

## **Actions of Council**

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday afternoon, **January 20, 2022**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Norman Burns led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Heard a financial report for July 1 to November 30 from Treasurer, Rebeka Beaulieu, based on the January 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. Investments as of November 30 were \$2,439,685. Short-Term Liabilities were \$411,043; Net Assets were \$2,483,426; and Total Liabilities & Net Assets were \$2,894,469. Membership revenue was ahead of budget by \$77,884, Fundraising was behind through November but caught up by December; Annual Meeting revenue was down due to the pandemic. Expenses were as expected, except those directly affected by COVID-19, such as conferences and cancelled in-person events. The running net surplus in the operating budget through November was as expected.
2. Approved proposed changes to the Employee Handbook regarding the policy for working or not working during inclement weather. Since most of the staff members are now working remotely, from home, all or most of the time, the AASLH “office” will no longer shut down automatically when State of Tennessee offices close due to bad weather.
3. Discussed AASLH’s involvement and staff, Council’s, and members’ participation in AAM’s Museum Advocacy Day. AASLH is a Leader sponsor of the event each year and encourages everyone in the field to speak up for museums through Museum Advocacy Day.
4. Reviewed plans for AASLH’s release on 2/22/2022 of its Reframing History report and toolkit and the 2/26/2022 live-streamed launch event at the National Museum of American History, as well as plans for the 2/1/2022 live-streamed special address by AASLH President & CEO John Dichtl about AASLH’s plans for the 250<sup>th</sup>.
5. Approved a memorandum of agreement for acquiring new leadership courses as part of AASLH’s professional development program, which serves practitioners whether they are volunteers or in the beginning, middle, or advanced stages of a history career.
6. Heard the presentation by John Dichtl on the findings of the 2021 Membership Survey in the context of AASLH surveys in 1979, 2008, 2011, and 2015. Highlights include that 69% of the 2021 respondents are female, 51% are 55 years or older, and 90% are white—though the percentage identifying as Black, American Indian, Latino, and Asian American/Pacific Islander has increased in the past 5 years. Geographic representation approximates the U.S. Census Bureau’s regional distributions, though AASLH membership is slightly stronger in the Midwest and Northeast and weaker for the West. History museums at 46% make up the single largest affiliation, but 54% of respondents were not at museums. Further details about demographics and responses to questions about perceptions of AASLH, motivations to join, benefits of membership and other matters will be shared in the coming months.