

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Tuesday afternoon, December 14, 2021, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Norman Burns led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the September 22, 2021, Council Meeting.
2. Welcomed new Council members Leo Landis, Roberta Carothers, Luis Fernandez, and Richard Josey and discussed the schedule of Council meetings in 2022: January 20, March 24, June 22-23, September 14, and November 15.
3. Heard a financial report from staff on the 2021 Annual Meeting in Little Rock and the Online Conference. Budget expectations for the two meetings had been to end up with over \$50,000 in net profit, but, due to reduced attendance and registration revenue caused by COVID-19, there was a net deficit of about \$3,000. The Finance Committee therefore recommended designating \$55,000 of the previous fiscal year's annual surplus in the cash reserve fund for covering the deficit, should it be needed at the fiscal year's end.
4. Approved the staff proposal to meet jointly with the National Council on Public History (NCPH) in 2026, with the probable location being Washington, D.C. The conference will mark the culmination of nearly a decade of Semiquincentennial discussions and planning within AASLH and across the history community, will be a special moment to celebrate the 250th, and will provide an opportunity for AASLH and NCPH members to contemplate the future of the public history field.
5. Discussed the President & CEO's report and how AASLH programs and operations are serving the four goals of the strategic plan: to build inclusion and equity in the history community, promote the relevance of history, advance history practice through professional development for all levels of the field, and connect the history community to field-wide questions and each other. Highlights include completing the Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment survey report with the NCPH, submitting a new grant proposal to NEH for the 250th that would serve small museums, launching AASLH's Reframing History report on February 22, continuing talks to acquire new leadership courses, and preparing to facilitate the annual State Historical Administrators Meeting.
6. Discussed the results of the Council's Biannual Survey of its members and focused on questions involving the roles of Council and Council members, how decisions are made and where accountability resides, and how meetings should be structured.