



# Congressional Papers Section

N E W S L E T T E R

Society of American Archivists

CPS-SAA 2018 Edition

## Message from the Chair

*Hope Grebner Bibens*

Dear CPS Members,

I am writing to you on a cool, foggy fall morning on the campus of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. It is quite the departure from August in Washington, DC when we were all together for the SAA Annual Meeting. I truly enjoyed catching up with colleagues and learning about all the incredible work that everyone is doing. The highlight of the week for me was our advocacy event. Now more than ever, we must advocate for the profession and continue to lead the way in encouraging our Members of Congress and other elected officials to preserve their records of service. It was great to hear from congressional staffers and see so many archivists on Capitol Hill in August to meet with their delegations about the importance of Congressional archives and archivists.

For me, the momentum continued in September when I traveled with The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement to the Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education in Shepherdstown, West Virginia where Senator Tom Harkin was giving the Byrd Center's Tom E. Moses Memorial Lecture on the U.S. Constitution. It was inspiring to spend Constitution Day at another repository and see their space, interact with their patrons, and participate in their programming.

It is my hope that this spirit will continue to grow throughout the next year. Last year we adopted a new strategic plan and I am excited for the opportunity to help us make progress toward these goals. At our Steering Committee meeting, we had an encouraging discussion about SAA's Statement on

### In This Issue:

Message from the Chair .....	1-2
Business Meeting Reports:	
Nominations .....	3
Electronic Records.....	3-4
Diversity .....	4-5
CLA .....	5-6
Senate .....	6-7
House .....	7-9
ACSC .....	9-12

Congressional Records as Public Records, as well as the creation of pamphlets and guides similar to our advocacy day booklet that would assist us in continuing to consolidate knowledge. I also encourage CPS members to think about publishing peer-reviewed articles and case studies as we work with individual collections. Throughout the coming year, feel free to reach out to me with ideas in all of these areas.

Each newsletter, I will leave you with a story that Senator Harkin is known to tell -- a Harkinism, if you will. So here we go: "If you're driving down a country road and you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, you can be sure of one thing: it didn't get there by itself." This quote fits CPS quite well. We are all in this together, and what makes CPS great is that we are a vibrant community that supports each other in achieving our goals. So thank you to all of you for the communication, the participation, and the opportunities to collaborate. Let's keep the momentum going!

Best,  
Hope

# CPS Business Meeting Reports

## Nominations and Elections Committee

*Shae Rafferty*

Committee members: Danielle Emerling, Shae Rafferty, John Caldwell

A special election was held in September 2017 to fill a vacant seat on the Steering Committee. The two candidates for this position were Nathan Gerth and Rebecca Denne. Nathan Gerth was elected to the steering committee.

In the annual CPS election, 95 members voted to fill positions for two steering committee members and a vice chair/chair-elect. The outcome of these elections were:

Nathan Gerth has been elected as our Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.

Leigh McWhite and Brandon T. Pieczko have been elected to our Steering Committee.

Also, on the election ballot was a referendum proposing an adjustment to the standing rules of the Electronic Records Committee to create a co-chair position for better work continuity. This referendum passed.

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## Electronic Records Committee

*Hope Grebner Bibens*

The Electronic Records Committee (ERC) of the Congressional Papers Section (CPS) provides resources for institutions managing congressional electronic records within their repository. The committee members currently include:

- Elisabeth Butler, United States Senate
- Chad Garrett, University of Arkansas, Little Rock
- Jim Havron, formerly Middle Tennessee State University, now independent consultant for electronic records repositories

- John Caldwell, University of Delaware
- Gregory Wiedeman, University of Albany, SUNY
- Brandon Hirsch, National Archives and Records Administration (ex-officio)

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The Committee had a total of 11 conference call meetings from August 2016 to July 2017. ERC Committee member makeup shifted some this past year with the resignation of Erin Wolfe and Nathan Gerth. In response, the ERC put out a call to solicit new members via the CPS listserv. CPS Steering Committee confirmed two new additions in the Spring: John Caldwell and Chat Garrett joined the ERC with three-year terms. The ERC remains an active committee continuing to build out both the ERC blog and module series. Additionally, considerable time and effort was devoted to the development of a hands-on e-record tool session for the 2017 CPS Pre-Conference Day.

## BLOG UPDATE

The ERC maintains a WordPress site and in the past year, 10 new blog posts were published including Jim Havron's three-part Cyber Security series and an ERC summary of the 2017 Association of Centers for the Study of Congress Annual Meeting. A special word of thanks to webmaster Elisabeth Butler for her assistance in maintaining our electronic presence.

