

**Society of American Archivists  
Committee on Public Awareness  
Conference Call 01/08/2021, 4:00pm–5:00pm ET**

**Agenda**

- I. Roll Call -Lynn Cowles, Rachael Woody, Rachel Winston, Teresa Brinati, Vince Lee, Kristianna Chanda, Katherine Barbera, Chris Burns, Rachel Seale, Sam Winn

- II. Council Report (Rachel Winston)

No updates. Council will be meeting next Wednesday, 1/13/2021. If there are things we need to bring to Council's attention or things to keep in mind, Rachel is happy to bring it to them on our behalf. She will have an update on Council reports at our next February meeting.

- III. [November Meeting Minutes](#) + [December Meeting Minutes](#)

Committee reviewed and approved November and December minutes from 2020.

- IV. Archives and Records 2021 ([Proposals extended due date! January 13, 2021](#))

- A. Advocacy and Development Strategies (Kate, Rachel, Vince)

1. Proposal brainstorming document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10Rd9tamz4ChTQSM8TeAhllxg8hIkS17SiN1ShoS2lj0/edit>

We met with members of COPP to talk and brainstorm a session for Archives and Records 2021. Basic idea of the session was to help our members of the community come up with advocacy and development strategies during this difficult time of COVID. Through the brainstorming sessions we came up with an idea of a mini-workshop broken up into individual sessions-each one run by a member of COPA/COPP and the attendees would go through each of the sessions. By the end of the workshop they will have experienced and walk away with a personalized advocacy strategy based on the topic that resonates with their situation. Teaching people a process for advocacy and not being so results oriented, but focusing on the process and steps involved. We will submitting a final draft of the proposal next week and we welcome feedback from COPA-also open to additional facilitators for the round-robin sessions. Feedback from committee was that the session proposal looks good, and assuming the session is approved we can come back to add additional members/facilitators for the session as needed. Feedback/edits needed by Monday prior to final submission of proposal next Wednesday.

- V. *ArchivesAWARE!* Blog (Lee)

- A. [Calendar](#)

- B. Other follow ups

Lee couldn't attend this meeting. So no official update. From his last notes and communications regarding the blog-Abigail had a suggestion for an interview with Hogg Foundation for a potential blog post. Lee mentioned there are 4-6 individuals for a new series on archivists who write books aimed at the general public and how their experiences shaped their book and help the general public have a greater appreciation for archives. Lee put a call out to see if there was any interest from someone serving as editor for the series. Lee also wanted to see if there would be anyone interested in interviewing Rebecca Hankins from Texas A&M on their Transgender Collections which is a great DEI piece for the blog. There is another "There's An Archivist for that" piece coming out around January 15th. Blog is well populated with contributors and pieces

that are forthcoming in the months ahead. Kristianna will be interviewing Rebecca Hankins on Monday and will be submitting the questionnaire from the piece by the end of next week and will add this to the Blog spreadsheet and calendar so articles are well spaced out for publication to the blog. Kristianna will also send Lee an email about the blog post so he can schedule it to be published. Teresa gave an update that accessibility improvements to the Wordpress blog interface-all caps, font readability, etc. will be addressed next week. Rachael Woody also added that the most recent post was an interview she did with Deborah Davis, and idea of a recorded Q&A format used for an interview was something she and Kate explored and discussed. The format also includes a transcript to the interview and she wanted feedback from us on if this is something we wanted to pursue and keep doing from an accessibility standpoint.

## VI. Standing Updates

### A. COPP (Sam)

Focused on finalizing a statement draft for Council on the Judicial Papers questions. Couple of COPP's members conducted extensive legal research into it and they think it will be great piece when it is finalized. In addition to working with COPA on the joint session proposal for Archives and Records 2021, they are finalizing preparations for an advocacy workshop for local and state advocacy which be hosted virtually later this month (January 27). Have been monitoring the Ahmad v. University of Michigan case, had a watch party on the oral arguments earlier this week and overall excited for a big year ahead with the political transitions and Presidential transitions that are taking place. This is an active time for COPP.

### B. Joint Working Groups

#### 1. CoSA/NAGARA/SAA (Vince)

Joint call on December 8. COPP created a "how to document" for legislators to and a cover letter on what they expect from the incoming administration, expecting other areas of govt to follow suit-will be sending docs to Senate and House once run offs in GA are over. NAGARA suggested that another way to share the documents are through the agency review team that oversees the OMB. Also touching base with Martha Covin from Princeton about this. Also looking at other agency review teams and may ask Courtney Chapin to distribute the document more widely. Lee White mentioned that NCH has sent that was sent to the Biden transition team. For federal budget issues they are continuing the resolution which will go through December 18th and then possibly another one after that. For organizational reports: RAAC-Shared the Biden Transition document with its leadership for comment. Monthly communications to RAAC participants. Working on getting bylaws and constitution finalized. SAA COPP- has been discussing the transition and focusing on further ideas to share the transition team document more widely. COPP is also creating an advocacy at home policy tool kit snf id offering an online workshop in January about advocating to state and local officials. SAA COPA-Shared Biden Transition document with members. Deadline for SAA Annual Conference session proposals been extended, want to see what role COPA can play in a session proposal. Highlight advocacy toolkit or strategies that have been successful. NAGARA-Sent out call for volunteers for READY committee to look at diversity and inclusion. COSA-Conversation about planning for advocacy webinar with group, possibly do two.

#### 2. COPP/COPA/RAAC/I&A (Vince)

No updates. Already met in November and shared notes in December meeting. Will reach out to them if they are interested in joining us for session proposal assuming it is accepted.

VII. Any Other Business

Chris shared the New York Times article about the NARA led Archives Hash Tag Party. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/07/style/archives-hashtag-party.html> Event seemed to have gained a lot of steam and generated a lot of buzz for participation. Seems like something we could cover in the blog, learn more about this to inform and plan for #AskAnArchivist Day to make it more successful in the future. Broad participatory social media event. Good case study to learn and apply for next go around of #AskAnArchivist Day 2021.

Teresa noted that it was great that COPA and COPP came together to create a session proposal, it's a big part of our annual work plan and hopefully the programming committee see's it value in their consideration for sessions for Archives \*Records 2021.

**Next call: February 5, 2021 4pm ET/3pm CST**

**Notetaker: Lynn Cowles**