



Overview of Committee Reports

June 2018

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Committee *Chair: David Simmons, Billings Farm.* Meets in December to February.

Editorial Advisory Board *Chair: Rebecca Shrum, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.* Refocusing the book series with an emphasis on publishing high quality, high impact texts. The board has begun weighing in on new procedures and documents for the review of proposals and manuscripts. The Editorial Board will meet at the annual meeting to develop a new strategic framework to guide AASLH's book publishing.

Elections Committee *Chair: Don Zuris, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.* One-person committee. Confirms that ballots have been counted by online firm, Association Voting. Reports results at Meeting of the Membership at Annual Meeting.

Finance Committee *Chair: Norman Burns, Conner Prairie.* Met once since the February Council meeting, and minutes are included in the Council information packet. It accepted the FY2019 budget and sends it on to Council.

Governance Committee *Chair: Kim Fortney, National History Day.* Updating the AASLH Constitution and Bylaws in two phases: minor changes to the Bylaws first, and then more substantive changes to both and a review to align them with D.C. nonprofit code, which changed in 2012. Executive Committee created a Governing Documents Task Force which will include members of Council and members of Emeritus Council (Jim Gardner, Doug Evelyn, and Anne McCudden volunteered) to finish the process of updating the Constitution and Bylaws.

Investment Committee *Chair: Ann Toplovich, Tennessee Historical Society.* Met once since the February Council meeting and minutes are included in the Council information packet. It next plans to consider rebalancing holdings across the various Vanguard accounts.

Leadership Nominating Committee *Chair: Lisa Anderson, Woodbury Art Museum at Utah Valley University.* Concluded its work on the 2018 ballot and will be reconvening after the Annual Meeting. Committee wants to explore new ways of fostering leadership development among members while also drawing in potential leaders who are new to AASLH. Committee chair recommends increasing the size of the committee (bylaws change) to broaden ability to use personal/professional networks.

National Awards Committee *Chair: Nicholas Hoffman, Missouri Historical Society.* Met in Nashville on May 2-4 to choose this year's award winners. The committee reviewed 81 nominations and awarded 44 Awards of Merit, one Albert B. Corey Award, and three History in Progress Awards (HIP). They submitted a memo to Council asking for advice regarding award criteria. The memo is included in the Council packer. Over the summer, they will be reviewing the nomination materials to make the criteria more consistent and transparent, recruiting new state/regional reps for the new committee appointments, and reviewing the nomination process for the Award of Distinction.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee *Chair: Sally Yerkovich, Seton Hall University.*

Reviewing public comments about AASLH's Statement of Professional Standards & Ethics. A draft of recommended changes will be provided to Council at its September meeting. A review of AASLH's Capitalization of Collections position paper has recently begun. The committee continues to monitor issues in the field, particularly deaccessioning. Committee chair, Sally Yerkovich, will moderate the session "Will Deaccessioning Save Your Museum?" at this year's Annual Meeting.

OTHER COMMITTEES and TASK FORCES

Annual Meeting Program Committee *Chair: Tim Grove, Grove History Consulting.* Working with session chairs to finalize session information and build excitement 2018 meeting.

Annual Meeting Host Committee *Co-Chairs: Mindi Love, Johnson County Museum, and Matt Naylor, National WWI Museum and Memorial.* Actively working to prepare for the September 2018 meeting, writing blogs, recruiting volunteers and exhibitors, and promoting the conference. Thanks to the William T. Kemper Foundation, they are funding 20 scholarships for the conference. The scholarship is open to full-time, part-time, and volunteer staff from institutions in the region comprising Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Iowa. Preference will be given to people who expand the diversity of the conference in areas such as ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and organizational capacity to support the conference's theme "Truth or Consequences."

Climate and Sustainability Task Force (NEW) *Chair: Sarah Sutton, Independent Consultant.* Conducting a resource review, and, over the next few months, will prepare a brief survey and interviews for the membership on interests and needs. They see the greatest opportunities in these areas: 1) creating a CAP/MAP III-like approach to assessing an institution's internal and community-facing opportunities to enhance its environmental practice and climate response, 2) developing a framework for prioritizing an institution's next steps among the opportunities for sustainability work, 3) developing a framework for aligning levels or scale of work in a continuum of systems from institutional to global, and 4) providing a draft policy statement establishing the importance of broad, multi-level commitments to sustainability and climate preparedness.

Collections Management Systems Task Force *Chair: Julie Kemper, Kentucky Historical Society.* Formed a year ago to map the landscape of software choices for managing museum collections (from PastPerfect to open source, from server-based to cloud-based) and to make recommendations to AASLH about how to educate members about choosing a system. Group waited for the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) to complete its massive review of CMSs and will build a Technical Leaflet and other AASLH resources in collaboration with CHIN.

Creative and Experimental Task Force *Chair: Sarah Pharaon, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.* The task force has not met since February. Some task force members are involved in the StEPs Enhancement project to inject a creative and experimental spirit into the program.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force *Chair: Marian Carpenter, John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art.* Council approved making this task force a standing committee, which requires bylaws change. The group is planning a workshop, session, and mixer for the 2018 Annual Meeting. They will also be presenting a session as part of the online conference.

