

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call
Agenda
April 17, 2020

Present: Sarah, Eira, Sam, Bryan, Kathleen, Audra, Logan

Absent: Nancy, Virginia, Brad, Krista

1. **Volunteer to take notes:** Sam Winn (with assists from Bryan!)
2. **Work plan updates:**
 - a. **Assessment metrics** (Due May)
 - i. Question for COPP Group: Priority projects vs. assessment of everything we do?
 - ii. Question for COPP Group: What do we hope to learn from any assessment?
 - iii. Sam and Virginia are working with SAA to figure out what SAA has experience with and how useful it has been.
 - iv. Sam and Virginia will send an e-mail out for further discussion.
 - v. Deadline may get pushed out beyond May.
 - b. **Internal and external communications plans** (Due May)
 - i. No news on this agenda item, more updates forthcoming.
 - c. **Review gap analysis of existing statements, schedule and assign updates and new briefs** (Due March)
 - i. Initial analysis suggests we're covering most of the priority areas already.
 - ii. A few items may be well-timed for updates, if a cohort of COPP members are willing/able to move something forward.
 - iii. One potential area for a new issue brief is FERMI (Federal Electronic Records Management Initiative).
 - iv. This analysis brought up questions for Sarah about how our work plan might need to shift in the short-term (with pandemic realities) and in the long-term (especially our ambitious plans for a funding campaign).
 - v. Concerns around funding and general uncertainty resonated with a lot of folks across the committee. Audra suggested that we might want to meet with SAA Council to discuss advocacy priorities for the group. Bryan suggested we could easily repurpose the state/local advocacy workshop from 2019. Prevailing opinion is that we should reflect on both our work plan and SAA's overall advocacy agenda.
 - d. **Congressional records statement/brief** (first deliverable due Spring)

- i. No updates at this time, but Sarah is optimistic that work will move forward when the global health situation settles down.

e. Judicial records brief:

- i. Krista and Eira met to start this effort. Everyone from the [2019 SAA panel](#) has expressed interest in helping COPP.
- ii. See *Judiciary Records* folder in shared drive under Issue Briefs.
- iii. Group will meet next week to assess bandwidth and potential timelines for progress.

f. Advocacy training for SAA Council (Due August)

- i. Prior discussion took place under item c. Prevailing questions: will SAA's advocacy focus shift in this pandemic? Do we need to reassess our capacity and/or SAA's organizational needs, given the financial precarity many of us are facing in the immediate future?
- ii. Does SAA Council even have the bandwidth to attend this kind of training? Also, given the uncertainty of the annual meeting in Chicago + considering the overwhelming responsibilities of incoming council members, perhaps it's a good idea to shift entirely to electronic or webinar format.
- iii. Kathleen, Bryan, and Sam will formulate a one paragraph question/statement to Nancy + Council to make sure we're in alignment before any logistics move forward. Next Council meeting is May 12-13, so we'll send this forward maybe as a discussion item via Audra.

g. Federal funding white paper (Due August)

- i. Suggestion that we put this on hold for now and reassess when we've come out of the immediate pandemic.

h. Additions to "Advocacy, Public Policy & You" for state/local advocacy

- i. Kathleen + Bryan - updating federal policy guide for state/local interests based on 2019 SAA workshop + Kathleen's ongoing work.
- ii. Waiting on Sam to take one last look, and then they'll send it out to the full group for review.
- iii. If we can agree on wording, we hope to publish it to the website ASAP (within the month)

3. Updates from other groups:

a. Council

- i. Next meeting to be held virtually 5/12 and 5/13
- ii. Archival Workers Emergency Fund - Audra notes that this is a really compelling model for mobilizing action, as it came together really quickly and has immediate benefits.

b. COPA

- i. Continues to stay very busy, especially with blogposts and press releases.

- ii. They had a webinar on harnessing resources for archives that was very well-attended (100s of people?) and received. Posted on the COPA microsite and Youtube.

c. SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group

- i. Most of this work is on pause, given the pandemic. Brief conversation about including archives in various relief bills being put forward (similar to what COPP members suggested earlier in our call), although this had limited discussion.
- ii. Jim Corridan is moving to implement working governance guidelines for the group in preparation of stepping down from Chair.
- iii. Please follow up with Sarah if you have thoughts/suggestions for governance of this joint group. Kathleen suggests we can learn from other joint working groups, perhaps by rotating leadership. Bylaws would be a start, for example, and perhaps a written charge.

4. Other Business

- a. Should we follow up on member suggestions that we adopt an approach like [American Alliance of Museums' advocacy](https://www.congressweb.com/AAM/67?fbclid=IwAR2YAG1tLOM7N1zXlr641yy3aEVm_rslo5jVE8BmNwyhwsZ_wp7WNQDTVnM#/67/) widget?
https://www.congressweb.com/AAM/67?fbclid=IwAR2YAG1tLOM7N1zXlr641yy3aEVm_rslo5jVE8BmNwyhwsZ_wp7WNQDTVnM#/67/
 - i. Link to e-mail from Lydia on SAA Leader's List -
<https://connect.archivists.org/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?MessageKey=12824ed5-245f-4b05-b0de-c6c3959d8c40&CommunityKey=2c9c1025-d29f-44b6-aea6-1666d2ce48f7&tab=digestviewer>
 - ii. Is NCH still able to provide this service? They used to... (specifically - some kind of platform that allows members to enter their address/zip code and forward a targeted advocacy message to their senators and reps).
 - iii. Perhaps we can request an updated "summary of services" from NCH to figure out what exactly they're doing for us. Do they have a tool like this? Can we access it?
 - iv. Kathleen/Sam/Bryan will add a mention of this to the email about council advocacy training.
- b. Sarah suggests we resend candidate questions to the current presidential field, will be in touch with Nancy on this question.