



1717 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203-2991
Phone: 615/320-3203
Fax: 615/327-9013
membership@aslh.org
www.aslh.org

TO: Field Services Colleagues

FROM: Debbie Kmetz, Field Services Task Force Chair

Report on the AASLH "Task Force on Regional Services and Partnerships," meeting held Saturday September 19, 1992 at the Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida.

Present: Douglas Evelyn, Patricia Gordon Michael, Pamela Bennett, Carol Hagglund, Katherine Kane, Deborah Kmetz, Alice Knierim, George McDaniel, Tom McKay, Candace Matelic, Tim Meagher, Peter O'Connell, Gale Peterson, Ruby Rogers, Carolyn Singer and Jim Vaughn.

Jim Vaughn, Task Force Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Douglas Evelyn, AASLH President, opened the meeting by discussing the impetus for the newly-created "Task Force on Regional Services and Partnerships," and providing an overview and vision for the work of the group. He explained that the goal of the Task Force is to define services and ways of delivering them at a time of limited resources for AASLH. He sees one mechanism as partnerships between AASLH and local history institutions and organizations. This idea was elaborated earlier in his column "New Structure for Traditional Services," in the September 1992 issue of History News Dispatch. Doug emphasized that the ideas that come forth must not put a strain on AASLH financial or staff resources. He added that the TASK Force should focus initially on projects that can be conducted during the coming year. All project ideas will ultimately go through AASLH staff for consideration of approval by Patricia Gordon Michael, Executive Director

Jim Vaughn spoke next about how the Task Force would function. He explained that the Task Force would be divided into regional subgroups to create partnerships within each region that reach to a local level. Each regional subgroup has been asked to come up with a pilot program that could be instituted in the coming year in that particular region but could also be replicated in other regions or at a national level. During the next ninety days members of each regional subgroup need to develop a program(s) (workshops, seminars, etc.) and find a host institution(s) for that region. Descriptions of the programs will be sent to Jim Vaughn and then on to Doug Evelyn and Patricia Gordon Michael. The February issue of History News Dispatch will carry information about programs that have been chosen and scheduled. The contributions of AASLH in any joint undertaking could include: advertising and marketing the program at a national level; taking registrations and sending out confirmations; and providing additional discounts on publications and technical supplements.

The discussion also turned to ideas that might be carried out at a national level. I offered the recommendations developed at the Field Services Task Force meeting. These were three ideas in which Field Services representatives could assist AASLH in the creation and implementation of the service. The recommendations were 1) Develop Board Orientation Materials, 2) Pursue a joint NEH Grant Application, 3) Initiate a Regrant Program. (These are described in detail in the Field Services meeting report, September 18, 1992. The first idea, for board of directors orientation materials, met with enthusiastic response. Patricia Gordon Michael gave her approval and go ahead. Tom McKay, State

Historical Society of Wisconsin, and Sandra Clark, Michigan Historical Center, began getting details together. (As mentioned in the Field Services Task Force Meeting report, J.D. Britton, Ohio Historical Society, will work with Tom on writing and editing. Sandra will do design and layout and members of Field Services have offered to provide review.) The other two recommendations for a joint NEH proposal and regrant program were noted and discussed, but no action taken.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:30 a.m.

TFRSP