

Subject: AASLH Dispatch January 2016

Dispatch is AASLH's monthly member newsletter. This Annual Report issue has been sent to both members and nonmembers since it contains important fiscal information about AASLH.

Dispatch

Volume 31, Number 1, January 2016
American Association for State and Local History

Annual Report to Members 2015

From the Chair



Greetings,

This 75th anniversary year was a remarkable one for AASLH. It was a year with major accomplishments, changes, and renewed visions for what we can do as a leading membership association for the history field. At the [AASLH annual meeting in Louisville](#), we embraced the future for history and for the good history can do for education, policy, social justice, and peace. With you, I look forward to the possibility of

choices we have as history workers to push the future forward where history matters more. The History Relevance Campaign fully kicked off this year with a [landmark statement](#), which AASLH endorses in order to enrich the possibilities for a future where public policies, education systems, and lifeways more profoundly embrace the power of history and the work we do.

In the summer of 2015, we witnessed a nationwide discussion about the historical symbols and landscapes that were installed over a century ago to commemorate the memory of the American Civil War. The nation was wrapped in conversations and debates about how we have come to reconsider the meanings of statues, flags, and symbols. This winter in Louisiana the debates are still passionate and history workers are being called upon to offer perspectives on how to respond to "What happens next?" These conflicted conversations, and infinitely many more, will depend on how we do history. As we go forward with our work as members of AASLH, now more than ever, we recognize that history has the power to chart the possibilities for our future.

The positive signals from Congress at the end of 2015 are an endorsement

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the individuals and institutions who became members last month. [See the full list here.](#)

Meet a Member

The latest posts in our biweekly series spotlighting individual and institutional members are from the [Sewall-Belmont House and Museum](#) and [Jackie Peterson](#).



75th Anniversary Facts

for the role history has for our nation when the FY2016 federal funding bill was passed by Congress in December. The \$1.15 trillion omnibus appropriations package increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities for the first time in six years. Closer to home, momentum for the future is being generated by the AASLH Council's Aspirations Task Force, chaired by Katherine Kane, charged with drafting a philosophy statement to allow council to be more nimble and responsive to critical issues like those that unfolded this summer and to serve as a touchstone for conversations about the association's future. To read more and offer comments on the four core aspirations, please visit <http://blogs.aaslh.org/aaslh-aspirations/>.

The association thanks the outgoing council members Laura Casey, Bill Peterson, Susan Tissot, Jay Vogt, and Evelyn Figueroa for their excellent service and welcomes the new class of council members Dina Bailey, Marian Carpenter, Erin Carlson Mast, Sarah Pharaon, and Will Ticknor. AASLH also welcomes members of the new AASLH Emeritus Group, which is open to former Council members.

Over the past 75 years, AASLH has grown to more than 5,500 members and thousands more friends, some of whom we have recently lost including Jeanne Watson and Polly Lontz Lennon who leave behind impressive legacies of best practice for the history field. For over three quarters of a century, AASLH has been shaped by generations of history workers who were so honored to have had as members, leaders, and friends. As a member of AASLH, know that you are among like-minded professionals who see the powerful possibility for history work. Stay connected, stay engaged, and remain open to the possibilities.

Be well and make history,



Julie Rose, PhD, AASLH Council Chair

Membership Report

Membership dues are the wellspring of our efforts, comprising nearly 40 percent of AASLH's annual operating budget. In Fiscal Year 2015, AASLH served 5,554 members, generating income of \$583,916.

It is fitting that membership dues should make up such a large part of our operating budget. As an organization, we exist to serve our members, advocating for their needs on a national level and supporting their practice of history on a local level. It is precisely because of our members' innovation, expertise, and commitment that we have the reputation and authority needed to advance the field. Whether serving on volunteer committees, sharing new ideas at the Annual Meeting or working hard in local communities to make history matter, AASLH members are essential to the field of state and local history. Your membership dues allow us to continue supporting your work and gathering together passionate practitioners of history for greater collective impact. Your membership matters. Thank you for being a part of this effort.

Did you know?

Our founding vice president, Edward P. Alexander, founded the Museum Studies program at the University of Delaware?



Our founding secretary-treasurer, David C. Duniway, became the first State Archivist of Oregon?

