

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) met on Sunday, **February 25, 2024**, in conjunction with Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., using Zoom for those members not able to attend onsite. AASLH Chair Burt Logan led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the December 14, 2023, Council Meeting conducted on Zoom.
2. Burt Logan informed Council that he will be resigning as Chair at the end of the meeting due to family need and will be replaced by Vice Chair Christy Coleman. Logan had spoken with the Executive Committee prior to the Council meeting and decided to take a leave of absence until the AASLH Annual Conference—when officer, Council, and committee terms end—and to then become Immediate Past Chair. Coleman will be recommending an Interim Vice Chair for Council to elect.
3. Reviewed the financial reports through December 31, 2023, the first half of AASLH’s fiscal year and heard an update on how the staff is working with a new accounting agency in Nashville, Hoskins & Company, while also transitioning to a new Association Management System (database) dashboard at the beginning of December. Expenses were down for human resources, due to staff positions remaining empty briefly. Expenses for technology were up because of the transition to a cloud-based server, and general office expenses were up due to overlapping work with the old and new accounting firms.
4. Voted to approve the changes made to the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual, which the Finance Committee had approved on February 22, 2023. Edits included changing the name of the accounting firm and membership database, replacing she/her with they/their, replacing annual “meeting” with “conference, updating job titles, adding new classes to the Chart of Accounts and List of Cash Accounts, and updating policies to reflect increased use of ACH payments.
5. Voted to accept the Independent Auditors’ Report for Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, PLLC, Brentwood, Tennessee, and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee on February 15, 2024. The auditors did not identify any deficiencies or weaknesses.
6. Discussed AASLH’s relationship with America250 and the US Semiquincentennial Commission and approved AASLH joining America250 as a National Resource Partner.
7. Voted to create the HLI (History Leadership Institute) Advisory Committee to replace the HLI Partners group. Partner organizations will each retain a seat on the committee and the AASLH Chair of Council will appoint other members, such as alumni of the program or others who can help the

committee more broadly represent the field. Appointments and terms will conform with other standing committees.

8. Discussed a new relationship with the National Park Service's Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in which AASLH will provide project management training and a two-day workshop about its Reframing History initiative.
9. Voted to become a National Partner of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation, which has been tasked by Congress to oversee the establishment of a memorial sculpture on the National Mall. As the Foundation's website notes, "Of the 40 monuments, memorials, statues, and historic sites on the National Mall... zero are dedicated to women's history." AASLH's role will be to help draw attention to this project.
10. Approved a framework for conducting strategic planning over the next several months. AASLH staff and committees will begin internal discussions in March through June, providing a basis for Council to take up strategic planning work at its June 27-28, 2024 meeting at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.
11. Council ended the meeting in Executive Session.