

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 13, 2018
Washington, DC**

**Staff Report: Annual Meeting
(Prepared by Nancy Beaumont)**

“Principles and Priorities for Continuously Improving the SAA Annual Meeting”

Based on discussion at the May 2018 Council meeting, on May 10 we fielded for member comment the current “[Principles and Priorities for Continuously Improving the SAA Annual Meeting](#).” See discussion item 0818-1-V-B-AMPrinciples for feedback received.

Site Selection, 2021 – 2023

As reported in my July/August *Archival Outlook* [column](#) and in my June 18 *Off the Record* [blog post](#), we have signed contracts with the Hilton Anaheim for July 31–August 7, 2021; the Sheraton Boston for August 20–27, 2022; and the Washington Hilton for July 22–29, 2023. These dates are posted on the SAA [website](#). I’m delighted to announce that the Council of State Archivists will join us for the 2019 Annual Meeting in Austin.

2018 Joint Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

See my May 2018 Council report for many details (that I won’t repeat here) associated with the Program Committee’s development process, the Host Committee’s support, conference promotion, and use of social media before, during, and after the conference.

Registration

At close of Advance registration on July 20, we had 2,141 paid registrants for the full conference and an additional 73 one-day registrants. (This against a budget of 2,100 paid registrants.) When we add in our industry partners (exhibitors and sponsors) and guests, as well as onsite registrations, we expect more than 2,400 attendees.

We are informing attendees via various mediums to “Be Prepared!” for crowded conditions and are offering these tips:

- Get there early! Give yourself extra time to travel to a session or event.
- Sit up front and fill in all available seats.
- Hit the bookstore early on. Books will go quickly.

- Be extra nice to each other.
- Enjoy it! Long lines present a great networking opportunity.
- We appreciate your patience—and encourage you to take the opportunity to “rub elbows” (maybe literally!) with your colleagues!

Exhibit, Sponsorship, and Advertising Support

Support from our industry partners for this Joint Annual Meeting has reached a new level, with a near-sellout of the exhibit hall (just three booths remain as of this writing) as well as excellent sponsorship support from Gold sponsors Ancestry and Atlas Systems, Silver sponsor Preservica, and Bronze sponsors Arkivum, Collabware, Feith, Memnon, Preservation Technologies, and University Products. Please thank our supporters at any and every opportunity!

SAA Foundation Travel Awards

At the suggestion of SAA President Tanya Zanish-Belcher, the SAA Foundation Board approved expenditure of \$10,000 to support 10 [travel awards](#) to the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting. We are very grateful to the Foundation for this gift and look forward to receiving feedback (read “testimonials”) from the travel award recipients.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions on any and all aspects of the Annual Meeting.