



Overview of Committee Reports

June 2017

Annual Meeting Host Committee

The host committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting is actively working to prepare for the September meeting. They are writing blogs, recruiting volunteers and exhibitors, and promoting the conference. Thanks to the Summerlee Foundation, they are also funding 10 diversity scholarships for Texas attendees for the meeting.

Annual Meeting Program Committee

The committee is currently working with session chairs to finalize session information and build excitement for #AASLH17.

Editorial Advisory Board

Editorial Board continues to publish and pursue books and revisions. New editor Rebecca Shrum has worked with Bob Beatty and Charles Harmon (of Rowman & Littlefield) to revise the Editorial Board member job description and the manuscript review process. *Books Published:* Goal: 5-10 per year. 2017: 7 published thus far, 9 more in production. *New contracts issued:* Goal: 10-20 per year. 2017 Only one signed thus far. We should reach the low end of this goal (10). *Sales:* Goal: 11,500. 2017 3,394 units sold to date. Charles believes we will hit the goal.

Finance Committee

The finance committee met once since the February Council meeting and minutes are included in the Council information packet. It accepted the FY2018 budget and sends it on to Council.

Investment Committee

The investment committee met once since the February Council meeting and minutes are included in the Council information packet.

National Awards Committee

The Awards met in Nashville on May 3-5 to choose this year's award winners. The committee reviewed 87 nominations and awarded 48 Awards of Merit. They submitted one nomination to Council for consideration for the Award of Distinction. Over the summer, they will be reviewing the nomination materials to make the criteria more consistent and transparent and recruiting new state/regional reps for the new committee appointments.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Reviewed the revised AASLH Standards and Ethics Statement and recommended Council update bullet G in the Human Resources section by adding language now used by other organizations and agencies. As a result of the committee's discussion about need to help AASLH members balance object conservation with an evolving sense of audience engagement, Bill Adair proposed the session, "How Many Quaker Bonnets Does it Take?" for Austin. The committee also began discussing the StEPS Enhancement Project to ensure that the program and best practices it promulgates stay current; committee members will meet in Austin to review feedback about the current StEPs workbook content collected from program participants and members of the Field Services Alliance affinity group and discuss next steps.

SHA and SHA Alumni Committee

SHA Alumni Committee continues to advise AASLH on the program. They are about to embark upon a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of one person's SHA attendance. They've launched a Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374460166278675/> and have helped identify additional testimonials [https://historyleadership.org/testimonials /studenttestimonials/](https://historyleadership.org/testimonials/studenttestimonials/). We have also recently hired Max van Balgooy as SHA director.

Affinity Group Committees

Corporate History

Chaired by Sarah Lund-Goldstein, Corporate History, is working on building interest beyond the 2017 Annual Meeting to build ranks and add more potential committee members. Primarily, they will rebrand as the Business History Affinity Group, rather than Corporate, as this update allows them to include other AASLH members that may have significant corporate, branded, and occupation related holdings to have a home in the group. They also plan to update their section of the website with better descriptions and will continue to write blog posts.

Court and Legal History

Main focus currently is to recruit new committee members, as the majority of the current roster is scheduled to roll off by October 1, 2017. Plans include reaching out to several Texas based legal history professionals in Austin, and other legal history professionals at Austin.

Educators and Interpreters

Educators and Interpreters continue to plan for its events at the Annual Meeting including its roundtable session and luncheon.

Emerging History Professionals

Group is organizing its second annual mentoring session. EHP also will host a mixer and provide an EHP guide to the annual meeting. Additionally, the group is working on launching an EHP-focused series of webinars for AASLH, as well as a digital resource library that will house materials related to EHP professionalization and education. The committee continues to post content on its AASLH blog and Twitter feed, and will likely host another #AASLHChat with AASLH, which it did for the first time last fall. EHP also intends to conduct an outreach campaign in order to understand how it can better serve AASLH's EHPs, as well as how to recruit new EHP members to the organization.

Field Services Alliance

The Field Services Alliance Committee held their Spring Training Meeting in Buffalo on March 21-21. They are planning a series of blog post based on frequently asked questions received by field services offices and will be working with AASLH staff to develop a series of online discussion forums based on an "Ask the Expert" format. They are planning a half-day meeting in Austin which will include a presentation from Cherie Cook on the StEPs Enhancement Project.

Historic House Museums

This Historic House Affinity Committee is focused on populating the historic house blog and developing four Historic House Calls webinars in 2017. The first webinar for the year was "Risk Assessment for Historic Houses" on March 2 followed by "How to Preserve Your Historic Building" on May 11. Next Historic House Call will be in the late summer and focus on developing dialogue-based interpretation. They will also be holding a workshop, session, and breakfast in Austin.

Military History

The Military History Affinity Committee, chaired by Marc Blackburn, is finalizing their speaker on WWI for their 2017 Annual Meeting breakfast. Committee members Gordon Blaker and Claire Samuelson have also teamed up to host the 2018 Collections Camp: Military Collections workshop at the Army Transportation Museum in Virginia. The group is also working towards finding new members to add to the committee.

Nomenclature

Nomenclature is a task force that works as an Affinity Group. It is still working on ways to get the lexicon available more widely. They supported a proposal by the Canadian Heritage Information Network to “free” the database from the paid tier. This is an ongoing discussion.

Religious History

The Religious History Affinity group has focused on its blog which has centered around the theme of relevance for the last several months. They are also holding a session and breakfast or lunch in Austin as well as participating in a tour to San Antonio during the conference that visits the historic missions. They also are actively searching for new committee members who represent a non-Judeo/Christian history perspective and welcome any suggestions.

Small Museums

Small Museums Committee has raised \$5600 for scholarships to Austin, enough to send 11 people to the conference. The committee is soliciting applications for the scholarships and has once again set its review panel/process and has already selected its speaker and content for the Austin meeting.

Women's History

The Women's History Affinity Group is planning their luncheon at the Annual Meeting, focused on the direction of the committee beyond 2017. Chairs Rebecca Price and Page Harrington are also planning on reaching out to possible new members for the 2017-2019 cycle. The group is continuing working toward hosting an #AASLHchat or a webinar on women's history interpretation in the future.

Task Forces

Creative and Experimental Task Force

The task force, chaired by Sarah Pharaon, will hold its first meeting in early June. One of its first priorities will be to review the StEPs program to see how a stronger spirit of creativity and experimentation can be added to the program during its enhancement.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

The task force, chaired by Marian Carpenter, is in the process of planning their session and mixer at the Annual Meeting. They were approached by the Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums to host a roundtable on the state of inclusivity in our field. The committee is also looking to add new members before August and begin developing projects for the committee in 2017-2018.

Advocacy Task Force

Has recently found its first chair, Leigh Grinstead, and will be meeting soon.

Task Force on the 250th

Formed last year, this group met during the 2016 Annual Meeting in Detroit but has not met since. The new external relations coordinator on staff will help organize the group.