

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 17 – 18, 2015
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio**

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

This report covers activities since the May 2015 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, René 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 the following.

Governance/Administration

- CoSA/NAGARA/SAA Presidents/Executive Directors monthly conference calls. These calls serve as an opportunity to share work that is underway in each organization, have briefings quarterly with/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, Dennis Meissner, and I conduct weekly telephone calls to discuss issues and share information.
- In collaboration with the Executive Committee, we successfully completed contract negotiations with Nancy to continue her superior service as Executive Director for a three-year period, 2015-2018.

Addressing Issues Raised to the Council/Leadership

A number of responses were developed in collaboration with internal SAA groups or with other archival organizations:

- SAA issued a [Statement on Use of Non-government Email Accounts for the Conduct of Public Business](#) in March 2015. Since then we've worked with the Council of State Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators to issue a joint statement on this important public policy issue.
- The Intellectual Property Working Group drafted for Executive Committee approval and issuance a letter to the U.S. Copyright Office providing "Comments on Orphan Works and Mass Digitization."
- A statement on the qualifications for a candidate for Librarian of Congress was drafted and approved by the Executive Committee and shared with the CoSA/NAGARA/SAA Joint Advocacy and Issues Working Group for possible endorsement by all three organizations.
- Information relating to the possible introduction of a bill to eliminate the National Historical Publications and Records Commission was provided by the National Coalition for History. We advised members of the potential action, which has now been delayed for possible reintroduction in the Fall.

Outreach/Advocacy/Awareness

- *Communication with the membership*: Blog posts for "Off the Record" were provided by me and by Council and Host Committee members. My final *Archival Outlook* column was submitted for July/August. 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.
- *"Year of Living Dangerously for Archives"*: We have put forward monthly "challenges" with ideas and options for advocacy and awareness actions that members of SAA or the archives community 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, and food options. Best of all, they've identified 12 coffee shops!
- The Program Committee, chaired by Carl Van Ness (University of Florida) and Lynn Eaton (James Madison University), has finalized the education session, including the "pop up" session experiment.
- With Nancy, I have been in communication with Tom Owen of PGAV and Daniel Horowitz Garcia of StoryCorps, the guest speakers for Plenary 1, which will focus on storytelling as a method for archivists to raise awareness and demonstrate the value of archives and archivists. Similarly, I have worked with Dennis Meissner and Helen Wong Smith to develop Plenary 2 with a "Leadership" focus.