

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

Present: K. Chinery, J. McGillan, M. Rubin, M. Torres, E. Vinson

I. Report from Co-Chairs

Kristen reported that federal budget news and the fates of NEH, NEA, and IMLS have been the focus of most RAAC activities. She forwarded a message and summary from NCH Executive Director Lee White to the list. Any additional action requested of RAAC will be shared with the regionals. Should similar budget cuts apply to NHPRC and NARA, we will be additional advocacy initiatives.

An advocacy request came in pertaining to the Open Society Archives, a part of Central European University. According to the request, "the Hungarian government has proposed amendments to the National Higher Education Law that would make it impossible for Central European University to continue operations within the country." As a part of CEU, the Open Society Archives would also be in danger. The specific request was to distribute the submitted letter. Steering Committee agreed to disseminate the letter via the list; Mary will send it out.

II. Subcommittee reports

Advocacy

- Mary and Jennifer will be attending the CoPP, CoPA, IA, & RAAC joint advocacy meeting next week.
- Mary asked Jennifer to include the "Projects & Activities" page on the Advocacy Subcommittee page.
- Mary inquired about the location on our website for the endorsement made on CoSA's Statement on Developing and Maintaining a Strong State Archives back in September. We agreed on the "Projects & Activities" page instead of the News & Announcements section.
- As for the Advocacy goals, work is chugging along on all but one: Mary has not received any news recently from the group working on the task to "develop materials about how to engage local level legislators and council members," which was in preparation for year 3's goals. Per our meeting, the task will be put on hiatus until next year.

Disaster Planning and Recovery

- Preparedness and Education Survey, Winter 2017
  - RAAC, generally speaking, aims at education and collaboration between regional archival associations. This Subcommittee wants to attempt to create a clearinghouse of oral histories from archivists in a national context (either in spoken or written form) that will act as a resource for future archivists in mitigating disasters. The first step to this, for us, was to assess generally how much archivists know about disaster recovery and how confident they feel in practice. The survey was divided into two parts: one part dealing with disasters and their

frequency and response; and one part about education and preparedness training.

- 55 responses: 35 archivists representing individual organizations completed the survey, and 20 representatives from regional associations, spread over the entire U.S. 53% of the respondents dealt with a disaster in the last 10 years; of those, half were flood-related. 84% of those reporting past disasters felt that they handled them well. 31% of respondents have not had recent training in disaster preparedness, but of course that means that over 2/3 of the respondents have held or attended such trainings. Well over 80% of the respondents feel that their regional or local associations are committed or very committed to education in this area.
- Learning that over half of the respondents have had to mitigate disasters gives us some optimism that a future clearinghouse of oral histories is possible and feasible, and knowing that regional associations are committed to training and education means that any future resource we build will probably have wide-based support and use, if promoted. The goal now is to approach regionals with disaster assistance programs (such as MARAC and the SAA's NDRFA), to assess whether we could get reports or narratives from previously-assisted archives that have used their programs.

#### Education

- No report.

#### Grant Development

- Work on the survey has been postponed until final details of the federal budget are known. Likely need to

#### Membership

- Updating directory nearly complete. Elections are also on the horizon.

#### Public Awareness

- The Subcommittee held a phone meeting to discuss goals, which resulted in the following questions for the Steering Committee:
  - Did Advocacy already make a list of the regionals social media outlets? No one is aware of a list.
  - Would it be possible to partner with the Membership Subcommittee going to forward to add social media questions to the membership info survey? Emily said yes, this can be included in the member survey.
- Jennifer emailed Hope Dunbar re: Archivists bookshelf but has not received a response yet. She will follow up.
- Jennifer asked Steering Committee members to contact her with information that could be part of a basic toolkit for public programming.

### III. Joint Advocacy Working Group report

Members of the group are waiting to see what comes next in terms of budget cuts and will focus efforts on opposing cuts to NARA and NHPRC.

IV. NCH Representative report

Checks from all regionals for the NCH Policy Board have been received and RAAC's term for the board seat began in January. The next NCH Representative report will be ready mid-April. Kristen will forward to Steering Committee when it's received, and Mary will forward to the participating regionals.

V. Renewal/election update

Elections will take place last week of April through first week of May. Emily will send out the call for nominations this week. There is likely only one Steering Committee to be re-elected, which means all but one Steering Committee member would be cycling off in 2018.

VI. Annual Meeting planning

RAAC's Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, July 27 from 12:15-1:45. It will likely be in one of the ballrooms that will have regular lecture seating up front and then round tables in the back of the room that we can use for breakouts (but that could change!). Steering Committee agreed to stay with the same format, with extra time dedicated to the breakouts if scheduling permits, and possibly have a speaker on advocacy issues.

VII. Announcements

Discussions of who is presenting at SAA.

Next meetings (all at 3:00 EST): June 5, July 27 (Annual Meeting)