



Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Sunday, February 24, 2019, immediately prior to the American Alliance of Museums' Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. The Council convened at Dumbarton House and began with a half-day workshop based on the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessment and conducted by the Winters Group LLC. A Winters Group facilitator provided foundational instruction on cultural competence and equity and guided discussion about unconscious bias. Council will continue to address these issues in its own functioning and that of the organization.

After lunch, the Council meeting continued, led by AASLH Chair John Fleming, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the Chair's appointment to Council of Richard Josey, Collective Journeys LLC, to complete the 2018-2021 term of Trina Nelson Thomas.
2. Approved the minutes from the September 26, 2018, Council Meeting during the AASLH Annual Meeting in Kansas City.
3. Accepted the Independent Auditors' Report for Years Ended June 30, 2018 and 2017. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, Certified Public Accountants, Brentwood, Tennessee, and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee on January 15, 2019. The auditors did not identify any deficiencies or weaknesses.
4. Accepted financial reports from the Finance Committee, including the Financial Dashboard (12/31/2018), Statement of Financial Position, Summary Statement of Activities, and the Report on Investments. Council also reviewed minutes from the Finance Committee (12/5/2018 and 2/6/2019) and the Investment Committee minutes (11/28/2018 and 2/1/2019).
5. Heard the report from Treasurer Brent Ott and President & CEO John Dichtl on finances, investments. For the first half of FY2019 (July 1-December 31, 2018), operating budget total revenue was \$1,140,791 and expenses were \$894,158. The revenue from membership was \$25,890 ahead of budget and \$49,000 ahead of the same six-month period the previous year. This is due to the restructuring of institutional dues, which kept rates the same or lowered them for the smallest institutions and tied rates for larger institutions to the size of their operating budgets. Annual Meeting net surplus was as budgeted and will increase once a large outstanding payment from a vendor is received. Notable changes on the expense side were the creation of two new staff positions in the

past two years and a sizeable investment in technology for the continuing education program and ongoing improvements to the new website, including addressing accessibility issues. As of 12/31/2018, the endowment stood at 1,679,614.

6. Heard a report on the Annual Fund. For the fall 2018 campaign, AASLH members contributed \$26,238, leaving \$13,762 of the \$40,000 budgeted to be raised this spring. Council members present at the meeting pledged a total of \$4,150 toward the spring campaign. The focus of the spring effort will be on expanding our donor pool by acquiring first-time contributors.
7. Heard a report from AASLH Continuing Education Manager Natalie Flammia on two initiatives. The first is an IMLS-funded project to create a new framework for AASLH's continuing education and professional development program. This will improve connections between and the focus of our webinars, online courses, workshops, and related programs such as the History Leadership Institute. The second report was on the staff's extensive efforts in the past nine months to make AASLH's web content more accessible to people with disabilities.
8. Declared unanimous support for the proposal from the History Leadership Institute (HLI) Advisory Board and the staff to move the seminar currently scheduled for November 2019 to June 2020 and to hold the program each June thereafter. Since 2004, the program has been offered over the course of three weeks in November, making this the first time in fifteen years the program has undergone a major structural change. Staff conducted research on similar professional development programs as well as completed a survey on the needs, interests, and motivations to attend the HLI both by alumni and AASLH members who have never attended. The survey found that potential applicants were more likely to apply to a program in the summer, rather than in November. This shift to the summer also opens many new possibilities for enhancement of the program.
9. Discussed the progress of the Governance Committee's Governing Documents Task Force, which is working with an attorney to align the AASLH Constitution and Bylaws with changes in the District of Columbia's Nonprofit Code. Council will review a detailed final version at its June meeting, before bringing to the membership.
10. Katherine Kane outlined the steps for the strategic planning process which will be the focus of the Council's meeting in June. The Council meeting will be hosted by The Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida.

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