## ELECTRONIC RECORDS MODULES

The ERC is pleased to report to the addition of 5 new modules available through the ERC site. Currently, modules are available in the following issue areas:

- Acquisitions and Accessioning
- Processing
- Description
- Preservation
- Access

They can be downloaded individually or a set. These instructional reports continue to be popular with the CPS members at large. Additions to the Module family include:

- December 2016

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 2)

- ◇ *File Transfers Using DataAccessioner* (Module#ERCM006) by Adriane Hanson, University of Georgia. This module uses DataAccessioner to ensure the complete transfer of digital files from removable media to a storage location.
- ◇ *Configuring and Using Offline Computers for Access* (Module#ERCM010) by Jim Havron, Independent Archival Consultant. This module explains how offline computers can be configured to ensure secure access for researchers to electronic collections.
- ◇ *File Format Migration Pathways* (Module#ERCM008) by Erin Wolfe, University of Kansas; This module goes through the workflow of converting digital files into preservation formats; also describes the leading preservation formats.
- ◇ *File Fixity Tools* (Module#ERCM009) by Elisabeth Butler, Senate Historical Office and Katie Delacenserie, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This module defines file fixity and describes and compares some well-known file fixity tools.
- June 2017
  - ◇ *Electronic Records Storage Requirements* (Module#ERCM012) by Jim Havron, Independent Archival Consultant. This module lays out various considerations related to the implementation of a storage solution for electronic records.
  - ◇ *Introduction to Google Drive* (Module#ERCM013) by Jim Havron, Independent Archival Consultant. This module is a “getting started” guide to Google Drive as an access and collaboration tool for digital materials.

**CPS PRE-CONFERENCE DAY SESSION**  
Drawing on resources from SAA’s Electronic Records Section (ERS)’s Archivist Bootcamp for Born-Digital Records, ERS and ERC member, Greg Widemann led the planning for

the ERC’s hands-on session at the 2017 Pre-Conference Day. ERC newcomer John Caldwell assisted with the day of execution and panel coordinator. He was joined by Danielle Emerling, Alison White, Nathan Gerth, and Katie Delacenserie. The session titled, “Hands-On Introduction to Born-Digital Processing,” builds on the popularity of the ERC modules by bringing a number of digital preservation tools to life. The session featured demonstrations of Bag It/Bagger, DataAccessioner, Bulk Extractor, and a timestamp analyzer—which cover such needs as packaging materials together for ingest, checksums generation, file migration, PII identification, and metadata preservation. The session premise featured the case of the Retiring Senator and moderators began with a preservation tool overview and demonstration. Following this, audience members had a chance to try the tools individually or in a group, with supplied data sets, assisted by local CPS experts.

#### OTHER PROJECTS

The Committee submitted a review of the technology aspects of the CPS Strategic plan.

In closing, I would like to again thank the ERC members and our committee friends for their time and talents.

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#### **Diversity Task Force**

*Natalie Bond*

The Diversity Task Force was primarily tasked this year with organizing and facilitating a diversity-related panel for the CPS Preconference. The Task Force did all planning via (copious amounts of) email. Our panel was titled “Ending the Silent Treatment: Towards More Inclusive Congressional Archives”, and was loosely themed around archival silences—empty spaces in political, governmental, and congressional archival records and/or practices—in the context of listening to and engaging with traditionally underrepresented communities. We sought to interrogate traditional narratives that are deployed through instruction, exhibits, and description, particularly focusing on notions of (mis/under) representation, democratic governance, and ob-

(Continued on page 4)

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 3)*

jectivity/bias. To that end, the driving questions for our panelists were: Why is it important to expose these archival silences in the congressional archival record? And how can the congressional papers community begin to unpack these narratives? We invited Andrea Copeland, Co-editor of Participatory Heritage at IUPUI; Adrena Ifill, former Director of the AVoice Project; Scott St. Louis, Program Manager for the Common Ground Initiative at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies; and Kimberly Peach, Archivist at the Winthrop Group/Congressman Charles B. Rangel Archive Project, to speak on the panel.

