

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met for two afternoons of discussion and planning, **June 22 and 23**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Norman Burns (Conner Prairie) led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Welcomed new interim appointment Council member, James Pepper Henry (First Americans Museum), who will be completing a 2020-2024 term on Council that had been vacant for several months.
2. Discussed the financial reports for July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Treasurer, Rebekah Beaulieu (Florence Griswold Museum), reported that Investments stood at \$2,505,724, Total Assets at \$2,952,842, Total Liabilities at \$422,291, and Net Assets of \$2,530,551. Because of low attendance at the Annual Conference last fall and the resulting hit to the budget, AASLH drew \$55,000 from its cash reserve. At the end of the third quarter (3/31) the net operating surplus was slightly below expectations. AASLH might qualify for an Employee Retention Credit, to be received in 3-6 months, which is well into next fiscal year. Staff forecasted that by the current fiscal year's end (6/30) there will be a net surplus.
3. Voted to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee: revenues of \$1,829,958 and expenses of \$1,825,979, for a surplus of \$3,979.
4. Discussed recent initiatives of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee as presented by its chair, Richard Josey (Collective Journeys, LLC), including the launch of an Affinity Community online discussion forum and reviewing survey data about AASLH committees and diversity. Discussion included the topic of trauma-informed care for staff, volunteers, and visitors of history organizations.
5. Received a report on the beginning stage of a multi-year fundraising campaign to promote inclusive history and to reach and serve small history organizations, which will help the field prepare for the country's Semiquincentennial.
6. Approved the president's proposal to seek admission for AASLH to an insurance-providing consortium which would create a new benefit of membership.
7. On the second day of the meeting, discussed the components of the current AASLH strategic plan and focused on outcomes for the next four years leading up to July 2026.
8. Voted to elevate "reaching and serving small history organizations," which has been a staff priority for several years, to become a fifth overarching goal in the AASLH strategic plan.