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Dear Field Services Colleagues,

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and attended this year's Field Services Task Force meeting in Omaha. We had a very good turnout -- 23 people and reports from 17 organizations. Our hosts from Nebraska -- Deb McWillilams, Sarah Fairbanks and John Schleicher -- gave us a warm field services welcome complete with special folders of materials, prepared for those in-state and in our case beyond. I would also like to thank Christine Compston who presented information about collaborations involving local historical societies, teachers, and the History Teaching Alliance. Many possibilities exist. Those of you who were not able to attend the meeting may be interested in reading the enclosed report and contacting Christine for more information.

The enclosed report covers the meeting in some detail. Here are a few highlights, with timely applications:

* Cherie Cook, Oklahoma Museums Association, has offered to compile a bibliography of instructional materials produced by field services programs for assistance to local historical societies and museums. She would like a list of titles by Thanksgiving of this year. She requests, that if possible, you send the titles and publication data on IBM Word Perfect 6 (or any number up to 6) to make her job a little easier. However, printed copy will do. Cherie has generously offered to have the bibliography available by the end of this year. Please help her by sending your entries as soon as you can.

* Tom McKay, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, distributed copies of a draft of the Board of Directors Orientation Materials to those at the meeting and received comments and suggestions. He will be working with LuAnne Sneddon to see if AASLH is interested in publishing the package.

* John Harris, Indiana Historical Society, chairs a new committee called List Serve which will explore field services communication by E-mail. If you would like to be on the committee, John can be reached any of several ways - E-mail, telephone, FAX and paper mail.

* J.D. Britton, Ohio Historical Society, has been elected the new chair of the Field Services Task Force. J.D. has worked in the Local History Office at the Ohio Historical Society for seven years and is devoted to public and local history. Congratulations, J.D.!

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for helping to make these last three years as Field Services Task Force chair memorable and enjoyable. You have my respect and admiration. I look forward to seeing you next year and in years to come.

Sincerely,

Debbie Kmetz
Local History Specialist
State Historical Society of Wisconsin