

Overview of Committees

February 2017

Annual Meeting Host Committee

The host committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting is actively working to secure sponsorships, plan activities, and build excitement for the Austin conference. As of early February, they were very close to reaching their fundraising goals. AASLH staff is working with the committee to finalize tours and marketing materials in time for the printing of the conference's preliminary program.

Annual Meeting Program Committee

The program committee met on January 21 in Austin to review a record 170 session proposals and form the program for the 2017 AASLH Annual Meeting. Dina Bailey, program chair, led the meeting as the group reviewed sessions according to the goals of the AASLH strategic plan. The committee chose 87 sessions, workshops, labs, and current issues forums for the 2017 program. They are currently working with session chairs to finalize session information and build excitement for #AASLH17.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met on January 23 with a representative from the auditing firm. The report noted no material deficiencies on internal controls and AASLH received a commendation from the audit firm for the openness of staff during the audit process. The Audit Committee discussed the need to review the audit firm as noted in AASLH Financial Policies and Procedures Manual and decided to wait until 2018 to review AASLH's relationship with the current firm.

Editorial Advisory Board

The Editorial Board has updated its job description and that of the series editor. Rebecca Shrum of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis is new series editor. The previous series editor, Russell Lewis, remains as an Editorial Board member. Statistics from 2016:

- **Books Published:** 16, which is 320% of low end of goal and 160% of high end. Best year ever.
- **New contracts issued:** 20 contracts signed, 200% of low end of goal; 100% of high end
- **Sales:** 11,022 net units sold (an 11% increase over prior year)

Finance Committee

The finance committee met twice since the September Council meeting and minutes are included in the Council information packet.

Investment Committee

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

National Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is hard at work preparing for the March 1 awards deadline. Staff held online training for committee members in December and a general information webinar for the committee as well as anyone interested in submitting an award in January. The regional representatives will meet in Nashville on May 3-5 to choose this year's award winners. Committee also worked with Council to review and revise the criteria for the Award of Distinction, and committee created a "What is Good History" document to help clarify criteria for the general award and incorporated the association's strategic goals into their award documents.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Since last September, Max van Balgooy has been writing an article on fraud for *History News* as part of the committee's work to raise awareness of fraud and offer information on prevention. The committee will hold a conference call on February 17 to discuss work on the upcoming technical leaflet on fraud; standards related to preservation/conservation needs of objects and changing sense of audience engagement needs; the changes in 2016 to the AASLH Professional Standards and Ethics Statement, and the committee's involvement with the StEPs enhancement project that begins this year.

SHA and SHA Alumni Committee

SHA Class of 2016 graduated in November and contained 18 members. John Durel stepped down as SHA coordinator and we are currently in interview processes for a new person to manage SHA onsite in Indianapolis. SHA Alumni Committee raised more than \$6,000 for scholarships in 2016, covering tuition and lodging for two seminarians. The Alumni Committee is working now on better developing its Facebook Group, regularly blogging, edits/updates to the SHA website, and recruiting for the next class.

Affinity Group Committees

Corporate History:

The Corporate History Affinity Committee is working on developing a tour for the Annual Meeting. Their other events include a happy hour and session. The groups hope to build interest beyond the Annual Meeting in order to build ranks and add more potential committee members, mostly through writing more blog posts.

Court and Legal History:

Court and Legal History, chaired by Rachael Drenovsky is also finalizing their annual meeting activities, including a session and Happy Hour. Their primary goal in the next year 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 Texas based legal history professionals in Austin.

Educators and Interpreters:

Educators and Interpreters Committee is finalizing its annual meeting roundtable session, one of the following topics: migration and immigration, engaging Latino communities (often lacking at AASLH) in the context of museum and/or history education, and/or the Alamo's proposed new interpretation with a contested history.

Emerging History Professionals:

The Emerging History Professionals Affinity Community has big plans for 2017. They have decided to meet by conference call monthly to stay on track and are expanding their committee with an eye for diversity in gender, race, and geography. Their priority project is a framework to help them progressively address issues of race and diversity in the field while being consistent with AASLH's official stances. In addition to repeating their popular mentoring roundtable at the 2017 Annual Meeting, they are actively thinking about ways to connect students and new professionals to the rest of the AASLH community digitally to keep the cost barrier down for these members.

Field Services Alliance:

The Field Services Alliance Committee has met twice since Detroit. They planned a session for the Austin meeting on caring for collections on a budget. They also will be holding 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.

Historic House Museums:

This Historic House Affinity Committee welcomed several new members following the Detroit meeting including a new chair, Joshua Torrance. The committee is focused on populating the historic house blog and developing four Historic House Calls webinars in 2017. The first webinar for the year will be “Risk Assessment for Historic Houses” on March 2. They will also be holding a workshop, session, and breakfast in Austin.

Military History:

The Military History Affinity Committee, chaired by Marc Blackburn, has been busy at work developing their events for the 2017 Annual Meeting. They are also beginning a rotation of blog posts written by committee members to be released quarterly. In the coming weeks, the Committee will also be testing AASLH’s Group system in order to be in better communication with the larger Military History Affinity Group.

Religious History:

The Religious History Affinity Committee gained a new chair in October, Karen Wade. The committee has met twice and is focused on the religious history blog. The blog for 2017 will continue the discussion the committee started in 2016 on the relevance of religious history and several committee members will write about that topic. 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.

Small Museums:

Small Museums Committee is gearing up for the annual meeting. It has identified a speaker for its annual luncheon, Evan Thompson, Executive Director of Preservation Texas. It has also arranged the Small Museum scholarship review process and begun work on its fundraising campaign for the scholarship for 2017. In 2016, the committee granted 8 scholarships of \$500.

Women’s History:

The Women’s History Affinity Group is planning for several events at the Annual Meeting. Chairs Rebecca Price and Page Harrington are leading efforts to find viable tour locations that highlight Latina History in the Austin area. They are holding a planning meeting in Austin in order to determine the future of the committee and larger affinity group. The group is also working toward hosting a #AASLHchat in the future.

Task Forces

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force:

The task force had its first meeting on February 15, in which they discussed the scope and mission of the group. Chaired by Marian Carpenter, there are currently eight members to the Task Force, which they hope to grow in the next few months. They also plan for activities in Austin, including a mixer and a committee meeting.