

Advocacy Task Force Report

August 14, 2014

SAA conference, New Orleans

1. The Task Force continues to assemble a “Resource Kit for Advocacy” as part of the strategic plan and wants suggestions, ideas, links, and materials that inspire its members. The Task Force, therefore, placed requests in the last two CPR newsletters.
2. Items to be added to the kit or recommendations, questions, and suggestions should be sent to Advocacy Task Force members:

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3. This past year, in accordance with the strategic plan, the CPR Advocacy Task Force placed information and links to relevant articles and books on the CPR website. Included are two brochures from colleagues to provide examples of advocacy tools.
4. The Task Force developed a session on Political Advocacy for the SAA CPR preconference to fulfill the strategic plan recommendation to encourage greater communication between CPR and other entities within SAA interested in advocacy. Frank Boles, Chair of the Government Affairs Working Group, and Tanya Zanish-Belcher, member of the SAA Council, made presentations.

The following shows what is on the Advocacy Task Force page of the website for August 2013:

Task Force on Advocacy

The Task Force on Advocacy was formed by Ben Rogers in January 2012. It was charged with examining the summary produced during the 2011 CPR meeting in Chicago in order to develop a strategic plan on advocacy. The Task Force developed a plan and presented it to the CPR Steering Committee for revisions. The final plan was approved by the Steering Committee in October 2012.

Website--Resources for Advocacy:

- “The Documentation of Congress: Report of the Congressional Archivists Roundtable Task Force on Congressional Documentation” (1992) by Karen Dawley

Paul. <http://archive.org/details/TheDocumentationOfCongress>

- Association of Centers for the Study of Congress: <http://www.congresscenters.org/web>
This website contains a wealth of information about resources, news, and events. Included are yearly press releases and posters for Congress Week, links to the sites of member institutions where various studies and relevant data may be found, and grant and fellowship award information. Transcripts of past meetings are available to members. Of particular interest are the sessions by scholars who are utilizing congressional collections to study history and political science.
- *Managing Congressional Collections* by Cynthia Pease Miller. Available at the SAA store: <http://saa.archivists.org/store/managing-congressional-collections/967/>
- The Political Archivist Wiki, developed by Brad Wiles and Burton Altman, contains items related to advocacy: <http://thepoliticalarchivist.wikispaces.com/>

Tools for Advocacy—Useful examples that can be adapted for your institution:

Jeffrey W. Thomas of The Ohio Congressional Archives at **Ohio State University** submitted this tri-fold brochure that not only provides a fine example of how to solicit collections from congressional offices, but also explains why collecting and preserving congressional records is important for students, researchers, and the general public.

Leigh McWhite of The Modern Political Archives at **The University of Mississippi** submitted a brochure that provides a useful tool for outreach. It summarizes the activities of the archives, educates the public about its mission, and seeks to solicit donations and financial support.

[http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/OCA%20brochure%206-12%20edition\(1\).pdf](http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/OCA%20brochure%206-12%20edition(1).pdf)

<http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/MPA%20Brochure.pdf>