



**Summer/Annual 2017 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report
SAA Meeting—Portland, OR—July 27, 2017**

REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATIONS CONSORTIUM GAINED SEAT ON NCH

POLICY BOARD: In January 2017, RAAC was instated as a Sustaining Member on the National Coalition for History Policy Board. The term runs from January 2017 to January 2019. RAAC joins SAA and CoSA in representing archival interests on the Board.

TRUMP FY18 BUDGET PROPOSES DEVASTATING CUTS TO HISTORY-RELATED

PROGRAMMING: On May 23, President Trump sent his proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request to Congress. As expected, it includes devastating cuts to federal history and humanities funding including elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and K-12 history and civics grants and Title VI/Fulbright-Hays international education programs at the U.S. Department of Education.

NCH Executive Director Lee White puts this in perspective:

“Despite the initial chilling headlines and dire prognoses the Trump budget evoked, now that the dust has settled it’s possible to take a more sober look at what likely lies ahead for federal history, archival and education programs. While few expect the draconian Trump cuts to be enacted as proposed, that does not by any means imply that continued funding for history programs will occur without an aggressive lobbying effort on our part. The general mood in Congress still trends towards reducing funding for discretionary domestic programs. While our community should and will fight vigorously against these proposed cuts, I cannot stress enough that there is no need to panic.

“For a frame of reference, Congress recently passed a FY 17 budget seven months AFTER the fiscal year started. The president usually submits a budget to the Hill in February or March. Congress is already months behind in what has always proven to be a protracted process. With Congress out the month of August for summer recess, there is no chance the FY 18 budget will be in place by Oct. 1.

“This is a war of attrition that will be fought through the appropriations maze in both houses of Congress. We will need to focus our attention, as we always have, on the appropriations subcommittees with jurisdiction over the programs that affect our constituents. Over the years we have built lasting relationships in Congress that we can draw upon. In addition, the Congressional History Caucus that we helped found will play a vital role in educating House members about the services these federal history programs provide to their constituents. You can expect that NCH will be issuing a number of legislative alerts in the coming months as the FY18 budget moves forward. We will try not to overwhelm you with these requests to contact the Hill; be assured we will only ask for your help at the appropriate time.” -- Lee White, Executive Director, NCH

As always, learn more at <http://historycoalition.org/> and feel free to contact me with any questions.

—Jan Zastrow, RAAC-NCH Representative, zastrow@hawaii.edu