

# Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

## Group Name: Congressional Papers Section Annual Report Prepared by: John Caldwell, with input from CPS Steering Committee members

Year: September 2024 – August 2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

John Caldwell, Chair, term ends September 1, 2025, transitions to Immediate Past Chair  
Kate Gregory, Immediate Past Chair, term ends September 1, 2025  
Dawn Sueoka, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Chair of the Congressional Papers Section Electronic Records Committee, terms ends September 1, 2025, transitions to Chair  
Dina Mazina, Steering Committee Member, term ends September 1, 2025  
Katie Jakovich, Steering Committee Member, term ends September 1, 2025  
Lori Schwartz, Steering Committee Member, term ends September 1, 2026, transitions to Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Chair of the Congressional Papers Section Electronic Records Committee, September 1, 2025  
Shir Bach, Steering Committee Member, term ends September 1, 2026  
Alexis Miettinen, Newsletter Editor, term ends September 1, 2027  
George Apodaca, Ex Officio, U.S. Senate, no set term  
Heather Bourk, Ex Officio, U.S. House of Representatives, no set term  
James Wyatt, Ex Officio, Center for Legislative Archives/NARA, no set term

Council Liaison: Bryan Whitledge

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

*(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)*

### Completed:

- Section Steering Committee met five times over the course of the year: October 1, 2024; November 18, 2024; January 27, 2025; April 28, 2025; and June 24, 2025
- Steering Committee decided to create more opportunities for connecting members of the section by having two virtual meetups, one in the spring and one in the fall, in addition to the annual business meeting in the summer
- Hosted the first virtual meet-up on April 4, 2025, for members of the section discussing how to collect, describe, and use political campaign documentation. Over 20 members attended the session
- Section elections:
  - o Lori Schwartz, current Steering Committee member, elected Vice Chair/Chair elect

- Katie Jakovich, current Steering Committee member, reelected to a new two-year term
- JA Pryse elected to a two-year term on Steering Committee
- Restarted publication of the section's newsletter
- Began creation of a leadership manual for Section leadership
- Electronic Records Committee:
  - Planned October 15 virtual meetup on appraisal of electronic records
  - Drafted content for the Electronic Records Committee website

### **Ongoing:**

- Continue building out the leadership manual
- Currently working on a second newsletter to be published later this year
- Planning and execution of second virtual meetup on October 15, 2025, focusing on electronic records in congressional collections
- Continue providing support, as needed, for the editors of the upcoming *Managing Digital Congressional Collections* publication

### **New:**

- Will be holding a special election to fill a one-year vacancy on the Steering Committee created by Lori Schwartz's election to Vice Chair

## **SAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

*(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)*

### **Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists**

### **Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth**

- Providing opportunities for section members to learn and share their experiences through the virtual meetups
- Publish information on the CPS Electronic Records Committee website to help archivists inside and outside of the section manage their growing volume of digital collections data
- Lightning talks at annual section meeting responded to uncertainty around funding by highlighting creative resourcing of archival processing projects

### **Goal 3: Advancing the Field**

- Provided support for editors of the upcoming *Managing Digital Congressional Collections* resource

#### **Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs**

- Provide opportunities for members to connect with each other in real time, such as the virtual meetups
- Provide means for information sharing through publishing the section newsletter

## SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: approximately 50 members

Link to meeting minutes:

Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

- Business: shared updates from SAA Council (Bryan Whitledge), announced section election results (Kate Gregory), shared updates on the activities of the CPS Electronic Records Committee (Dawn Sueoka), shared updates from the US Senate Historical Office (George Apodaca), shared updates from the US House Office of Art and Archives (Heather Bourk), shared updates from the Center for Legislative Archives (James Wyatt)
- Program: four lightning talks and follow-up discussion on how to resource processing congressional records. Presentations focused on how to identify and actualize external funding, as well as finding resources (time, talent and treasure) within the repository to process and make available these large collections

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

*How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?*

Overall, the section is in a good place. Virtual events have been well attended; we have been able to find presenters for our different events and were able to find candidates for all vacancies on this year's ballot. While members are engaged, it is usually the same core individuals/institutions who are participating most actively in the section. In some conversations with members, there is interest in trying to find opportunities to bring some in-person events back, particularly around the annual meeting; however, with less professional development funding from institutions, it is hard to predict what attendance at such events might look like.

*Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?*

In general, I do not think the Steering Committee had any significant challenges.

*What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?*

*What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?*