

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 9 – 12, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

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

This report covers activities from August 16 through October 16, 2014.

During this first quarter, my time has been focused on governance and issues raised to Council as well as on a range of activities relating to raising awareness of archives and of the Society of American Archivists. Nancy Beaumont, Rene Craig, Peter Carlson, Matt Black, Solveig De Sutter, Teresa Brinati, Carlos Salgado, and all the staff in the SAA office have been extremely responsive and supportive. This has been an active quarter for members of 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:

Governance/Administration

- ***CoSA/NAGARA/SAA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness:*** Council approved participation in this group. Vice President Dennis Meissner will name two representatives, one each from the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy and the Committee on Public Awareness.
- ***Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums:*** In order to continue SAA participation in this group, a new representative needs to be appointed because I could not continue in that role given my position of SAA president. Vice President Dennis Meissner will appoint a lead representative to the Coalition for SAA and additional representatives to some of the working groups within the Coalition.
- ***Archives and Archivists Listserv:*** Issues and concerns were raised at several points that required response from the Executive Committee in addition to that from the listserv coordinator and the Council liaisons. We continue to follow our plan to consider how the List self-monitors and what/whether issues arise to provide information for a reassessment at our meeting in May 2015.

- Nancy, Dennis, and I conduct weekly telephone calls to discuss issues and share information.
- In preparation for the November Council meeting, Nancy and I met via telephone with consultant Mary Ann Rainey to discuss facilitated discussions on leadership, ensuring the diversity of the American archival record, and reviewing the SAA Strategic Plan. I consulted with several colleagues and assembled a range of readings for Council members to review and provided some guiding questions for our discussion.

Outreach/Advocacy/Awareness

- ***Communication with the Membership:*** I and other Council members did posts on “Off the Record” generally once a week; I submitted *Archival Outlook* columns for the September/October and November/December issues; as possible I participate in Twitter chats hosted by the Students and New Archives Professionals Roundtable and the Women Archivists Roundtable; and I receive and respond to occasional email comments/requests from individual members on a range of topics, mostly relating to advocacy or how to get involved in SAA.
- ***Association of Research Libraries:*** I attended the fall membership meeting of ARL in Washington D.C., including the meetings of their Special Collections Working Group and the Influencing Public Policy Steering Group. I circulated my notes from that meeting to Council members. It was a useful meeting to attend both in terms of observing how another professional association operates and finding common concerns that our associations share.
- ***Arizona Archives Alliance:*** In my role as SAA president and at their invitation, I spoke at the AzAA’s Archives and Advocacy Fall Symposium in Tempe, Arizona, to an energetic audience of archivists from around the state. Despite turbulent air and messes at O’Hare, it was an absolute honor and pleasure to have a chance to meet with these colleagues and hear about the work and advocacy they do as well as their very positive comments about SAA.
- ***Archival Education Course at Clayton State University:*** In my role as SAA president I spoke to students in Richard Pearce-Moses’s introductory online course about archival advocacy and involvement in SAA. I have a similar session scheduled for November with Cheryl Ostreicher’s online Reference and Outreach Programs for Archives course at Clayton State.
- ***National Coalition for History:*** We provided suggested revisions for NCH’s new marketing “e-brochure.”
- ***“Year of Living Dangerously for Archives”:*** We have put forward two “challenges” with ideas and options for advocacy and awareness actions that members/archival community members might pursue. The first was aimed at American Archives

Month and we have received several submissions as of October 15. I spoke with Jackie Dooley and Merrilee Profitt of OCLC who are interested in encouraging involvement and support from their organization. Merrilee has done a blog posting about the initiative, and they are planning other activities to encourage their membership to become involved. I also spoke with Archivist of the United States David Ferriero about opportunities for coordination and collaboration with the National Archives in raising awareness of the role and value of archives and archivists. We will share information and discuss further opportunities for working together. I will be talking with other related leaders/organizations about whether they are interested in supporting this effort over the coming year as well.

2015 SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland

- ***The Host Committee***, chaired by Jennie Thomas (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum) and Janet Carleton (Ohio University), is energetically pursuing a range of ideas for the Annual Meeting and will be holding its first face-to-face meeting in Cleveland in November.
- ***The Program Committee***, chaired by Lynn Eaton (James Madison University) and Carl Van Ness (University of Florida), has been energetically gathering session proposals and preparing for their meeting in Chicago in November to review proposals and plan further for the meeting. They will be striving to introduce some new approaches and ideas, based on the Council-adopted recommendations of the Annual Meeting Task Force, of which Carl and Lynn were both active members. A range of different types of sessions have been proposed and they are also planning to reserve time each day for “pop up” sessions.