

### Actions of the AASLH Council

On Wednesday, September 16, 2015, the AASLH Council met during the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, and took the following actions. AASLH Chair Julie Rose led the meeting.

1. Welcomed newly-elected members **Marian Carpenter** (State of Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs), **Erin Carlson Mast** (Lincoln's Cottage), **Sarah Pharaon** (International Coalition of Sites of Conscience) and **Will Ticknor** (New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs); thanked departing Council members **Laura Casey** (Texas Historical Commission), **Bill Peterson** (Arizona Historical Society), **Susan Tissot** (Humboldt Botanical Garden), and **Jay Vogt** (South Dakota Historical Society).
2. Approved the Minutes from the June 2015 Council Meeting.
3. Agreed to the charge for the Aspirations Task Force, which includes several members of the Council and several members at large of AASLH, and approved the four core aspirations in the aspirations statement the task force drafted, a document that is meant to be a touchstone for conversations with the membership and in Council about the AASLH's future. Council agreed that the [draft statement](#) should be posted to the AASLH website where the membership will be asked to comment.
4. Reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2015 membership survey, which is based on the 2010 and prior membership surveys. Members and non-members will receive questionnaires in October and January respectively.
5. Accepted the Treasurer's Report on FY2015, which ended June 30, 2015. AASLH's actual total revenues were \$1,479,817, which exceeded the budgeted amount by \$51,000. Actual total expenses were \$1,325,655, which were below budget by \$100,000. This was partly due to salary and benefits for three staff positions that were empty for part of the year. Including the gains on investments of \$46,740, we show a balanced budget with an actual surplus of \$154,162.
6. Voted to permanently restrict \$49,377 to help rebuild corpus of endowment. The \$49,377 was the 5% draw on the earnings of the endowment that was included in the FY2015 operating budget; due to the healthy net surplus at the end of the fiscal year, the Council decided to return the draw back to the endowment. This reduces the gap to fully restoring the endowment to \$122,373. We are continuing to fine tune several accountability systems and sets of internal controls, and through careful investing, and by generating operating budget surpluses, we expect to have fully restored the endowment within the next two years.
7. Heard the report on the [75 for 75 Campaign](#). The amount raised since the campaign launched in September 2014 is \$40,506, which leaves \$34,494 for Council to raise by December 31, 2015. The funds will help begin a process of transforming the continuing education that AASLH offers for history professionals and volunteers. 75 for 75 Campaign resources will expand the number

of workshops AASLH can offer each year recharge the topics for the workshops, online courses, and webinars so that we can reach more states and localities and new audiences, such as avocational historians.

8. Discussed the report of the Standards and Ethics Committee about the white paper on fraud that it will produce. The paper will draw on AASLH's own case, provide a survey of the landscape in the nonprofit community, and offer recommendations and best practices for preventing financial malfeasance.
9. Voted to approve Council Chair Julie Rose's appointment of Dina Bailey (National Center for Civil and Human Rights) to fill the Council vacancy left by Evelyn Figueroa (Smithsonian Institution), who resigned on August 1.
10. Voted to approve Council Chair Julie Rose's appointment of Laura Roberts (Roberts Consulting) to fill the Leadership Nominating Council (LNC) vacancy left by Dina Bailey's resignation. The LNC had recommended Roberts to replace Bailey. Council also thanked Trevor Jones (Kentucky Historical Society) for his leadership as LNC chair for the past year.
11. Tabled a discussion about the voter participation rate and the recommendation to expand the size of the Leadership Nominating Committee.
12. Welcomed Janet Vaughan from the American Alliance of Museums, who conducted a Strategic Planning Listening Session for AAM with the Council members.