

**RAAC Steering Committee Meeting (via conference call)**  
**Minutes**  
**June 5, 2017**  
**3:00 p.m. EST**

Present: K. Chinery, J. McGillan, M. Rubin, E. Vinson; Absent: B. Keough, M. Torres

I. Report from Co-Chairs

Kristen reported that the budgets of federal granting bodies continue to be the focus of most RAAC activities. Waiting for the actual cuts to go into effect for additional advocacy work.

II. Subcommittee reports

Advocacy

- Sent two different video scripts to Steering Committee for review. Asked for feedback by June 12.
- Materials still being gathered for other goals.

Disaster Planning and Recovery

- Completed review of the survey results and moved on to the next stage of the Subcommittee's plan – to gather narratives on disaster recovery. Considered having open sessions at SAA Annual Meeting or a regional conference to get narratives from institutions, but realized the task might be too great for Subcommittee to handle on its own. Reached out to MARAC, SSA, and the SAA Foundation about getting reports/narratives from institutions who have received grant money from those organizations over the past several years.
- Beginning after the annual meeting, Rebecca Elder, a preservation consultant from Texas with a strong national network in disaster planning, will be taking over as the RAAC representative from SSA and the head of the disaster preparedness subcommittee. She is excited about this project and will be a great asset to the work.
- After discussion, Steering Committee decided to offer Rebecca a full 2-year term to help with the turnover issue next year.

Education

- No report provided.

Grant Development

- The Subcommittee continues to monitor updates on the federal budget and forward announcements regarding granting bodies/grant programs to the list.
- The Subcommittee continues to update the Grant Resource Guide as needed.

Membership

- Call for nominees for Membership Chair has yielded no nominees so far.
- New representatives will be sought for rolling off reps in June in advance of July meeting.
- Several members have already begun to let Emily know that there are transitions in representatives.

Public Awareness

- David Uhlich replaced Mattie Taormina as the California rep and taking her place on the Subcommittee for now.
- Website updates are completed as they come in.
- Mary given access to update advocacy items on website.

III. Joint Advocacy Working Group report

The working group is continuing to monitor federal budget developments.

IV. NCH Representative report

The last NCH Representative report was sent April 11 (see attached). Kristen forwarded the report to the Steering Committee, and Mary forwarded it to the participating regionals.

V. Renewal/election update

Covered in Membership Subcommittee report.

VI. Annual Meeting planning

RAAC's Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, July 27 from 12:15-1:30. At the last meeting we decided to stay with the same format of reports followed by breakouts, with extra time dedicated to the breakouts, and possibly have a speaker on advocacy issues. Kristen suggested the following agenda:

- Introductions (10 minutes)
- Incoming and outgoing Steering Committee members (5 minutes)
- Subcommittee reports (15 minutes)
- Breakout groups (30 minutes)
- Speaker (15 minutes)

Discussed suggestions for advocacy speaker and topic. Something related to archives in the age of Trump? Kristen will contact Rachel and ask for speaker suggestions.

Each Subcommittee chair needs to identify who from the Subcommittee will give the report and who will lead the breakout group discussion, and notify Jennifer and Kristen by June 30. Jennifer and Kristen attending, Emily definitely not attending, Mary possibly attending.

Kristen will email RAAC's SAA liaison to find out where the meeting is going to be held and if there will be a table to display RAAC wares and answer questions.

VII. Announcements

No announcements

Next meeting (all at 3:00 EST): July 27 (Annual Meeting)



## Spring 2017 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report

**TRUMP FY18 BUDGET PROPOSES CUTS TO HISTORY & HUMANITIES FUNDING:** On March 16, President Trump sent an outline of his proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget to Congress. It includes devastating cuts to federal history and humanities funding including elimination of the NEH, NEA, IMLS, and more. The budget proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense and public safety spending that is offset by equivalent cuts in discretionary non-defense programs.

*NCH Executive Director Lee White puts this in perspective:*

“The administration has only submitted a bare-bones budget summary for ‘major’ federal agencies. As a result, smaller agencies of interest to NCH members such as the National Archives (which includes NHPRC) and the Library of Congress are not included.

“The major point to remember is that Congress ultimately controls appropriations. Many Republicans and Democrats on the Hill have already dismissed the Trump proposal as ‘dead on arrival.’ The president is posturing and this budget plays to his base by delivering on his promise to ‘drain the swamp.’

“So while our community should and will fight vigorously against these proposed cuts, I cannot stress enough that there is no need to panic. This is a war of attrition that will be fought through the appropriations process 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.

“Since convening in January, Congress has been focused on confirming Trump administration officials and also preoccupied with repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. As a result, there has been scant attention paid to issues concerning our community. This will obviously change as the appropriations process cranks up in the coming months.

“NCH will be issuing a number of legislative alerts as the FY 18 budget moves through the appropriations process. Over the years we have built lasting relationships in Congress that we can draw upon, including the History Caucus in the House. The National Humanities Alliance held its annual Humanities Advocacy Day in March with a record 250+ attendees. Early reports are that there remains strong support on the Hill for our programs. So our work has just begun.” -- Lee White, Executive Director, NCH

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY:** Archivist of the United States David Ferriero announced the appointment of retired Brig. Gen. Patrick X. Mordente as the new Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, effective February 6. In making the announcement, Ferriero affirmed that Mordente’s federal experience leading large organizations, “especially team building, process improvement, and crisis management,” would greatly benefit both the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and the National Archives. As always, learn more at <http://historycoalition.org/> ...

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