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Field Services Alliance

Purpose Statement

The Field Services Alliance exists to create a forum to share information and provide mutual support, collegiality, and scholarship to those who, on a statewide or regional level, offer educational services to local historical organizations and others who practice history. The Field Services Alliance shares with the American Association for State and Local History a commitment to support those who preserve and interpret historical resources, and to foster growth and development of historical organizations and personnel on all levels of expertise.

Goals and Activities

I. To maintain and further develop a forum for sharing information among the Field Services professionals and other interested colleagues.

- a. Hold forum meeting at AASLH Annual Meeting
- b. Continue development of Alliance newsletter
- c. Investigate bi-annual meeting of forum
- d. Develop standing rules for Alliance (Field Services List, officer selection)
- e. Maintain addresses of Field Services Professionals
- f. Maintain and develop internal communication through e-mail

II. To strengthen the Field Services/ American Association for State and Local History collaboration.

Field Services Alliance

- a. Introduce AASLH to historical organizations not ready for full participation
- b. Speak on AASLH's behalf to historical organizations within a state or region
- c. Enrich AASLH programs through participation
- d. Make recommendations to AASLH about ways to serve the smaller historical

organizations

- e. Contribute to AASLH publications
- f. Advocate for state and local history

AASLH

- a. Serve as a forum for field services work through Dispatch and History News and the annual meeting
- b. Provide publications to assist field services professionals in their work
- c. Create a web link to field services home pages
- d. Publish selected back issues and articles on web page
- e. Advocate for and help to legitimize of value of Field Services Alliance and their work
- f. Seek Field Services Professionals to serve on AASLH committees and planning sessions to ensure that the needs of small historical organizations are met
- g. Administrative agent for FSA if needed

III. To develop a theory and methodology of practice for field services work.

- a. Identify a group to investigate answers to the question of what should one know to be a field services professional -- content, ethics, standards, skills
- b. Identify a group to find field services models
- c. Discuss findings
- d. Write
- e. Publish

III. To continue to develop and share materials that help field services professionals do their work.

- a. Maintain technical leaflets list
- b. Assist in publishing board manuals
- c. Develop basic starter kits to be used nationally
- d. Develop AASLH "how-to" manual series for local historical organizations

III. To utilize and encourage others to take advantage of emerging communication technology

- a. Maintain and expand the FS List
- b. Encourage all Field Services professionals to get e-mail accounts
- c. Explore other technologies and figure out appropriate applications

III. To offer mutual support and opportunities for collegiality.

- a. Continue Field Services dinner at AASLH Annual Meeting
- b. Continue to have Field Service meeting at AASLH Annual Meeting
- c. Extend offers of invitation to the Field Services Alliance and build coalition with other field services providers