Tammi Kim rotated off of the Diversity Task Force in August 2017, and we welcomed Rebecca Denne as a new member in Fall 2017. Currently the Task Force includes Natalie Bond, Rebecca Denne, and Amy Fitch, although both Rebecca and Amy have resigned effective September 1, 2018 due to personal and professional commitments. The status of the Diversity Task Force was brought up at the CPS Steering Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. on August 15<sup>th</sup>, but no conclusive decision was made at that time as to the Task Force's life span or general charge. Given that there is only one remaining member, the Task Force recommends putting out a call for volunteers in order to begin planning another panel for CPS Preconference Day 2019. Alternatively, the Task Force would request guidance from members of the CPS Steering Committee on its ultimate purpose and duration.

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### **Center for Legislative Archives**

*Merrily Harris, delivered by Brandon Hirsch*

The Center for Legislative Archives provides support to the House and Senate by returning records for use in current legislative business, assisting the House and Senate Archivists with archival guidance, and providing access to Congressional and legislative branch records for researchers. The Center also produces educational materials broadening the reach of Congressional records as primary sources in education and civic engagement.

The National Archives continues to work with the Government Publishing Office (GPO) con-

structing archival storage space at one of the GPO buildings near Capitol Hill. Nearly 65,000 cubic feet of additional archival storage will become available in the coming months. We are pleased to have had such a productive relationship with our colleagues and GPO and look forward to bringing this additional storage capacity online soon.

The primary means to filling this space will be our ongoing growth of textual records holdings, and this past year, textual records holdings at the Center grew by over 1,400 cubic feet or 3.6 million pages.

We see a similar pace of growth in our holdings of electronic Congressional and legislative branch records. Our most recent report to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress reported overall electronic records holdings of nearly 190 terabytes. This total includes House and Senate records, as well as records from legislative branch agencies and commissions, and data from NARA's Congressional Web Archive. The next phase of Congressional web archiving is in its early stages with data collection set to begin early this fall.

The Center's Legislative Enhanced Archival Description project reached another milestone completing the description of records for the 97th Congress early in FY2018. Since that time, Center archivists have started describing the records of the 98th Congress. This description, along with others beginning with the first Congress in 1789, is being added to the National Archives Catalog ([catalog.archives.gov](http://catalog.archives.gov)).

Reference activities have kept the Center very busy this past year. The Center serves a diverse community of researchers, ranging from high school students working on National History Day projects, to doctoral students conducting dissertation research, to distinguished scholars and journalists embarking on biographies of major political figures. Domestic policy and legal review continue to be the most substantive areas of interest to our research community.

Finally, the Center continued its successful outreach program with teacher workshop partner-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 4)*

ships with Humanities Texas, the Miami Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, the Lou Frey Institute for Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida, and with the National Archives' Office of Education and Public Programs. 17 workshops were held connecting Center staff with over 600 educators.

## **U.S. Senate**

*Karen Paul*

### **Assistance to members**

Two members' offices closed earlier this year (Franken and Cochran) and both senators designated an archival repository. We are working with the three offices retiring at the end of the year (Hatch, Corker, Flake), and revised and updated our handbook *Preserving Senate History: Closing a Senate Office* to include a new electronic records transfer form to document file fixity, document types, and operating systems.

At the request of a senator, we developed a template of questions for him to use to record his experiences serving in the Senate. It can be used personally or with an interviewer. The questions help a member identify and record on a regular basis, the significant, moving, or surprising issues, experiences and events. This has been incorporated into our Office Archives Toolkit.

Technology Assessment Group Projects Deputy Archivist Alison White and Photo Historian Heather Moore participated in the Sergeant at Arms TAG (Technology Assessment Group) project to develop a digital asset management system for Senate office photo and video management. This tool is called the Senate Media Manager and supports archiving of the content.

### **Social Media Accessioning**

We continue to provide guidance on the preservation of social media. Committees are asked to archive their social media at the end of each Congress, while members' offices

tend to do a one-time download upon retirement although some are doing it on a more routine basis.

### **Replevin**

We have recently been working with a number of repositories that have found themselves in possession of Senate Committee records. Despite our best efforts, we continue to discover committee records that have been sent to repositories along with the member's records. This is to remind everyone that members cannot donate committee records to a research institution because they do not own them. If such records are discovered, contact either the House or Senate Archivist as appropriate for proper disposition.

### **Oral History**

In 2015, the SHO launched a Women of the Senate Oral History Project. Looking ahead to upcoming milestones, including the centennial of Senate passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment in 1919, and then ratification in 1920, as well as the service of the Senate's first female Member, Rebecca Felton, in 1922, the historians have been conducting a series of interviews with former and current women Senators and select female staff.

