

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday, **March 2, 2023**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Burt Logan led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the September 14, 2022, Council Meeting in Buffalo, New York.
2. Approved the Chair's appointment of Ken Turino to take the vacant seat on Council for a term ending in September 2025.
3. Received the draft slate of 2023 election candidates provided by Leadership Nominating Committee Chair Christy Coleman.
4. Decided to schedule the March 2024 Council meeting in Washington, D.C., so that Council members can participate in Museums Advocacy Day and to schedule the June 2024 Council meeting at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, as invited by the museum's CEO and Council member Jim Pepper Henry.
5. Heard a report on the Making History Matter comprehensive fundraising campaign, its progress to date, and plans for publicly launching the campaign in spring 2023. The campaign is for \$1 million over the next five years, of which 32 percent has been raised.
6. Heard the President and CEO's report on staffing and programs. AASLH's twelve-person staff will soon include five people who remote work from states outside of Tennessee, where AASLH has been headquartered since 1964. Professional development programs continue to grow, and AASLH hired a new History Leadership Director, Andrea Jones, who replaced Max van Balgooy. AASLH's fifth annual National Visitation Survey was underway for the spring, and the Reframing History project will generate two virtual workshops in April and June. Also this spring, the Standards and Ethics Committee will release a report on how to work with friends groups, and AASLH will provide a toolkit for dealing with gender discrimination and sexual harassment. In the next issue of *History News*, appearing in March, there will be the 300th instance of a Technical Leaflet; the topic: "Forming a Local 250th Commission."
7. Discussed AASLH's advocacy efforts, including the issuance of a second statement (February 2, 2023) on opposing censorship in history education. The town hall on "Historical Thinking Under Fire" at the Buffalo Annual Conference has led to an informal working group to create resources for opposing censorship. AASLH continues to participate in coalitions, such as Learn from History, the Educating for American Democracy history ecosystem group, and the National Coalition for History and the National Humanities Alliance. Council also discussed AASLH's support of and involvement in the American Alliance of Museums Advocacy Day.
8. Heard the President and CEO's report on planning and projects for the nation's 250th. AASLH is using the approaching 250th as a key opportunity to help American society progress

towards justice through an inclusive approach to history and as a key opportunity to strengthen the history field by attracting interest and investment. With generous support from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, AASLH coordinates state 250th commissions; fosters coordination among national associations, federal agencies, and state organizations; creates a virtual summit and webinars on interpretive approaches to the 250th; and offers sessions, workshops, and meetings at the AASLH conference and other events.

9. Discussed a new format of meetings for AASLH, the Virtual Summit. There will be three Virtual Summits planned by staff and advisory committees in 2023: “Commemoration Reconsidered: Ethics, Justice, and America’s 250th Anniversary,” April 27-28; “Rethinking the Historic House Museum,” June 21-22; and “Toward Common Ground and New National Narrative,” November 8-9.
10. Reviewed the financial reports and Finance and Investment committees’ minutes for the first half (through December 31, 2022) of the fiscal year, which runs July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Cash was \$327,889, accounts receivable at \$129,350, investments at \$2,326,474 and total assets at \$2,829,308. Expenses were in line with expectations.
11. Approved a Revised FY2023 Budget, at this halfway point in the year, which took into account several major adjustments, including the following: new revenues from the Pomeroy Foundation grant, subleasing rent, the IMLS cooperative agreement, a grant from the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, and two Virtual Summits before the end of June 2023; reduced revenues from the Annual Conference in Buffalo and moving development campaign funds from the budget to the Endowment; and increased expenses due to new staff, remote working, and programmatic costs of the two Virtual Summits.
12. Approved a set of three-year revisions to the AASLH Financial Policies and Procedures Manual. These were updates to the names and titles of employees, names of financial institutions and types of investments, timing of procedures, names of current HR provider and employee payroll, benefits, and insurance information, etc.
13. Voted to accept the Independent Auditors’ Report for Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, PLLC, Brentwood, Tennessee, and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee on February 15, 2023. (Audit Committee is Cathy Fields, Chair, Litchfield Historical Society; David Simmons, Woodstock Foundation; and Mindi Love, Independent). The auditors did not identify any deficiencies or weaknesses.