

SAA Preservation Section
By-laws
April 28, 2011

I. Name

Society of American Archivists (SAA) Preservation Section

II. Purpose

The SAA Preservation Section is a national organization in the United States which is concerned with issues relating to the preservation of archival materials. Our mission is to raise awareness of and disseminate information about the preservation of archival materials, including materials in analog and digital formats as well as special media. The section offers access to its resources, not only to the membership of the Society of American Archivists, but to anyone interested in archival preservation.

III. Membership

The SAA Preservation Section is open to any member of SAA in good standing, who has an interest in the preservation of archival materials.

IV. Officers

The Section has two elected officers, the Chair and Vice Chair/Chair Elect. In addition, there are four standing committees: education, nominating (the chair of which is the Immediate Past Section Chair), outreach/communications, and program. The elected officers, committee chairs and two elected members comprise the steering committee. All terms begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting, and run for two years unless otherwise specified. If there is an SAA Preservation Officer at headquarters, (s)he serves as an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee.

A. Chair

The leader of the section will be the Chair, who becomes Chair after election by the membership as Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and service of a one-year term in that position. The term of the Chair is one year. The responsibilities of the Chair are as follows:

- Appoint committee chairs, and appoint committee members in consultation with the committee chair, with the exception of the nominating committee. (The chair of the nominating committee is the Immediate Past Chair, and the members of the nominating committee are elected by the section membership.)
- Monitor the work of the Section's committees.
- Provide material for dissemination to the membership, including regular columns and progress reports.

- Collaborate with the steering committee to ensure that the section's three-year plan is updated, as required by SAA, and monitor ongoing progress toward meeting the section's goals and objectives.
- Convene the steering committee annually; collaborate and consult with the steering committee at other times to forward the work of the section and its committees.
- Preside over the section business meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting.
- In collaboration with the section Program Chair, develop a program for the section business meeting, including speakers on a topic approved by the steering committee.
- In conjunction with the Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and the steering committee, provide final written approval for new section projects and the dissemination of project-related publications, reports, and other products.
- Serve on the Preservation Awards Subcommittee of the Society of American Archivists Awards Committee.
- In collaboration with the officers and steering committee, review the Preservation Section bylaws every two years, starting in 2013.

B. Vice Chair/Chair Elect

The Vice Chair/Chair Elect is elected by the membership through a balloting process and holds the position for one year, becoming Chair the following year. The responsibilities of the Vice Chair/Chair Elect are as follows:

- Assist the Chair in carrying out the work of the section.
- Preside over the section business meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting in the absence of the Chair.
- Prepare minutes of the section business meeting and steering committee meetings, and submit these to the Publications Editor for dissemination or publication, after review by the Chair.
- Assist Publications Editor in soliciting material for dissemination or publication.

C. Immediate Past Chair

The Immediate Past Chair serves on the Steering Committee for a one year term. The responsibilities of the Immediate Past Chair are as follows:

- Serve as Chair of the nominating committee.
- Assist the Section Chair, as requested.

V. Steering Committee

The steering committee shall consist of the elected officers and two other members elected by the section; these two members will be elected by the Section memberships through a balloting process, and they will serve two years in staggered terms. In addition, committee chairs shall serve on the steering committee. The responsibilities of the steering committee members are as follows:

- Support the Section Chair in providing overall direction to the section.
- Work with the Section Chair to revise the three-year plan every two years, beginning in 2013.
- Ensure coordination among section committees and between the section and SAA as a whole.
- Review the status of section projects according to established schedule, and review and approve completed work prior to its distribution to section members.
- Meet at least once annually, generally at SAA's annual meeting, and communicate and meet virtually throughout the year as needed.
- Undertake special tasks as requested.

