

**Committee on Public Policy**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
**Agenda**  
**February 12, 2020**

**Present: Sarah, Brad, Eira, Kathleen, Logan, Bryan, Virginia, Krista, Sam, Nancy**  
**Absent: Audra, Nick**

- 1. Volunteer to take notes: Brad**
- 2. Appointments for 2020-2021--**Two strong candidates off the list to fill Kathleen's spot identified by Sam
  - a. Recommended that SAA reach out to a former member to serve as VC; Kathleen declined, they're going to reach out elsewhere and see who's interested
- 3. Review Spring-Summer 2020 RACI**
  - a. Committee Governance:
    - i. Develop a set of assessment metrics by which we can evaluate the success of our initiatives
      1. Sam is still interested in this; Virginia indicated interest
  - b. Communication and Outreach:
    - i. Develop internal and external communications plans
      1. Not much detail from initial conversation; Sarah believes it involved a checklist for how we communicate statements externally, how we communicate within SAA
      2. Bryan feels strongly about this ("with a lower case f") and will lead; Kathleen will assist, as will Logan
    - ii. Review gap analysis of existing statements, schedule and assign updates and new briefs
      1. Sarah will handle scheduling etc. to start; Brad and Krista will write up the analysis for her to review (we will do it, we swear, stop slacking note-taker)
    - iii. Collaborate with Congressional Papers Section to revise issue brief on congressional records
      1. Sarah, Bryan, Brad-- Sarah meant to email Hope to check in but didn't yet; it's on her to-do list
    - iv. Write and submit for approval judicial records brief
      1. Eira is interested in this and will take lead; Krista will assist
      2. Outreach to presenters on judicial records from SAA last year; Kathleen suggests that this is an issue that might be mined from SAA archives (Thurgood Marshall archives? FWIW there's at least something in the processed collection at UWM,

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=wiarchives;cc=wiarchives;idno=uw-mil-uwmms0172;type=simple;rgn=Entire%20Finding%20Aid;q1=Marshall;view=text;didno=uw-mil-uwmms0172;focusrgn=C04;byte=55946599>

- v. Make periodic contributions to internal SAA communications vehicles, including On the Record/In the Loop and Archival Outlook
  1. Sarah mostly just wants to remind us that we said we would do this-- should be a shared responsibility to do this so it's different people submitting--Wants to see what Bryan and Kathleen come up with before we start strategizing
- vi. Map areas of overlap/synergies with COPA
  1. Annual meeting activity-- planning to meet for longer than usual with them-- whoever wants to lead this needs to start ahead of the actual meeting
  2. Nancy notes: What size of meeting (duration) are we looking for? Typically meeting is 3 hours
- c. Legislative Advocacy
  - i. Develop advocacy training for SAA Council
    1. What does the training look like (same as last year or council-specific)?
    2. Kathleen notes: What does Council need to know? Are we looking at national-level advocacy? Nancy thinks this is an appropriate level; Orientation both to the emerging issues and to the techniques to use; the question is finding time. Can we set aside time in Nov/Dec or May for meetings then?
    3. Sam: Is there an opportunity to bring in a consultant a la Archives on the Hill, but targeting council members?
    4. Kathleen/Bryan/Sam will put heads together with Audra to present some options for Council ("We're getting the band back together"; Kathleen begs off singing)
  - ii. Write a white paper to initiate discussion with members and partner institutions about what federal funding is most needed by/for archives in anticipation of national campaign for funding
    1. Real desire to reignite coordinated campaign for legislation to funnel federal archives funding to the states; would not begin until 2021 to get a better sense of the post-Election political landscape
    2. The question: What do we want to ask for? How do we get support from across the profession (incl. CoSA and NAGARA)? Need something to share with them to begin to shape a campaign

3. Hoping to have this done by annual meeting to let us kick things off by the election
4. Krista will work on this, Virginia and Eira as well;
5. Kathleen notes: whole white paper is probably not needed, but just an outline of how to get the process started; Kathleen is willing to share notes from last project of this type and can help build bridges with incoming CoSA prez--
6. this might be a session at SAA to elicit what people are interested in
7. Nancy notes: Funnelling money not the only model of what groups will ask for, so we shouldn't be thinking only in terms of that (e.g. can we turn the org from IMLS to IMLAS?)

#### **4. National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Day**

- a. Asking more archivists to attend because of focus on NEH/NHPRC
- b. SAA operating with a -\$79K deficit, so money is a strong consideration right now; nevertheless seems important for SAA to send someone for training and for relationships with allied organizations
- c. Sam is interested and local-ish; Krista may also be able to schedule a trip that coincides with the day, so put her down as "tentative"; Kathleen also suggests checking with Dennis Riley
- d. Bryan is interested but has caviar tastes (Michigan!), so that may not work well (Nancy will call him anyway and see what can be done)
- e. Barbara Teague is going but has not had any luck drumming people up from CoSA, so may be some opportunities to fill the gap

#### **5. Updates on presidential candidate questions**

- a. We have not heard from anyone (sad trombone). Not even Vermin Supreme!

#### **6. Updates from other groups:**

##### **a. Council**

- i. No major updates other than what's been in the news

##### **b. COPA**

##### **c. SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group**

- i. NHPRC reauth: Senator Carper will co-sponsor with Senator Sullivan; Barbara waiting to hear back to see if joint working group should seek additional co-sponsors; at that point, org members are likely to be asked to reach out to their senators
- ii. NARA/NHPRC Budget: Outreach to John Bozeman (AR) to advocate?
- iii. NHA is letting NCH use its alert system next week; we will also likely send out action alerts at that time as well to communicate actual messaging
- iv. 250th Anniversary of America as leverage for additional support? Not necessarily anything archives-specific in the existing program though
- v. Deadline to register for NHA is 2/28; actual day is 3/10

- vi. Senators in NW are displeased re: NARA Seattle situation; Questions about lack of public comment period (there was apparently supposed to be); support from Murkowski and other influential people to keep it open
- vii. ALA offered assistance to Barbara re: spreading the NHPRC word; any alerts we develop will be pushed out to ALA as well
- viii. Next meeting: Governance! A perennial problem (The usual suspects have feelings about governance, likely including the notetaker)

#### 7. Other Business

- a. Eira is going to review some information she has received about machine-readable NARA schedules! (Wooo if true)
- b. Michelle Combs message from this morning re: PRA lawsuit dismissal; do we need to do anything about this? (Info at <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/news/foia/2020-02-11/court-rejects-archive-lawsuit-over-trumps-abuse-records-law>)
  - i. (FTR Maarja Krusten seemed to expect this to be dismissed)