### **Senate Historical/Archival Events**

The Senate Historical Office has integrated Senate history and archival resources into its major presentations, including its annual Congress Week and Constitution Day events. Each year, on or about September 17, Constitution Day, the Historical Office offers a special presentation for Senators, staff, and the public. The historians and archivists are collaborating on these events to offer historical insight into constitutional history and to highlight the importance of Senate records. In September 2017 they presented on "Out of Necessity: The Senate, the States, and the Great Compromise of 1787." This event included a brief history followed by guided archival exhibits illustrating the history.

Congress Week is a national initiative sponsored by the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and is celebrated during the

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 5)*

first week of April to commemorate when both houses of Congress achieved a quorum. This year Leader Mitch McConnell called attention to the work of the ACSC and its member organizations, and applauded its success in improving the number and research value of congressional collections being preserved nationwide. He also noted the passage of H. Con. Res. 307 in 2008 and again urged all members to manage and preserve their records, to donate them to a research institution in their home state, and to make them available at the appropriate time. He himself is setting a strong example for other members with the McConnell Chou Center at the University of Louisville, regular archiving, and his annual oral history interviews he does with the McConnell archivist at the Center.

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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

*Robin Reeder, delivered by Heather Bourk*

To date, there are 73 Members leaving the House this congress. We've approached them all, offering records guidance assistance, and are also participating in transition briefings for departing Members. With more than half of our committees experiencing a change in leadership in the new congress, we've also contacted senior staff for each committee about records guidance and preparing their records for transfer at the end of the congress. Needless to say, we anticipate a large influx of Committee records as the Congress winds down.

In the spring we transferred textual records from the 113th Congress from our onsite storage space to the Center. The transfer included more than 1500 boxes or 1.3 million pages of records. Electronic records from the 113th Congress are currently being processed and will be transferred later this year. We also sent orphaned records totaling 250 boxes or more than 187,000 pages. This transfer also included 50 boxes of historic negatives created by the House Office of Photography. These images will eventually be transferred to the Still Pictures Branch at AII.

We continue to research and create content for the Records Search database on the History, Art,

And Archives website and earlier this year have added 19 new documents to the over 100 documents in the database since it launched.

The Office of the House Historian recently published *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*, the final installment in the House series documenting the service of minorities in Congress. The Archives department provided photo and document research services for the publication. You can check it out on our website.

We're currently in the final stages of work on the Advisory Committee for the Records of Congress Sixth Report. The report will be published in December.

Alison Trulock has recently had a title change – to Outreach Archivist – and is taking the lead on the department's outreach efforts to Committees. Alison has also recently completed the Digital Curation for Information Professionals certificate program offered by the University of Maryland iSchool. Her capstone project for the certificate was to create an electronic records policy document for the department.

My title has also changed – to Associate Archivist – to reflect additional leadership responsibilities.

We currently have an open position for an archival assistant available in the department. The position description was circulated to the CPS email list, is posted here in the Career Center and can be found on [house.gov](http://house.gov). Please share it with anyone you think might be interested.

And finally, our office, along with the House Historian, has moved back up the Hill to the Library of Congress Jefferson building.

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## **Association of Centers for the Study of Congress**

*Jay Wyatt, delivered by Debbie Davendonis*

The past year has once again been a busy and fruitful one for the ACSC.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 6)*

## Leadership

ACSC's executive committee remains unchanged from last year. Jay Wyatt (Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, Shepherd University) and Betsy Pittman (Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, UCONN) continue as President and Vice President. Blyne Olivieri (University of West Georgia) and Danielle Emerling (West Virginia & Regional History Center, WVU) continue as ACSC secretary and treasurer.

Frank Mackaman (Dirksen Congressional Center), Karen Paul (US Senate Historical Office), Robin Reeder (US House Office of Art and Archives), Richard Hunt (Center for Legislative Archives), Debbie Davendonis-Todd, Nathan Gerth (University of Nevada Reno), and Lori Schwartz (Dr. C.C. & Mabel L. Criss Library, Nebraska Omaha) also retained positions on the ACSC Executive Committee.

## Membership

ACSC membership continued to grow in 2017-2018. We recently welcomed SUNY Albany, Clemson University, and the Paul Simon Institute as new institutional member as well as new individual members, Rich Carney (Jesse Helms Center) and Rebecca Sherman (Emory University).

ACSC now includes 44 Institutional Supporting and Institutional Members and 33 Individual Members.