VI. Committee Chairs

Committee chairs are appointed by the Section Chair for two-year terms, in a letter of appointment, and may be reappointed for a second term. In addition to their responsibilities as members of the steering committee as outlined above, the responsibilities of the committee chairs are as follows:

- Lead the members of their committee in advancing the section, as related to the responsibilities of their section.
- Coordinate the activities of their committee with other section committees.
- Regularly brief the Section Chair on their committee's activities.
- Serve as final decision-maker in the event of a voting tie.
- Submit to the Section Chair bi-annual reports on committee progress and accomplishments, and submit these to the Publications Editor after review by the Section Chair.
- Hold one formal committee meeting, either in person or virtually, with committee members throughout the year, as needed, in order to maintain progress toward goals.

A. Education Committee

Chair: Appointed by the Preservation Section Chair; may be reappointed for a second term.

Members: Appointed annually by the Section Chair on the recommendation of the Education Chair; may be reappointed for a second term.

Charge: Develop educational initiatives (such as workshops) to meet the needs of SAA members, especially those of the section members.

Practices:

Maintain ongoing awareness of members' educational needs, including the use (when warranted) of formal assessment tools.

- Solicit ideas and involvement of other Section members.
- Communicate educational needs to SAA staff.
- Recommend workshops and pre-conferences for SAA sponsorship, including those not held at the annual meeting.
- Maintain Liaison and coordination with the Section's Program Committee.
- **Submit pertinent information to the chair of the Outreach/Communications Committee, for timely inclusion on the section's website.**

B. Nominating Committee

Chair: Immediate Past Chair of Section.

Members: Two members elected by the Section membership through a ~~mail ballot~~ balloting process to serve staggered two-year terms.

Charge: Present candidates for section office, when required.

Practices:

- Solicit nominations at the SAA Annual Meeting and through the section's other venues
- Whenever possible, present two nominees for each vacant position.
- Provide biographical information about each candidate to membership.
- Hold elections, in accordance with SAA guidelines.
- Announce election results at the section's annual meeting and disseminate the electronically to the section immediately after the annual meeting.
- **Submit pertinent information to the chair of the Outreach/Communications Committee, for timely inclusion on the section's website.**

C. Outreach/Communications Committee

Chair: Appointed by the Preservation Section Chair; may be reappointed for a second term.

Members: Appointed annually by the Section Chair on the recommendation of the committee chair(s); may be reappointed for a second term.

Charge: Responsible for facilitating communication of preservation issues to the section members, and between the section steering committee and members, including editing and updating the SAA Preservation Section website.

Practices:

- Maintain liaison and coordination with other sections and appropriate groups within SAA to develop and carry out cooperative projects on preservation within SAA.
- Monitor and bring to the attention of the steering committee major concerns and issues on which SAA or Preservation Section action is needed.
- Update Web to include current steering committee members and any other information deemed important by the steering committee.
- Negotiate all Web matters with the SAA office as appropriate.
- Compile content for an electronic newsletter, to be published on the section's website.

D. Program Committee

Chair: Appointed by the Preservation Section Chair; may be reappointed for a second term.

Members: Appointed annually by the Section Chair on the recommendation of the Program Chair(s); may be reappointed for a second term.

Charge: Encourage members to submit high quality program proposals for the SAA annual meeting.

Practices:

- Coordinate review of session proposals submitted to the steering committee for endorsement.
- Develop sessions in co-sponsorship with other SAA sections, roundtables, and committees, when feasible.
- Assist members of the steering committee and the section in putting together session proposals.
- Solicit ideas from and involvement of section members and members of other SAA units.

- In collaboration with the Section Chair, develop a program with speakers on a topic approved by the steering committee for the section business meeting.
- Submit pertinent information to the chair of the Outreach/Communications Committee, for timely inclusion on the section's website

VII. Meetings

The Preservation Section will meet once a year in conjunction with the annual meeting of SAA and will hold a Business meeting which will also include a program that will address timely issues relative to the preservation of archival materials. The time of and agenda for this meeting will be announced on the listserv, in the annual meeting program, and on the section website immediately preceding the meeting. The steering committee will also meet during the annual meeting.