

## **Actions of Council**

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday afternoon, **March 24, 2022**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Norman Burns (Conner Prairie) led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Discussed the financial reports for July 1 to January 30. Treasurer, Rebeka Beaulieu (Florence Griswold Museum), noted there was a \$109,000 surplus for year-to-date, which is ahead of the budgeted surplus for January. Membership revenue was performing better than budget expectations. Losses on the annual meeting in Little Rock last fall, due to low attendance, were substantial but will be covered with reserves from the previous fiscal year's surplus. Expenses overall were as expected. AASLH total assets were \$3,214,928 on January 30, 2022.
2. Voted to accept the Independent Auditors' Report for Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, PLLC, Brentwood, Tennessee, and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee on February 3, 2021. The auditors did not identify any deficiencies or weaknesses. Council Chair thanked the Audit Committee (Cathy Fields, Litchfield Historical Society; David Simmons, Woodstock Foundation; and Mindi Love, Independent) for its work.
3. Discussed the Governance Committee's plans for strengthening the orientation of new Council members, updating the Council Members' Handbook, and using the exit interviews done with Council members to improve the functioning of Council. Lisa Anderson (UVU Museum of Art) is Governance Chair.
4. Received the preliminary slate of candidates for Council, Officers, and Leadership Nominating Committee positions from Burt Logan (Ohio History Connection), Vice Chair of Council and Chair of the Leadership Nominating Committee. Council members made recommendations for filling a vacancy on Council, an appointment which the Chair of Council will make.
5. Discussed plans for the 2022 onsite conference in Buffalo and online conference, as presented by Council member and Program Co-chair Jennifer Ortiz (Utah Division of History). This is the first year AASLH has co-chairs; Sarah Jencks (History Co:Lab) is the other co-chair.
6. Reviewed plans for AASLH and the National Council on Public History's release on 4/19/2022 of their joint report on Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the public history field. The report stems from a survey the two organizations conducted two years ago which received more than 400 detailed responses.

7. Discussed a potential project with the Institute for Museum and Library Services to create five to six public events on the topics of monuments, debate and civic engagement, and local commemorations. Council considered how these themes fit with AASLH's five historical themes for the 250<sup>th</sup>, outlined in the *Making History at 250* Field Guide, and suggested potential speakers.
8. Discussed the growing problem of state and local laws and policies that censor the teaching of history about racism. Council charted the actions that AASLH has taken to resist these attacks on historical practice and education over the past two years—from issuing statements to joining coalitions to developing the Reframing History toolkit—and decided to highlight this issue for AASLH members.
9. Heard a report by AASLH President John Dichtl on outcomes for the coming several months. AASLH has hired two new staff members, Eva Young as Development Coordinator, and Eric Morse as Marketing and Sales Manager. The Arcus Leadership Program courses will be ready for registrations in the fall. The History Leadership Institute online course will open in March and the in-person Seminar is set for June at the Indiana Historical Society. A six-part podcast for the Reframing History project will open in March. The History in Our Parks Affinity Committee will be releasing its report in April. AASLH's NEH-funded census of historical organizations will be released May 18 and be the center of intensive promotion and discussion.