Continuing under the leadership of Hope Grebner Bibens, Drake University Library, the ACSC's membership committee has significantly expanded the organization's recruiting efforts.

## 2018 Annual Meeting

ACSC held its annual meeting at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS) from April 25-27th. This year's theme, "New Frontiers in Engagement" was explored through twelve panel discussions. Meeting highlights included a pre-conference audience engagement workshop run by Museum Hack, a conversation between Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker and U.S. Senate Historian Betty Koed, and a keynote discussion between former Archivist of

the United States and Governor of Kansas John Carlin and Dole Institute Assistant Director and Senior Archivist Audrey Coleman.

Other panels explored opportunities and best practices for public programming; utilizing student workers, volunteers and interns; developing exhibits; and the challenges of archiving Tweets and other social media content.

## Research Grant Awards:

From May 2017-May 2018, the ACSC awarded five \$500 research grants totaling \$2,500 in grant awards as part of our Grants for Research in Congressional Collections program. Grants were awarded to:

- 5/17: Scott Meinke, Associate Professor of Political Science, Bucknell University, "Rising to Leadership in an Era of Political Change" - The Dirksen Congressional Center
- 5/17: Mark R. Wilson, Professor, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, "Transformation of the U.S. Defense Sector" [part of a multi-year book project] - The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies
- 6/17: Jeffrey Crouch, Assistant Professor of American Politics, American University "Newt Gingrich," - University of West Georgia, Ingram Library, Special Collections
- 6/17: Matthew Green, Associate Professor, Department of Politics, Catholic University of America, "Newt Gingrich" - University of West Georgia, Ingram Library, Special Collections
- 7/17: Marc Johnson, independent scholar, no title provided [Liberal Senators Defeated in 1980: Role of the National Conservative Political Action Committee] - Indiana University Modern Political Papers

ACSC will award up to \$3,500 in total Grants for Research in Congressional Collections in 2016. Each grant has an award cap of \$500. More information can be found on the ACSC website ([www.congresscenters.org](http://www.congresscenters.org)) We're excited to continue supporting and promoting this work.

## Travel Awards

In the spring of 2018, members of the ACSC

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 7)*

Scholarships and Awards Committee selected Michael Crespín, Associate Director of the Carl Albert Center and Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma as the recipient of the 2018 Raymond W. Smock Fellowship, which provides \$1000 total for one or two ACSC members to attend their inaugural ACSC annual meeting.

### **Communications**

Led by Nathan Gerth and Hope Grebner, the ACSC Communications Committee continued refining our social media strategy, which has resulted in improved metrics. You can now stay up to date with our activities by following us on Twitter, Tumblr, and Facebook. Additionally, the committee facilitated transition of users to Google Groups for the organization's email listservs. All told, some 123 users were migrated to the new system.

### **The Great Society Digital Exhibit**

The ACSC's digital exhibit task force authored a feature essay for the 2018 National History Day theme book on the "The Great Society Congress," digital exhibit. The theme book was distributed to thousands of grade 6-12 educators and students across the country in print and digital format. The increased visibility resulted in a significant uptick in site visits during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Since its launch in April 2015, more than 34,000 users have generated 82,000 page views during 36,000 individual visits to The Great Society Congress exhibit.

The Great Society Congress includes nearly 450 primary source documents submitted by nineteen ACSC member institutions.

### **Kettering Project**

In October 2017, ACSC began a new grant program that provides up to \$500 in funding for ACSC institutional members (per member inst. per year) to conduct the ACSC-developed forum, *The Divided States of America: How Can We Get Work Done Even When We Disagree?* The forums, and accompanying issues guide, explore different approaches by which Americans can

accomplish the tasks needed to live in a civil and productive society even when we disagree. Copies of A Discussion Guide for Community Dialogue and support materials—A Guide for Forum Conveners and Moderators and a "starter" DVD for community dialogue are available for free download and order via the ACSC web site under Resources.

The first \$500 grant was awarded to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service to support its forum on April 3, 2018 on the campus of Mississippi State University. Subsequent to the grant award, a forum partner decided to cover the cost of the event. At the request of the Stennis Center, the ACSC grant will be used for a repeat forum on September 18, 2018.

### **Constituent Services Data Task Force**

In early January 2018, the ACSC Executive Committee approved the formation of a task force on constituent services data. Building on the 2017 Society of American Archivists Congressional Papers Section report about archiving constituent services data, the task force will investigate the feasibility of hosting a tool that can process and provide access to constituent services data. Specifically, the objectives of the task force are:

Investigate the feasibility of the project, including costs, potential funding sources, development plan, and hosting options (and consider potential challenges, specifically private information in the data).