The first editor of *State and Local History News*, Bess Glenn, became chief of the Justice and Executive branch of the National Archives?

What's Trending

We pulled together our most-read and discussed blog posts of 2015! [See the full list.](#)

Scholarship Deadline

Applications for **New Professional Scholarships** and **Diversity Fellowships** to attend a 2016 AASLH workshop are due January 22. [Apply now!](#)

Free Internship Ads

Looking for an intern for the spring semester or summer? AASLH members can post internship listings for FREE at our [Career Center!](#)

Awards Season

From the President and CEO

When I arrived on May 1 at my new job as AASLH President, I found a staff, committees, and Council deep in the process of making changes that are continuing to strengthen our great organization today. What a busy year 2015 was! We marked AASLH's 75th anniversary, brought the 75 for 75 Campaign to within steps of the finish line, and reconnected with longtime members. Each month in 2015 felt busier than the last. We experimented with new features of the annual meeting in Louisville last September while expanding formats for discussion before, during, and after the conference via social media. For the conference in Detroit this fall, we will increase the tempo while broadening the virtual and onsite discussions to include many more people in the historical community. In 2015 we built out the website to make it easier to access the many resources there for members and the field in general. We have improved communication with members and, here at 1717 Church Street, we are eagerly soaking in the data from the fall 2015 Membership Survey, which 900 of you answered.



Last year we offered dozens of webinars, workshops, and courses, as in previous years, but we also began a process to grow the curriculum. AASLH has a long history with continuing education and professional development, and in 2016 we will find ways to ensure we are serving the broadest range of people at work across the historical enterprise. You will see that our publication programs will grow and sharpen in 2016. As for both publications and continuing education, I am particularly excited that AASLH will be looking afresh at amateur/avocational historians, graduate students, and new professionals.

Our bottom line at the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) was an actual net surplus of \$154,000, which included investment gains of \$46,740. The AASLH staff and Council worked hard to keep expenses well below what was budgeted and saw revenues exceed budget by 4 percent. Some of the surplus is already being put to use. Last fall we created a new membership marketing position, began a multi-month process to implement a new membership database, and in a few months will be moving the AASLH office to a new location here in Nashville. Most important, Council designated nearly \$50,000 of the FY2015 surplus to become part of the endowment, thereby reducing the gap to restoring the endowment to about \$125,000. We are continuing to fine tune accountability systems and internal controls, and through careful investing and by generating operating budget surpluses, we expect to have fully restored the endowment within two years.

Well before 2015 closed, we made progress on the four aspirations which Council Chair Julie Rose mentioned above. Promoting the relevance of history already is permeating many of the efforts in the AASLH office and requiring my time as a member of the History Relevance Campaign's Steering and Executive committees. (Please have your organization endorse the HRC's [Value of History statement!](#)) Also, AASLH is a lead participant in the advocacy group National Coalition for History in Washington, DC, which had important achievements in 2015. But by far and away the most challenging and exciting aspiration we have is an increase in diversity and inclusiveness across AASLH and the historical community. I hope you will join us in this enriching work.

Is Here

Has your organization done something amazing this year? Organized a great exhibit, developed a community project, or published a groundbreaking book? We'd love to consider your work for a [Leadership in History Award!](#) Deadline is March 1.

Museum Advocacy Day

AAM's Museums Advocacy Day will take place February 22-23 in Washington, D.C. Help make a unified case to Congress about the importance of history museums. As an AASLH member you may register for free by using the code **MAD2016_AASLH**. [Register here.](#)

Historical Document Transcription

Are you interested in transcribing your organization's primary source documents and making them accessible to the public? Do you have questions about this process? If so, check out the [Association for Documentary Editing](#). The ADE promotes documentary editing through the cooperation and exchange of ideas among a community of editors.

