



Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, during the 2018 AASLH Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes from the June 23-24, 2018, Council Meeting at Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana.
2. Accepted the Finance Committee minutes (8/24/2018) and the Investment Committee minutes (8/21/2018), and discussed the 6/31/2018 Quarterly Dashboard, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, and Report on Investments.
3. Heard the report from Treasurer Norman Burns and President & CEO John Dichtl on finances, investments. For FY2018, the operating budget total revenue was \$1,686,129 and expenses were \$1,612,317. As of 6/30/2108 total cash/assets were \$2,146,898 and liabilities were \$566,603. Total liabilities and net assets were \$2,146,898. The endowment stood at \$1,723,482. The predicted surplus for the previous fiscal year did not turn out as large as staff had forecasted in June, but still slightly exceeded the budgeted \$27,000. Some of the surplus was then invested over the summer in staff, a new telephone system, and rebid insurance services. Dichtl reported that the new institutional dues structure implementation had gone well during the first two months of the first quarter. The new rates are lower for the small organizations that form about half of the total number of institutional members, and for other organizations the dues are based on the size of their budgets. Annual Fund contributions have made a big difference, and Burns and Dichtl expressed their gratitude for matching gifts in the spring from Denny O'Toole, Sandra Clark, and Carl Nold totaling \$17,000 and for another \$18,000 from other AASLH members, including more than \$5,000 from Council itself.
4. Discussed fundraising for the fall and noted thanks to Jim and Janet Vaughan, as well as Charlie Bryan, and to Andy Masich, Doug Evelyn, and Reed Whitaker, who collectively have pledged \$5,000. Dichtl thanked Council members for their \$5,000 in pledges for the fall and laid out the framework of the fall campaign, which would be announced at the Meeting of the Membership on Friday during the Annual Meeting.
5. Heard report from Lee White, executive director of the National Coalition for History. AASLH is a dues-paying member of NCH, a consortium of 40-50 organizations that advocates on federal, state and local legislative, and regulatory issues. White discussed funding for IMLS, NEH, National Archives, and related agencies, announced that the History Caucus in the House has grown to 40 members, Republicans and Democrats, and explained the NCH's role in the 250th Anniversary planning activities that AASLH has been leading.

6. Approved modifications to the Award of Merit which were proposed by the AASLH's Leadership in History Awards Committee. The award will now be termed the "Award of Excellence" to better demonstrate the significance of the award and improve its branding potential to potential applicants.
7. Approved modifications to the Award of Distinction which were proposed by the Council's task force, which included members of Council, Emeritus Council, and Nick Hoffman, chair of the awards committee. The changes will allow the award of more than one Award of Distinction per year, encourage Council and Emeritus Council members to take a more active role in nominating candidates, and strengthen the nomination and promotion processes. Also changed is the Individual Achievement category in the Award of Excellence, which will be renamed Lifetime Achievement, so it will be more distinguishable from the Award of Distinction.
8. Voted to approve the revised AASLH Statement of Standards and Ethics. The discussion of revisions had spanned several Council meetings and meetings of the Standards Ethics Committee, and had included an online comments process involving the AASLH membership.
9. Discussed options proposed by the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for implementing diversity & inclusion assessment and training for the Council and how these will impact the organization, its budget, and future meetings of Council. Voted to proceed with the plan for Council members to work with an assessment consultant at the next meeting, in February, and to focus on training at the Council retreat in June.