Identify institutional members willing to take a leadership role in the development cycle, particularly for testing a tool with existing data sets. Apply for a planning grant to support this initial work.

Evaluate the project within the context of the other current and potential ACSC initiatives.

Tie the work of the task force to a timeline and a set of deliverables that would be presented to ACSC at the end of its initial work.

Assemble evidence or testimonials about the importance of constituent mail for scholarly and educational use to support a planning grant proposal.

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 8)*

The Task Force has identified a number of data holding institutions and is soliciting more responses via several listservs of the Society of American Archivists. Members are using these responses to create user profiles of institutions that hold this kind of data. Members are also conducting a survey of model organizations that provide examples of open source tool development and governance, with ArchivesSpace being the first organization surveyed. Additionally, members are identifying scholars who have used constituent correspondence, or have expressed an interest in the data, to better understand researcher needs and to support a future grant application. Finally, WVU Libraries was awarded a LY-RASIS Catalyst Fund grant to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and plan for future collaborative technical infrastructure for the open-source congressional correspondence data access tool currently in development at WVU. The grant identifies this Task Force as an advisory board.

### **Congress Week**

Congress Week takes place April 1- April 7th each year. This year, unlike in year's past, the committee did not adopt a theme, as past themes did not seem to provide the central idea through which members could build programs and activities. The committee continues to maintain the Congress Week website, [www.congressweek.org](http://www.congressweek.org), which holds fantastic resources related to Congress. Senator Mitch McConnell's recent floor statement recognizing ACSC and Congress Week have been added to the website.

### **Across the organization:**

Karen Paul helped coordinate Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) read a statement on the Senate floor in support of Congress Week, encouraging fellow senators to preserve their Senate papers collections.

The Senate Historical Office conducted a Twitter Campaign featuring the hashtag #CongressWeek with tweets focusing on the value of Senate records and the ways in which they aid our understanding of the Senate.

Danielle Emerling curated a new exhibit, "The

People's Branch: Exploring the U.S. Congress with Archives," that opened at West Virginia University Libraries during Congress Week and will run through Dec. 2018.

### **2019 Annual Meeting**

Finally, we're very excited to announce that next year's ACSC Annual Meeting will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. from Wed. May 8 to Fri. May 10. If you are interested in serving on this year's program committee, please contact Jay Wyatt at [jwyatt@shepherd.edu](mailto:jwyatt@shepherd.edu).

### **Dirksen Center Sponsorship**

I'm happy to announce that the ACSC Executive Committee recently approved two programs proposed by The Dirksen Congressional Center that we think will greatly benefit members. I am delighted to summarize them below.

In the first proposal, The Dirksen Center will provide a grant of \$1,000 to sponsor a session at our annual meeting. Frank Mackaman, who directs The Center's work, suggests a session devoted to recent publications about Congress, including books, articles, Internet-based features, etc. The grant will give the Program Committee the freedom to offer compensation of some sort to panelists, presumably to include the author(s). Frank envisions a three-year commitment. In return, The Center will be recognized with this tag line in the program: "The Dirksen Congressional Center provided financial support for [title of session]." Karen Paul and I talked a good bit at this year's annual meeting about trying to bring more scholars into ACSC, and I think this could be a great way of making inroads in that direction.

In the second proposal, The Center will underwrite ACSC's Grants for Research in Congressional Collections to the tune of \$3,000 a year. Again, this could be a multi-year commitment. As you may know, Frank has been our liaison for the program since its inception in 2013. The credit line will read: "Grants for Research in Congressional Collections are sponsored by the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and underwritten by The Dirksen Congressional Center."

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Business Meeting Reports, continued from page 9)*

We thank Frank for initiating these programs and look forward to this new partnership with The Center, one of ACSC's founding members. They promise to advance research and scholarship about Congress—both core purposes of our organization and of The Dirksen Congressional Center.

### **Conclusion**

ACSC is a fabulous organization and well worth the \$500 annual fee for institutional membership. The annual conferences are stimulating and informative (and fun!) while the fellowships and available grants contribute to making membership a bargain. It is unique in bringing together archivists, scholars, teachers, and members of Congress in one meeting and has done substantial work to raise the profile and advocate for the importance of preserving the records of Congress and making them available. You can learn more about ACSC, its mission, and how to become a member at [www.congresscenters.org](http://www.congresscenters.org).