Around the Office

John Dichtl, President and CEO

Finance Report

FY 2015 Audited Statements Year Ending June 30, 2015 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2015	2014
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 152,117	\$ 147,513
Grants receivable	\$ 34,077	\$ -
Accounts receivable	\$ 74,360	\$ 69,705
Other assets	\$ 71,660	\$ 96,648
Total current assets	\$ 332,214	\$ 313,866
Property and equipment	\$ 77,990	\$ 80,835
Investments, substantially restricted	\$ 1,340,584	\$ 1,362,683
Total assets	\$ 1,750,788	\$ 1,757,384

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 44,190	\$ 96,298
Unearned revenues	\$ 432,795	\$ 402,102
Other	\$ -	\$ 104,624
Total current liabilities	\$ 476,985	\$ 603,024
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	\$ (238,531)	\$ (357,974)
Permanently restricted	\$ 1,512,334	\$ 1,512,334
Total net assets	\$ 1,273,803	\$ 1,154,360

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains and other support	Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 1,436,486	-	\$ 1,436,486
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 1,436,486	-	\$ 1,436,486
Operating Expenses	\$ 755,285	-	\$ 755,285
Supporting Services	\$ 561,758	-	\$ 561,758
Total operating expenses	\$ 1,317,043	-	\$ 1,317,043
Change in net assets from operations	\$ 119,443	-	\$ 119,443
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ (357,974)	\$ 1,512,334	\$ 1,154,360
Net assets, year-end	\$ (258,531)	\$ 1,512,334	\$ 1,253,803

Statement of Cash Flow

Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,604
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 147,513
Total	\$ 152,117

Donor Report

We sincerely thank the more than 450 donors who have supported the work of AASLH. We especially appreciate your help in our 75th year. [Click here for a full list of donors.](#)

We strive for accuracy in reporting contributions and ask you to let us



Bob Beatty attended our [Reinventing the Historic House Museum](#) workshop December 14-15 at the [Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park](#) in VT.

John Dichtl attended the American Historical Association conference in Atlanta January 7-10.

Bob Beatty and **Bethany Hawkins** will meet with our [2016 Program Committee](#) in Detroit at the end of the month.

News Notes

Congratulations to your colleagues for their new jobs or promotions!

Marita Rivero, Executive Director, Museum of African American History, Boston, MA

Jim Cram, Interim Executive Director, Freeport Historical Society, Freeport, ME

Charles E. Bethea, Head Curator, Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, Baltimore, MD

Lacy Schutz, Executive Director, Shaker Museum at Mount Lebanon, New Lebanon, NY

Theresa Fitzpatrick, Membership Coordinator, Alfred P. Sloan Museum, Flint, MI

Danielle Jeanloz, Executive Director, Atwood House Museum, Chatham, MA

know (info@AASLH.org) if we have overlooked your name.

History Wins Increased Funding!

On December 10, President Obama signed the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) into law. Thank you to all the AASLH members who heeded the call to contact their Members of Congress about this important bill. The legislation includes multiple sources of funding to support improved instruction in K-12 history and civics.

The history community also fared well in the [FY2016 federal funding bill](#) that Congress passed on December 18. This \$1.15 trillion omnibus appropriations package increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities for the first time in six years, maintained support for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which had been under severe threat, upped IMLS and the Smithsonian Institution's budgets, and increased support for history in the National Park Service by \$10 million. See details at the National Coalition for History's [website](#).

Members Receive NEH Project Grants

Congratulations to the [46 AASLH members](#) that received grants in the latest funding cycle for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our members represented nearly 16 percent of the total awardees. We look forward to your success in these projects.

Last Call for Visitors Count! Surveying

Organizations that want to collect valuable data and feedback from their visitors this spring and summer using the [Visitors Count!](#) program will want to contact Cherie Cook, AASLH senior program manager, by **February 15**. Visitors Count! offers a proven survey instrument, Key Drivers, and Benchmarks. Check out the list of [more than 185 institutions](#) that have used Visitors Count! to better understand what people expect, need, and want when visiting—and what will bring them back. Contact Cherie at (573) 893-5164 or cook@aslh.org.

Upcoming Professional Development

[Leadership and Administration in History Organizations](#) runs **January 11 - March 4**. Topics include governance and administrative structure, nonprofit status, mission and vision, and board and staff responsibilities. [Developing a Membership Marketing Plan](#) on **January 13** discusses

Kate Sauers, Executive Director, Stevens County Historical Society, Morris, MN

Michael D. Hall, Executive Director, National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas, NV

Norman Burns, President and CEO, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Classifieds

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE posts notice of proposed deaccessions and items available for deaccessioning at <http://www.nps.gov/museum/deaccess/deaclist.htm>.

