**AHRT Phone Conference Minutes** 01/19/2017

In attendance: Eric Stoykovich (Chair), Jenny Mitchell (JM), Tamar Zeffren (TZ), Ciaran Trace (CT), Erin Lawrimore (EL, joined halfway)

Notetaker: Eric Stoykovich

1) Discuss: **Recommendations of Publications Working Group** and AHS Chair's 2 Proposals for SAA-AHS Publications Infrastructure:

JM and TZ voiced support of the newsletter as a straightforward way to attain greater visibility for the AHS. A newsletter could be a good way to discuss the potential viability of a peer reviewed publication focusing on archival history.

After discussion, the following proposal **passed** with at least 3 yea votes: “Based on recommendations of the Archival History Section Publications Working Group, the Chair proposes that the Archival History Section move forward with the creation of an Archival History Newsletter.”

  If this option is approved, the following sub-proposal would then be considered:

The following proposal **passed** with at least 3 yea votes: Based on recommendations of the Archival History Section Publications Working Group, the Chair proposes that WordPress be selected as the main platform for Archival History Newsletter (example of WordPress site for SAA’s Electronic Records Section: <https://saaers.wordpress.com/>).”

One of the steering committee members suggested that a student intern be invited to set up the WordPress. TZ mentioned that the SNAP Roundtable has recent experience with the setting up of a WordPress webpage.

Moving to the subject of editorial governance, CT offered that ArchivesAWARE (“a blog hosted by the [Society of American Archivists](http://archivists.org/) and managed by its [Committee on Public Awareness (COPA”)](http://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-public-awareness) relies upon two joint editors. JM mentioned that that the Description Section has a traditional newsletter with appointed newsletter editor and web liaison, both of whom are appointed by the section’s Chair and are not otherwise voting members of the steering committee. ES wondered if two editorial positions, one from the AHS steering committee and one representing SAA-AHS members outside the steering committee, would be a serviceable structure for producing a biannual newsletter. CT offered to draft a “Call for Editorial Assistance” by next week, which would hope to spark interest in a handful of outside candidates for one or two potential positions. ES indicated that it might be hoped that the editorial team could be in place by sometime in April, with the release of a newsletter during the first few months of the next Chair’s term (which begins in July).

On 1/29/17, Chair ES emailed Felicia Owens (SAA Council) to indicate interest in having a student intern assist with the development of the WordPress webpage. The announcement may prove useful.

[**Council Report**]: EL reported that the SAA website would be normalized in January, if they are not already changed to reflect the SAA Council’s decision to change roundtables into sections. There might be delays to the process. The next face-to-face Council meeting is in May.]

2) Update: **Twitter/Social Media** – TZ indicated that 20 new followers have been added to the Twitter account in the past 6 weeks, though some may be robots with generic-sounding names. TZ said it was a “hopeful sign” of interest. The approved creation of a newsletter would spark conversations and collaborations. For example, the AHS newsletter could respond to current concerns, note milestones, and provide original content. TZ has been retweeting international news from ARMA and ICA, and tagging journal posts relevant to archival history. TZ is investigating metrics to judge whether social media is an effective way to promote the newsletter.

3) Update: **Bibliography** – update postponed to next meeting due to absence of KK

4) Follow-up: **Engagement with Mendeley**, etc. – CT thinks that while Mendeley could serve as a “reference manager” for AHS. However, at the moment, CT thinks the effort would likely be duplicative of the newsletter.

5) Update: **Engagement with AHA** – ES and KK received an email response from Dr. Edmund Russell, currently Vice President of Research at American Historical Association (AHA). The email offers the potential for collaboration between SAA-AHS and AHA. The letter and email have been filed with the Executive Director of AHA and the staff of the AHA Research Division.

6) Update: **Best Archival History Article Prize** – ES will revise language for review by the entire steering committee. The deadline is March 1, 2017, for application for funding support from the SAA Council.

7) New: **Researching the 30-year history of The Archival History Roundtable, 1986-2016** – With tremendous assistance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee archives, ES began the process of assembling a list of former chairs of the Archival History Roundtable. The intention is to create a brief retrospective of the 30-year history of the Archival History Roundtable, especially now that the name change to ‘Archival History Section’ will soon be full changed on the website. ES circulated to the steering committee two digital copies of the earlier version of the Archival History Roundtable’s newsletter, one from January 1988 and a second from summer 1999. Previous AHRT chairs could be asked to give their remembrances of AHRT activities and initiatives.

CT discovered the website where AHRT annual reports from 2003-2010 can be accessed:  <http://www.archivists.org/governance/annualreports/Component.asp>