

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call
Agenda
October 11, 2019

Present: Kathleen, Bryan, Brad, Sarah, Sam, Nancy, Eira, Logan, Krista, Nick

Absent: Virginia, Audra

1. Volunteer to take notes: Beaumont

2. [Net Neutrality article](#)

On agenda to give folks an opportunity to discuss or ask questions. For COPP: Remains a local issue that we'll have to figure out whether/how to monitor. BW: Do we want to add to work plan? SQ: For the time being, comfortable with not adding to work plan but remaining vigilant as issue develops. It is on the Legislative Agenda. KR: Has this come up with Joint Working Group? They are the logical groups to track this issue and alert SAA. SQ: Has not come up in previous JWG discussions. ACTION: Suggest at next JWG that CoSA and/or NAGARA should follow.

3. Allen v. Cooper amicus brief (See Nancy's email)

On agenda to give folks an opportunity to discuss or ask questions. Refer to website for news item regarding signing onto the brief. SQ noted that JWG discussed. Sarah Koontz, NC State Archivist and member of JWG, explained that Allen is suing the State of North Carolina because the State Archives division of archeology had posted video or images of his discovery of a shipwreck off the coast. Lower courts have held that state institutions have sovereign immunity from copyright infringement damages and now the case is in the Supreme Court. Brief focuses on the role states and state institutions play in digitization and the protection of cultural property and that making state institutions subject to damages for infringement will have a chilling effect on their willingness to engage in such activities. BH: Allen v Cooper is indeed on SCOTUS docket for current session.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/allen-v-cooper/>

4. COPP/COPA planning call

SQ: Last Friday the co-chairs of the two groups met via conference call to discuss collaboration and possibly holding space in business meetings in 2020 to do some joint exercises. COPP is not able to begin work on evergreen projects until the spring; COPA may or may not. By the time of the 2020 JAM, hope to each have drafted two evergreen releases or letter to the editors. How we can work together to "signal-boost" efforts and projects. SQ has developed spreadsheet (top level of Google Drive) to brainstorm ideas for evergreen messages. Full group will be asked to review and set priorities.

5. SAA representation at National Humanities Advocacy Day in D.C.

BW had asked during last conference call about whether SAA should participate in 2020 NHA Advocacy Day. SQ would like to consider the issue today. KR and SW: Value in spring 2018 participation was that it laid the groundwork for our 2018 Archives on the Hill event. SQ: Value in having archives presence to raise our profile with other humanities allies? NB: Lee White is always in attendance and one benefit is in being able to get to know Lee. KR: Suggest that one or more Council members (not always COPP members) might participate. SQ: Will recommend that a COPP member (and a Council member) be funded to attend.

6. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

SQ: She has spoken with Logan about moving forward; will create a draft within the next week.

7. Congressional records brief

SQ contacted CPS chair (Hope Bibens) to ask if CPS is close to identifying who will participate on joint working group to resolve issue brief. Close to scheduling first conference call to discuss.

8. SAA statements page updates

BW: Conference call with Felicia and Nancy to look at how statements, resolutions, and issue brief pages appear, how they're used. Concluded that no major changes are necessary. One thing that is still tricky is that previously context was presented in the Public Policy Agenda, but now is embedded in the Legislative Agenda. Search utility for the website as a whole works effectively (eg, federal funding, net neutrality). Check off to-do list.

9. Statements/briefs assessment

SQ: Looking for 1) gaps where we'd expect to find a brief or statement and 2) briefs or statements that should be updated. Would like to have a list of things we should begin working on. ACTION: Houston and Ferrante to begin work.

10. 2020 candidate questions

ET: Volunteers have not yet met. Some questions about best approach. NB: SAA to contact campaigns directly, but also encourage members to contact candidates to ask same questions. KR: Is intention that members can ask questions? If that's an expectation, we should inform members of need to consult legal counsel before engaging in activity. For national organization, important to identify someone who can get the questions in front of the campaign/transition team. (Example: Biden/Tim Slavin) ACTION: Working group to meet and chart course, then notify COPP of what is needed (eg, ideas for who the contact points might be in each campaign). Will then pass along to Beaumont for SAA action. BW: Circulate questions among COPP first? ET: Yes.

11. Archives on the Hill assessment

KR: AOH summary report was issued. Based on that, what are we assessing? Updating any further developments? Progress made on recommended next steps? Training that has occurred since AOH? Most important thing is recommending to the Council further actions. (The point of AOH was to train a cohort of people. How do we push further advocacy action?) KR will send to SW for input. Plans to complete before end of December.

12. Updates from other groups

a. SAA/COSA/NAGARA/RAAC Joint Working Group:

- i. NHPRC Reauthorization: Because the bill for reauthorization did not pass unanimously out of the House subcommittee (only one Republican voted to support; others were unhappy with \$15 million reauthorization level), the bill would ultimately have to be scheduled for a hearing in the House. Because of small dollar amount, that's unlikely. We have been advised instead to focus on the Senate and put forward a reauthorization bill for \$10 million. NARA supports this idea. When this bill passes the Senate, it will go back to the House and hopefully find more support there at the lower amount.

- ii. NHPRC Budget: Because of the wonkiness in the NARA budget caused by funding of the digitization center at Archives II (see previous notes for more detailed explanation), the Senate has zeroed out funding for NHPRC. House has funded at \$7 million. Typically, it's the opposite so focus will have to be on the Senate this year. Bills will have to be reconciled in conference, though there may just be continuing resolutions due to government gridlock. If the government is funded by continuing resolution, the NHPRC budget will stay at current \$6 million and there will be no funding for the digitization center.
 - iii. The presidential administration is eliminating advisory boards as a cost cutting measure and so NARA is eliminating the Presidential Library Advisory Board.
 - iv. IMLS and NEH budgets both passed the house but Barbara is still looking for info about these budgets in the Senate.
- b. **COPA:** Nick: Please add notes.
 - c. **Council** Conference Call on Monday (10/14)