PDF of This Issue

Click [here](#) to view a PDF version of this issue. Members can also access PDF versions of *Dispatch* on our website.

reaching and retaining members at your organization. [StEPs Labs 5 and 6](#) will cover risk assessment and planning on **January 2** and **January 27**. [Are You Ready for Volunteers?](#) on **February 9** and [Developing a Successful Volunteer Recruitment Program](#) on **February 18** will help you build and maintain a thriving volunteer base. [See all events.](#)

Start 2016 on the Right Foot

As you plan for the upcoming year, we encourage you to [take a moment to read \(or-read\)](#) the History Relevance Campaign's Value of History Statement, share it widely, and make sure your organization has endorsed it. More than 100 organizations across the country have signed.

AASLH Career Center

Is your organization looking for a new employee? Reach the largest audience of state and local history professionals, including 5,500 AASLH members, through the [AASLH Career Center](#). More than forty positions are currently available for you to search for your next career step. Here are some jobs currently advertised on the [site](#):

Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN
Chief Curator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, TX
Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, NY State Education Department, Albany, NY
Director of Operations and Administration, William Butterworth Foundation, Moline, IL
Editor, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, MO
Executive Director, Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell, MT
Executive Director, Red Mill Museum Village, Clinton, NJ
Museum Director, Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, NE
Museum Service Coordinator, Lake Jackson Historical Association, Lake Jackson, TX
Public Historian of Slavery and African-American Life, Monticello, Charlottesville, VA

What's Going On?

Want your upcoming conference or professional development program included? Email abain@aslh.org.

Call for Papers and Proposals

[Federal History](#), the journal of the Society of History in the Federal Government, seeks articles. Rolling deadline.
[The Association of African American Museums](#) seeks session proposals for

the 2016 Annual Meeting. Deadline is January 22.

[The Journal of American Institute of Conservation](#) seeks submissions for a special issue devoted to collection care. Deadline is April 1.

Grants and Awards

[The Minnesota Historical Society](#) seeks grant applications throughout the year for projects in the state.

[The Costume Society of America](#) is accepting applications for the Small Museum Collection Care grant. Deadline is February 1.

[The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards](#) are seeking nominations. Deadline is February 2.

[AASLH](#) is seeking nominations for the 2016 Leadership in History Awards. Deadline is March 1.

[The North Caroliniana Society](#) seeks nominations for Archie K. Davis Fellowships. Deadline is March 1.

[The Nebraska State Historical Society](#) is accepting applications for \$1,000 research grants. Deadline is April 1.

Meetings and Conferences

[EUROCLIO \(European Association of History Educators\)](#) Annual Conference March 10-25, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

[Tennessee Association of Museums, Tennessee Preservation Trust, and Society of Tennessee Archivists](#) Joint Annual Meeting, March 15-18, Nashville TN.

[National Council on Public History and Society for History in the Federal Government](#) Joint Annual Meeting, March 16-19, Baltimore, MD.

[National Association for Interpretation and the Interpretation Network of New Zealand](#) International Conference on Heritage Interpretation, April 3-7, 2016, Wellington, New Zealand.

[Organization of American Historians](#) Annual Meeting, April 7-10, Providence, RI.

[American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the Canadian Association for Conservation](#) Joint Annual Meeting, May 13-17, Montreal, Canada.

[The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums](#) Annual Meeting, June 12-16, Baton Rouge, LA.

Professional Development

[The Minnesota Historical Society's Grants Office](#) will hold informational open houses the first Thursday of each month.

[AASLH](#) will present an online course January 11- March 4 on "Leadership and Administration in History Organizations."

[AASLH](#) will host a webinar on "Developing a Membership Marketing Plan" on January 13.

[The Association for Documentary Editing](#) seeks applications for the 45th Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents. Deadline is February 1.

[The National Association for Interpretation](#) offers Certified Interpretive Guide training in cities around the nation throughout the year.

[National Preservation Institute](#) has announced its 2015 training schedule.

[National Center for Preservation Technology and Training](#) is offering workshops in 2015 on historic timber framing, metal detecting for archaeologists, fiber identification for conservation, and more.

[Connecting to Collections Care](#) will present several free webinars through the winter and spring.

[Click here to view the full AASLH calendar!](#)

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