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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY
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Dear Colleagues:

It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the recent AASLH Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York. As a veteran of 17 years with the Indiana Humanities Council, the important work you do throughout your respective states comes as no surprise to me. In Indiana I enjoyed a close working relationship with the Indiana Historical Society and my colleagues John Harris and Tom Krasean. I have great respect for the services you deliver to those professionals and volunteers at the very grassroots level--those people and institutions who outnumber many fold the state institutions and large museums.

As a new Director for AASLH and a relatively new staff person, I am just now learning much about this fine old Association, its members, its friends and its past relationships. I am a true believer in partnerships. I do not believe partnerships should exist without good reason or with any institution or group. I do believe, however, that resources are far too scarce (both time and money) for us to work in a vacuum when we can pool together to accomplish the work we are all about. I also believe that organizations should partner with other organizations or people only when their missions and goals are working in concert with one another. Further, I believe all of the above criteria exist when we talk about the work you do as a Field Service professional and the work of the American Association for State and Local History.

Although there may be a part of your audience that will never attend an AASLH Annual Meeting or workshop, I believe deeply that the mission of AASLH includes providing you with the tools and networking that will help you to help your constituents. And of course there is a large section of people and institutions who are constituents for both of us. In either case, we should join forces to bring to our audiences up-to-date and much needed Technical Leaflets, how-to publications, informative and helpful workshops and any number of other services that might be developed through cooperation.

I understand from conversations with the Field Services Task Force and AASLH staff and Council that there has never been a very formal relationship between our two groups, even though the Task Force is literally a task force of AASLH. I believe we should work together to develop a set of goals for the Task Force which incorporates it squarely into the long-range planning process and, indeed, into the program plans of AASLH. I am very interested in working with J.D. and any other appropriate Field Services professional to begin thinking about goals and objectives for this important task force. And I look forward to getting to

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know many of you in the coming year.

Thank you so much for being a friend to the Association, and for your important role in helping to preserve, promote and celebrate state and local history.

Terry L. Davis
Executive Director and CEO
American Association for State and Local History