICA Executive Secretary David Leith and an action item (0813-1-III-C-ICAMember), the outcome of which will determine how we will move forward.

NARA Draft Strategic Plan

Following extensive Council discussion, on 10 July I submitted a letter on behalf of SAA to Archivist of the United States David Ferriero offering our comments on NARA's draft strategic plan. While we support many aspects of the plan, we also commented on several aspects that we believe warrant reconsideration (undefined use of the term "high-level records" and a plan to digitize all analog records in NARA's custody) or addition (encouraging NARA staff to be involved in external professional activities and emphasizing the importance of NHPRC in support of the national archival community).

NHPRC

On 28 May I co-signed, together with the presidents of the Council of State Archivists and NAGARA, and sent to the Archivist of the United States a joint statement on parameters for NHPRC grants. We emphasized that grants should have tangible results that will be disseminated broadly, impact that is both significant and broad, and serve as models for best practice.

On 19 July I submitted on SAA's behalf a letter to the leaders of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government supporting a \$4.75 million NHPRC budget for FY 2014 (which would be level funding relative to the 2013 budget).

ALA/CALM Conference Session on Advocacy

On 29 June I represented SAA on an ALA conference panel focused on the advocacy activities of several organizations, including our own advocacy agenda. The Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums (ALA, SAA, and American Alliance of

Museums) annually selects a theme on which a session will be presented at each organization's annual meeting. The session will be reprised as an AAM webcast on 4 December 2013.

ALA Virtual Membership Meeting

On 6 June I attended the American Library Association's first Virtual Membership Meeting (their equivalent of our annual business meeting). It was very instructive in terms of content of the presentations by ALA leaders, methodology used for involving attendees, and effectiveness of the technology. ALA is a much larger organization than SAA and has a far bigger budget for implementation of such efforts. Nevertheless, I learned a lot and passed my notes along to the Council for future reference.

HistoryPin Project for Sourced Documentation of Communities Affected by Hurricane Sandy

Together with Executive Director Nancy Beaumont, I worked with Jon Voss of HistoryPin (the plenary speaker at SAA's 2012 Annual Meeting) on SAA cosponsorship of a project to document communities and neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Sandy in September 2012.

Presidential/Leadership Blog

I was not able to give priority to *Off the Record* during this very busy period; in fact, only two posts have gone up (on 15 and 17 July), though I'm hoping to do several more in the run-up to the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Thirty posts are now online, and anecdotal input from members throughout the year suggests that this new SAA foray into social media has been widely welcomed. Post-NOLA, primary responsibility for the blog will transfer to incoming President Danna Bell-Russel.

Onward!

This is my final report to the Council as SAA President. It has been my great honor to serve our membership in this role.