

**Date:** August 25, 2015

**Name of Section/Roundtable:** Government Records Section

**Officers:**

Chair, Dennis Riley, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

Vice-chair/Chair Elect, Casey Coleman, National Archives and Records Administration

Immediate Past Chair, Dave Evans, Liquor Control Board of Ontario

**Steering Committee Members:**

Jennifer Day, Oklahoma City Clerk's Office (2014-2016)

Dorothy Fouche, Alabama Department of Archives and History (2014-2016)

Sara Grimm, Wisconsin Historical Society (2013-2015)

Dawn Youngblood, Tarrant County (Texas) Archives (2014-2016)

**Web Liaison:**

Dorissa Martinez, Richard Nixon Presidential Library (2014-2016)

**Report from annual meeting:**

- Number of attendees: 42 members attended.
- Election results: We had two candidate for two vacant seats. The new members of the GRS steering committee are:  
Laura Saegert, Texas State Library and Archives  
Tony Wright, Grand Rapids (Michigan) City Archives

Also, in the tradition of the GRS, by which the individual with the most overall votes is chosen as the Vice-Chair/Chair-elect, Laura Saegert will assume that position.

- Summary of meeting activities: See attached meeting minutes (Attachment 1).

**Completed projects/activities:** In response to requests from Council and the SAA President, the section provided input on issues related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as well as NARA's draft guidance on managing electronic messages.

**Ongoing projects/activities:** Dave Evans and John Slate continue work on their local government records projects to identify repositories that maintain local government records in the U.S. and Canada.

**New projects/activities:** Working with SAA's Publication Board, the section launched a call for case studies related to government records which will be published on the SAA website. While this will be an ongoing initiative, the goal is to have 3-5 case studies published by the next annual meeting.

**Initiatives associated with the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:** The above mentioned case studies initiative aligns with Goals 2, 3 and 4 of SAA's current strategic plan, in particular by providing content via publications that reflect current practice in government records via an affordable and accessible model. Furthermore, these case studies will enhance professional knowledge and create opportunities for more members to participate in the activities of the organization.

**Questions/concerns for Council attention:** n/a.

## Attachment 1

### Government Records Section Annual Meeting Minutes August 21, 2015

1. The opening remarks were given by the outgoing GRS chair Dennis Riley, with a summary of Section activities over the past year, including the election of new members to the steering committee. Notice was also reiterated of Council's request for input on proposed changes to affinity groups and the proposed dues increase.
2. Local Archival Government Repositories Directory & Survey
  - a. John Slate gave an overview of the directory project
  - b. The overall results indicate that the majority of individuals responsible for local government records still lack professional training and/or credentials.
  - c. The full set of results will be posted to the GRS microsite
3. Presentation – “Government Records – Not Just for Bureaucrats”
  - a. Diana Banning of the Portland (Oregon) City Archives presented a case study on how government records were used to bring together a community and reach a new level of mutual understanding, as well as an ongoing artists in residency program.
4. CAPP Draft Issue Briefs: Privacy and NARA/Federal Records Management
  - a. The floor was opened for general discussion and feedback on these two draft issue briefs.
  - b. Concern was raised regarding the privacy issue brief that standards between jurisdictions was so diverse that setting out a blanket standard was unrealistic.
  - c. The rejoinder to this was given that the issue briefs are meant to be aspirational and reflect general consensus of best practices among archives and records management professionals with a realistic understanding that various legislative and executive bodies may enact different standards.
5. Proposed Changes to Affinity Groups
  - a. A general discussion from the floor about the proposed changes was initiated.
  - b. The general sentiment expressed concern regarding the changes, especially regarding not allowing non-SAA members to participate in round tables.
  - c. Others expressed general frustration that Council did not allow more lead time for discussion and consideration of these proposed changes.