

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 2-3, 2018
Chicago, Illinois**

**Native American Archives Section: Attendance at Association of
Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museum Conference**

(Prepared by Caitlin Haynes, NAAS Vice-Chair)

During the 2018 annual conference of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), the Native American Archives Section (NAAS) of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) hosted an informational table in the exhibit hall. As the Vice-Chair of NAAS, I spent time staffing the table off and on throughout the week with my fellow section members (five of whom were also present at the conference). Our primary goal of having a NAAS presence at ATALM was to spread the word about SAA's recent endorsement of the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* and to increase awareness of the section itself in the hopes of increasing participation in NAAS and SAA from Native archivists.

Overall the NAAS presence at ATALM was a wonderful experience. We had many visitors to our table who asked a variety of questions about what SAA and NAAS could offer ATALM participants. By far, participants were excited and hopeful about the SAA endorsement of the *Protocols*, and expressed interest in learning more about the next steps planned by NAAS and SAA, including the upcoming Case Studies series. An announcement of the endorsement was made during the ATALM conference by Jennifer O'Neal, University Historian and Archivist Instructor at the University of Oregon and former NAAS Chair. Dr. O'Neal discussed the history of the *Protocols* (which she helped write) and thanked fellow contributors in attendance, as well as outlining SAA's endorsement and statements regarding the *Protocols*. The announcement was very well received, and a video of it is available at:

<http://files.archivists.org/governance/council/2018/1118-VI-S-NAAS-ATALM-Video.mp4>.

Common concerns from participants visiting our NAAS table, however, primarily focused on the historic exclusive attitude of SAA, and the hope that this is changing to include more diverse voices and topics. Many ATALM attendees also discussed with us the high cost of becoming an SAA member and attending annual meetings. These expenses make it difficult—if not impossible—for many of the individuals we spoke with to participate fully in SAA. We spent much time responding to these concerns and discussing how SAA and NAAS are working to highlight the importance of archival diversity, assist archivists around the country with the implementation of the *Protocols*, and the ways that people can get involved in NAAS and SAA for free (by attending the NAAS section meeting, joining our listserv, etc.). Yet there is still clearly a need for SAA and NAAS to consider other

ways (including financial resources) to bring in diverse perspectives from all communities interested in having a seat at the table.

We are looking forward to further planning and outreach efforts, and have already begun scheduling deadlines and review dates from interested contributors to the Case Study series on implementation of the *Protocols*. Participation and feedback from ATALM attendees was a great learning experience and one we will continue to participate in in the future.

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Folks excited about the [@archivists_org](#) endorsing the Protocols - the Native American Archives Section wants to hear from you! You do NOT have to be a member to be part of the conversation. Contact [@CaitlinEHaynes](#) to get involved! [@jenniferoneal](#) [@KimLawsonUBCLib](#) [#ATALM2018](#)



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