

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call
Agenda
March 13, 2020

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

Absent: Nancy, Sam, Audra

1. **Volunteer to take notes:** Eira Tansey
2. **Work plan updates:**
 - a. **Assessment metrics** (Due May) - No update
 - b. **Internal and external communications plans** (Due May) - No update, Bryan will be reaching out to folks soon
 - c. **Review gap analysis of existing statements, schedule and assign updates and new briefs** (Due March) - No update, Sarah has not yet looked at the spreadsheet put together of existing statements/briefs by Brad and Krista.
 - d. **Congressional records statement/brief** (first deliverable due Spring) - Sarah emailed Hope (most recent past chair of Congressional Papers Section) to ask where they were last week. They (Congress stakeholders) are nearing the end of a draft statement that they will have to share with the larger group (COPP members) that is working on this. Will share with COPP as soon as available.
 - e. **Judicial records brief:** Krista and Eira met two days ago and hashed out a timeline and work plan. Goal to finalize a rough draft for COPP review by May 31. Emailed Jess Farrell, chair of judicial records panel at last SAA, to invite panelists to collaborate. Work plan currently sketched out here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wrPr02qqq_R5MPgxHu8gsdoKsMwQy8130Vrvud0kRxA/edit
 - f. **Advocacy training for SAA Council** (Due August) - Kathleen reported that she, Sam, and Bryan are not sure what Council wants or needs. A larger group will discuss what these needs are soon. We know that this training will be needed by incoming members of Council.
 - g. **Federal funding white paper** (Due August) - No update. Kathleen did mention in a related item that she, Bryan and Sam are updating the online advocacy guide with a component on doing state and local advocacy.
3. **National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Day Update** - Bryan was there with Barbara Teague as well as another archivist and librarian. NARA was one of the identified advocacy priorities this year. Kind of weird situation because much of the information about NARA was framed by AHA, so Bryan and Barbara tried to educate

people on archives issues that could resonate with legislators, especially related to veterans records and sovereignty of tribal records. Advocacy went well, Bryan attended the Michigan meetings and Barbara attended Kentucky meetings. Two people Bryan educated have signed an NEH letter but not a NARA letter. New effort for a Senator dear colleague letter related to NARA. A lot of the focus among the National Humanities Alliance continues to be on NEH, there is ample opportunity for future advocacy/education related to archives. AHA has something called a NARA Review Committee

(<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/governance/committees/nara-review-committee>). Kathleen would like to have a conversation in Chicago about the advisability for continuing to participate in NHA advocacy day given potential SAA budget constraints and the value of what results.

4. NARA/NHPRC Dear Colleague Letter

- a. Deadline is March 13
- b. Outreach successes? - Timing is unfortunate given pandemic concerns. No known outreach successes.

5. Updates on presidential candidate questions - No updates. Sarah wonders about advisability of re-sending to still active campaigns. She'll check in with Nancy. This topic came up during the joint working group call.

6. Updates from other groups:

- a. **Council** - No update.
- b. **COPA** - Nick reported that COPA is organizing another storytelling event at the annual meeting ("A finding aid to my soul"). COPA is also working on a cohort of speakers who can discuss various archival issues with media outlets. This will consist of a list sent to Council of diverse and representative individuals and their areas of expertise that Council will further narrow down. The cohort will receive media training. A potential goal would be to eventually grow the cohort, through a possible train the trainer model. Nick can send out the list of criteria COPA is developing.
- c. **SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group** - Main topic recently has been the Dear Colleague letter, and NHPRC authorization, few updates on other topics from last meeting. General interest in formalizing governance for the joint working group. One potential governance issue may concern members who are only on for one year - finding ways for greater continuity.

7. Other Business

- a. **Annual meeting** - Eira asked for any updates if someone hears something related to SAA's annual meeting and potential for remote conferencing, given that recent SAA budget documents did not renew plans for livestreaming this year's conference.
- b. **Blog** - Bryan will write a blog post about advocacy for COPA blog.