History Leadership Institute Advisory Board (NEW), and SHA/HLI Alumni Committee (*No chairs currently.*) Board consists of Partner organizations that contribute \$5,000 annually. Committee is alumni of the SHA program. In March, the Partners of the SHA changed the program's name to the History Leadership Institute and voted to allow AASLH to take ownership. Thanks to a strong promotional push, the board will be reviewing 19 applications for this HLI's 2018 class, a 50% increase over 2017 and a three-year high for applications. Board will work with staff to address issues of diversity in the program, including not only racial and ethnic diversity of participants but geographic spread and size of institutions.

Inclusive Historians Handbook Editorial Board *Will Walker, Cooperstown; Modupe Labode, IUPUI; and Bob Weible, NY State Historian emeritus.* Group has assembled a team of authors for this online project, will host a session at the Annual Meeting in Kansas City, and plans to publish in 2019.

Task Force on the 250th *Chair: Sara Cureton, New Jersey Historical Commission.* Has been working to develop field-wide goals to align the work of history organizations planning for the 250th anniversary, and to work with other major stakeholders to ensure that history plays a central role in the commemoration. Is building grassroots support for its five goals, and will serve as clearinghouse of information about the 250th anniversary as more organizations turn their attention to 2026.

AFFINITY GROUP COMMITTEES

Business History *Chair: Sarah Lund-Goldstein, Independent Consultant.* Planning a happy hour meet-up for the Kansas City meeting along with a session on corporate partnerships. Also sponsoring a tour on Wednesday to the Hallmark Archives and Visitors Center and the Federal Reserve's Money Museum.

Legal History *Chair: Rachael L. Drenovsky, Michigan Supreme Court.* Main focus currently is to recruit new committee members, as the number of active group members is small. They are hosting a session in Kansas City and an offsite roundtable at the Whittaker U.S. Courthouse.

Educators and Interpreters *Chair: Megan Wood, Ohio History Connection.* In preparation for the Annual Meeting, AASLH E&I is collaborating with AAM's EdCom to do an EdConversation, a virtual discussion, in August, based on the MASS Action toolkit developed over the last few years out of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Will use the EdConversation as a pilot to seed the discussion we'll have at our E&I Committee session at the Annual Meeting in September.

Emerging History Professionals *Chair: Lauren O'Brien, PhD Student, Rutgers University-Newark.* EHP is working on 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. They will be hosting a networking meet up in Kansas City.

Field Services Alliance *Chair: Jeanette Rooney, Indiana Historical Society.* The Field Services Alliance Committee held their Spring Training Meeting in Salt Lake City on March 19-20. They brought in a consultant to work with them to start developing a logic model for Field Services Offices to use to evaluate their services and working with their clients. They are planning a half-day meeting in Kansas City to continue the project.

Historic House Museums *Chair: Joshua Torrance, Woodlawn.* This Historic House Affinity Committee is focused on conducting four Historic House Calls webinars in 2018. The first webinar for the year was “Immersive Education in Historic Houses” on March 21. The next Historic House Call will be in the late summer and focus on Christmas in July: Holiday Planning. They will also be holding a session and breakfast in Kansas City. The breakfast will be a listening session to find out what members would like from the affinity group.

Military History *Chair: Marc Blackburn, National Park Service.* The Military History Affinity Committee will be conducting an Annual Meeting session on programming around the Vietnam War, and do a breakfast with the curator of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Committee members Gordon Blaker and Claire Samuelson, along with past committee member Myers Brown, will be conducting the June 2018 Collections Camp: Military Collections workshop at the Army Transportation Museum in Virginia. The group is also looking for new members.

Nomenclature *Chair: Paul Bourcier, Wisconsin Historical Society.* Nomenclature is a task force that works as an Affinity Group. This spring they supported a proposal by the Canadian Heritage Information Network to “free” the database from the paid tier. This resulted in the sale of the rights of Nomenclature to CHIN. The continuing role of the task force is an ongoing discussion.

Religious History *Chair: Karen Graham Wade, Community of Christ Historic Foundation.* Has met twice since February. It will be holding a session in Kansas City that will be included in the online conference as well as participate in a tour to Independence during the conference that visits a Community of Christ site. They are also hosting a lunch at the meeting. They also are actively searching for new committee members who represent a non-Judeo/Christian history perspective and were happy to add a committee member representing the Muslim faith this year.

Small Museums *Chair: Melissa Prycer, Dallas Heritage Village.* The group is eager to support the work surrounding the StEPs Enhancement project. They are preparing for the Annual Meeting and looking forward to helping small museums connect with each other in Kansas City. Opportunities for working with small museums in the AASLH membership include increasing financial stability and relevance to the community. Smaller organizations can certainly be more nimble and seize these opportunities as they arise.

Women’s History *Co-Chairs: Page Harrington, National Women’s Party, and Rebecca Price, Chick History.* The Women’s History Affinity Group is planning two sessions and a luncheon for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Sessions: 1) panel discussion on how gender and race are interpreted at historic house museums (jointly with Historic House Affinity Group), and 2) roundtable to discuss and gather feedback for a 2020 Value Statement that will offer guidance, best practices, and opportunities for interpreting the centennial of the 19th Amendment in 2020. WHAG will also host a luncheon with Kimberlee Ried of NARA confirmed as the guest speaker. Work continues on the 2020 Value Statement. Council liaisons Mari Carpenter and Jennifer Kilmer will participate in the roundtable in Kansas City. Founding Co-Chairs Rebecca Price and Page Harrington will step down as Co-Chairs and Jennifer Krafchik and Megan Byrnes will assume the roles. Rebecca and Page will continue to serve on the committee to ensure continuity for the group during the transition.