

I'm speaking this morning on behalf of my colleagues on the current SAA Council. We firmly believe that constituent groups—Sections, Roundtables, Committees, and the like—are the locus of many of the activities that bring members to SAA and keep them engaged and satisfied with the organizational membership proposition. I'm hopeful, and I think I can safely speak for both Council and the SAA staff as well, that this Leadership Orientation and Forum session represents a reinvigorated focus on developing and supporting leadership within the Society of American Archivists.

Many of you responded in early February to a series of questions sent out by your Council liaison, and I have to say that we were ecstatic about and gratified by your engagement with those questions. This session today is one response to that feedback, but it is just the beginning of what we hope will be a continuing dialogue about leadership needs and expectations, which are really central to the health and well-being of archivists and our professional organizations.

With advance planning for the 2013 orientation and forum, we're hoping for a bigger time block to facilitate more time for you to talk to each other about leadership challenges, successes, and issues.

I sent out an email to the leader list last week announcing a new Leadership Resources page on the SAA website (<http://www2.archivists.org/governance/leaderresources>). Collocating links to resources in one spot was something you told us in February was

desirable. The contents of this page at this point reflect materials created in preparation for this year's leadership orientation, and the text of the lightning talks today will be added (some are already there). In addition to things like the 2012 Leadership and Drupal manuals, there's also a new document called "Who to Contact for What" that contains names, contact information, mug shots, and primary responsibilities for SAA staff members, officers, and councilors. But this is only the beginning of what we hope this area of the website will become. Certainly members of Council and SAA staff have some ideas for content, but we also hope to hear from you throughout the coming year with both specific suggestions and more general notions of what would be helpful to you. We're always on the lookout for freely available web-based resources on leadership effectiveness that are vouched for by SAA leaders, so keep us posted as you come across things like this. As the page grows, we also hope we'll hear from you about how best to organize it to make it as useful as possible to you and members of your group.

While a single-destination, organization-wide Leadership Resources page is one step in the right direction, I also encourage you to think about how to utilize your group's Drupal microsite to make leadership information and resources with your group readily available to all who are interested. Look around for ideas from other SAA groups, but also know that your Council liaison and SAA staff members are poised to assist if you have questions or concerns. More importantly, if you haven't already done this, we encourage you to have conversations with your group's members

about leadership issues and resources as you plan and develop your microsite.

Council members, working on projects have started using Google+ hangouts to get collaborative work done, to great effect, so I wanted to end with the suggestion that you consider this freely available tool as one you might use to advance your leadership work within your SAA component group in the coming year. As someone who is often not at the bleeding edge of technology adoption, I can say from personal experience that in 5 or so minutes you'll likely have the basics figured out. If you need a little encouragement, my Council colleagues Kate Theimer and Beth Kaplan have developed a nice one-pager on the basics of using this tool and it'll be posted on the Leadership Resources page soon after the annual meeting.

One final note: Council decided to charge the first-year class of Council members each year with planning the next Leadership Orientation & Forum for the coming year. So if you have thoughts or ideas about what might be helpful at this event in New Orleans next year, I'd encourage you to talk with or email Geof Huth, Michelle Light, or Tanya Zanish-Belcher.

Thanks!