

SAA Committee on Public Awareness

Minutes, October 5, 2020 (Rachael Woody)

**Society of American Archivists
Committee on Public Awareness
Conference Call 10/05/2020, 2:00pm–3:00pm ET**

Minutes

I. Roll Call

Present: Chris Burns, Kristianna Chanda, Anna Trammell, Vince Lee (Chair), Leon Miller, Teresa Brinati (Staff Liaison), and Rachel Winston (Council Liaison).

II. Council Report (Rachel Winston)

Met on September 23, 2020. Council will be scheduling listening sessions and are soliciting topics. [SAA approves Guidelines on and Access to Research Materials, Plans Upcoming Listening Sessions](#). Currently the Council is meeting every other month.

III. September [Meeting Minutes](#), approved.

IV. “A Finding Aid to My Soul” recap (Chris)

More than 120 attendees at peak attendance, no technical difficulties, and ran a little over an hour. While committee members missed the in-person feel, the benefit is that anyone can attend and participate without needing to travel (and the finances required for that). The event utilized chat to encourage people to participate, facilitated by Rachel Seale and Kate Barbera. Michaela did a great job prepping the storytellers in both performance and technical preparedness. Teresa shares that the attendance increases year upon year and Michaela did a great job hosting. This event has proven effective in-person and virtually. Vince shares that the storytellers did a great job and the content was very interesting.

V. [Ask an Archivist Day](#) (Vince)

- A. (Wednesday) October 7, 2020
- B. Promotion on social media
- C. Promotion on ArchivesAWARE
- D. [volunteers](#)

Abigail will send us an email with Twitter information and guidelines. We still need a few more volunteers. Lynn is sick and may need someone to cover her shifts 11am and 12pm ET. Rachael Woody shares that non-COPA members can also help out. Woody recommends that the first COPA person to kick off the day should introduce that COPA is taking over the SAA Twitter, and each new person thereafter should introduce themselves. Woody also suggests to be proactive about engaging with retweeting other repositories, jumping in on questions and discussions occurring using the hashtag #AskAnArchivist. Vince encourages us to use the [meme generator](#). Woody shares that we can submit a request for stats on the day via Teresa or Abigail.

VI. COPA Webinar (Rachael)

The sub-committee met with Teresa to discuss a few items on how to better support future webinar efforts. Teresa was able to confirm that COPA can use the registration system that SAA Education uses to manage registrant information and communication. Since the last webinar, SAA has increased its Zoom account to support more member attendance and webinar tools. Finally, COPA is committed to compensating those who provide webinars. With this in mind, committee members have gathered information from SAA and other national and regional organizations to inform that compensation rate. Teresa advises we wait until January to see what the SAA budget looks like to determine how soon we may be able to host a compensatable webinar.

VII. *ArchivesAWARE!* Blog (Kate)

A. [Calendar](#)

B. *There's An Archivist for That!* interview with NAACP is the most popular post with 487 views. The month overall saw 3,798 views.

VIII. [COPA Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

Submitted by previous Chair Nick Pavlik. Provided a summary of the blog beginning and evolution including the new series *Responses & Retrospectives*. The microsite was updated. A new event *Why I Love Being an Archivist* was held. Other new activities include COPA's publishing of two press releases, and the *Deriving Value from Collections in the Time of Corona* webinar. Vince shares that he's very proud of how much the members have accomplished. Teresa confirms that COPA's creativity and energy is impressive.

IX. Standing Updates

A. COPP (Sam-Vince provided quick update in Sam's absence)

Despite best efforts regarding Birmingham Public Library, employees were still furloughed. Rachael Woody asks if now is a good time to work on an advocacy toolkit. Vince will check in with COPP on when and how to move forward. COPP also touched on the *Ahmad v. University of Michigan* legal case. The case concerns the John Tanton Papers at the University of Michigan's Bentley Library. The collection is only partially open to research. Boxes 1-14 are open without restriction; boxes 15-25 are closed for 25 years from the date of accession.

The restricted portion of the collection is the source of the ongoing lawsuit. In December 2016, Hassan Ahmad, an immigration attorney, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain access to the restricted portion of the collection. The University of Michigan denied the original FOIA request, due to the restriction as well as arguing that the materials did not meet the definition of a public record subject to FOIA disclosure. The case has been tied up in Michigan courts since 2017.

B. Joint Working Groups

1. CoSA/NAGARA/SAA (Vince)

Next meeting is October 13, 2020.

2. COPP/COPA/RAAC/I&A (Vince still needs a volunteer for the calls).

No call scheduled yet.

Next call: November 2, 2020 @ 1pm EST/12pm CST/11pm MT/ 10am PST

Notetaker:

1. Anna Trammell