

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 – 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report: Partnership for the American
Historical Record (PAHR) Task Force
(Prepared by Kathleen Roe, Chair of the Joint Task Force)**

BACKGROUND

In an e-mail message to Council Liaison Tom Frusciano and Executive Director Nancy Beaumont, PAHR Task Force Chair Kathleen Roe indicated that the following summary of PAHR can be shared with the Council, and that, “Part of our intent with this document is to first get agreement from SAA, CoSA, and NAGARA on the directions, then develop a piece we can share with all of our organizational members so they know where things are going and that we've not simply ‘shut down’ because of an intransigent Congress.”

PROPOSED APPROACH TO ACTIVITIES

PAHR Legislation:

1. Work with PAHR bill sponsors in the House and Senate to reintroduce the legislation in the 112th Congress.
 - Work with the archival community / PAHR-supporting organizations to get former sponsors to sign on again.
 - Make modest effort to request additional members of Congress to sign on as co-sponsors.
2. Assess PAHR and whether the components of the bill can be broken into pieces for which funding can be pursued.

Action Relating to Federal Funding for Archives:

1. NHPRC authorization and appropriation:
 - Prepare a statement that the boards of SAA, CoSA, and NAGARA can sign on to that emphasizes the need for NHPRC’s limited funding to focus on areas considered by the archives community to be the most essential at this time (within the parameters of NHPRC legislation).

- Discuss with Archivist of the United States David Ferriero and NHPRC Executive Director Kathleen Williams the importance of NHPRC funding focusing on program parameters identified by PAHR.
 - If funding can be focused more directly on “setting the stage” for PAHR, our organizations should advocate actively for \$10 million in funding for NHPRC in the next fiscal year.
2. Explore other federal funding options to increase support for archival records activities:
 - Meet with heads of granting agencies to which archival repositories commonly apply for funding to consider how programs might be more effectively used by or focused on archival programs. Initial potential agencies include Institute of Museum and Library Services and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Action Relating to Nonfederal Funding for Archives:

1. Assess other approaches to achieving increased funding for archives nationwide. Options might include: establishing a foundation/endowment or seeking funding from a private foundation or corporation for funding of projects with nationwide significance.

Strengthening the Capacity for Archival Advocacy:

1. Develop and deliver advocacy training to better position archivists to take action now and in the future.
2. Develop an online advocacy network, employing social media or other options for providing updates, action alerts, and dissemination of information on advocacy issues.
3. Identify potential “champions” in key committees in Congress and work on building support for archives nationwide.
4. Assess the potential for and value of starting a Political Action Committee for Archives.