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To: AASLH Field Services Task Force
From: J.D. Britton, Chair
Date: October 11, 1995
Re: Task Force Meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York

I trust that everyone has returned to their normal life and field services routine following the 1995 AASLH Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs. For those of you who were unable to attend our Task Force meeting on September 6, I want you to know that we missed you and your thoughts. It was an interesting meeting with a lot of substantive discussion. Please refer to the enclosed minutes done so well by Katherine Child from the Western Treasure Valley Cultural Center. The minutes are very thorough.

I'm sure many of you found, as I did, the AASLH Meeting especially interesting since there occurred a lot of discussion about the greater involvement of the field services representatives in AASLH programming, including several conversations with AASLH Executive Director Terry Davis. Comments came from so many people and so many directions that as soon as I returned to the Ohio Historical Society, I called Terry and asked if she could clarify the Council's position. She responded with a letter to the Task Force members which I have enclosed. Apparently, the AASLH Council wants the Task Force to set goals--goals to formulate some kind of working partnership/relationship with AASLH. To this end, I would like to hear your thoughts after reading Terry's letter. Should we pursue this course or splinter off as a separate body? If you have concerns about setting goals within the AASLH arena, please call or write to let me know your thoughts. If I do not hear from you, then I will proceed by developing a committee to set goals to be presented at the 1996 AASLH meeting in Nashville.

As you can see from the minutes, our Technical Leaflets Subcommittee has agreed to investigate the feasibility of 1) combining technical leaflets and 2) making them available on a national level. Following our Task Force Meeting, Sandra Clark, Director of the Museum Historical Center and Series Editor for the new AASLH Publications Program, met with Tom McKay, Debbie Kmetz, and me to talk about AASLH getting involved in a "how to" manual series that might deal directly with our technical leaflets. There will be further discussion on this matter, and I will report to you regarding any developments.

I also personally want to thank Cherie Cook, Director of the Oklahoma Museums Association, for putting together a listing of technical leaflets published by our organizations. Since some of you were unable to attend the Saratoga Springs meeting, I have enclosed a copy of this list to ensure that everyone has one. Cherie has graciously agreed to update the list, so if you have new titles or if you have not sent your titles to Cherie, please do so.

Also, Ron Brentano, Field Services Coordinator at the Oregon Historical Society, agreed to continue to organize a field services newsletter. He plans to publish two issues with submission deadlines of January 15, 1996, and July 1, 1996, respectively. The newsletter offers a good venue for keeping in touch with our colleagues, so please support it by sending Ron any news about your field services office (new staff, grants, programs, etc.) by the deadline dates.

Finally, I have enclosed an updated list of field services representatives and interested colleagues. There might still be incorrect or incomplete information on the list, so, if you know of any corrections/additions within your organization or at other organizations, please let me know.

I am already thinking ahead about next year's meeting in Nashville. Clearly we will need to discuss our relationship with AASLH as well as the future of the technical leaflets project, but I have heard that many of you would like to hear more about what we do as field services representatives and to share ideas. If you have any other ideas for next year, again, please let me know.