

RAAC Steering Committee Meeting (via conference call)
Minutes
February 6, 2017
3:00 p.m. EST

Present: R. Chatalbash, K. Chinery, B. Keough, J. McGillan, M. Rubin, E. Vinson

I. Report from Co-Chairs

Kristen is still in contact with Nancy Beaumont regarding the MOU between RAAC and SAA, as well as meeting space for Portland, and will share developments as they come.

Jennifer gave a brief overview of the memo sent to the new administration about issues important to archives, as well as the letter addressing Library of Virginia funding.

II. Subcommittee reports

Advocacy

- Elevator speech about RAAC drafted, video still needs to be done.
- NCH report went out to the sponsoring regionals.

Disaster Planning and Recovery

- No report.

Education

- Will possibly survey regionals to see who offers educational opportunities.
- Reviewed past goals and current strategic plan.
- Discussion of feedback from the symposium and if it should be repeated.
- Continue to work on NCH matters.

Grant Development

- Collection Match update: Project is working with the Central New York Library Resources Council on a proposal for a National Leadership Grant for Libraries to support the development of a prototype of the web tool. Deadline was February 1.
- Committee is working on a list of questions for a possible survey about grant resources.

Membership

- Updating directory.
- Also working on a survey about expectations for the Steering Committee.

Public Awareness

- Pamela Cruz sent an extended update from the NY Archivists Roundtable, which has been very busy with Archives Week activities. There were exhibitions, film screenings on YouTube, open houses, tours, symposia, panel discussions, and more. Their reach was NYC and all the way out to New Jersey and Long Island.

- Kathleen has been putting items on FB; she has gotten more requests from SAA, which is new.
- Thus far, there has been no feedback on the brainstorming spreadsheet for regional-specific sessions for SAA.
- Question about whether RAAC has a logo. It was discussed in the past; although there is not an official logo, there is a free one in the Google drive that Rachel created. The subcommittee will review it and make a suggestion about using it in the future.

III. Joint Advocacy Working Group report

The group meets once a month by phone. The most recent major project was a document for the Trump transition team, which included everything from transparency to funding to best practices. It's been posted to SAA's website. The group also took action on the Library of Virginia issue to get RAAC and others to write letters. Rachel takes information and ideas back to the working group as well, so let her know if you have anything.

IV. NCH Representative report

Written report attached.

V. Discussion - national issues in archival context

Remind people to grab things from protests and events for their collections. Promote the news stories about archivists collecting things from protests and other events on RAAC's listserv and social media.

Discussion of whether there is a protocol for sharing things to social media, like the documents we've been involved in drafting lately. The co-chairs should post important documents like the Trump letter and LVA letter to the website and then link to them on social media.

VI. Announcements

No announcements.

Next meetings (all at 3:00 EST): April 3, June 5



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/> ...

—Jan Zastrow
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RAAC-NCH Representative