



Winter 2017 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report

REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATIONS CONSORTIUM GAINS SEAT ON NCH

POLICY BOARD: As of this month, RAAC has been 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. A big *thank you* to all who worked so diligently to make this happen—and especially to the participating regionals!

NCH TO MONITOR THE INCOMING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO OPEN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES:

NCH will continue to work towards identifying new areas in which to promote openness and transparency within the federal government while remaining vigilant for any attempts by the Trump administration to undo the tremendous progress made in this area during the Obama administration. Executive Director Lee White continues to follow the lead of OpenTheGovernment.org, the National Security Archive and other pro-transparency groups in lobbying on these issues.

HISTORY OFFICE AT NASA'S JOHNSON SPACE CENTER SAVED FROM

ELIMINATION: The history office at NASA'S Johnson Space Center (JSC) was slated to be defunded and closed on Sept. 30, 2016. Ironically, the office was the 2016 recipient of the Organization of American Historians' *Friend of History* award for outstanding support of historical research.

NCH sent a letter urging NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to provide the funding necessary to keep the JSC office open and fully staffed. On Sept. 23, NCH received a highly favorable reply from NASA's Chief Historian William Barry stating that Administrator Bolden placed "a high priority on having a strong history program at NASA" and that steps were being taken to strengthen the program and even add an additional staffer! The outcome was the direct result of NCH working collaboratively with OAH, the American Historical Association and the Society for History in the Federal Government to achieve this welcome resolution.

NEW FEDERAL RULE EXEMPTS ORAL HISTORY FROM IRB REVIEW: On Jan. 19, 2017, the federal government issued its final rule governing Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) which "explicitly removes" oral history and journalism from the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects. The historical community, collaborating through NCH, has long argued that scholarly history projects should not be subject to standard IRB procedures since those were designed for the research practices of the sciences. The new rule goes into effect Jan. 19, 2018. Great news! Learn more at <http://historycoalition.org/> ...

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