

2011 NASS Winter Conference
NASS State Heritage Committee
Friday, February 11, 2011
JW Marriott
Washington, DC
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Members Present:

Hon. Kate Brown, OR – Co-Chair
Hon. Ken Bennett, AZ – Co-Chair
Hon. Debra Bowen, CA
Hon. Kurt Browning, FL
Hon. Mark Ritchie, MN
Hon. Kenneth McClintock, PR
Hon. Jason Gant, SD
Hon. Ralph Mollis, RI (by proxy)
Hon. Tre Hargett, TN
Hon. Jim Condos, VT
Hon. Sam Reed, WA

NASS Staff Present:

Mr. John Milhofer, NASS Policy Analyst

Secretary Brown called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Projects and Legislative Initiatives of the Council of State Archivists

Secretary Brown introduced Ms. Barbara Teague, President of the Council of State Archivists (COSA). Ms. Teague said that COSA works with many Secretaries of State, whether or not they oversee archives, since Secretaries of State have a critical recordkeeping function in their states. She discussed the Preserving the American Historical Record Act (PAHR), which was introduced in the House and Senate last year. She said the bill would authorize funding for the U.S. Archivist to make grants to the states for the preservation and dissemination of historical records. She noted that the bill had more than 50 House sponsors and 9 Senate sponsors in the last Congress. She added that it was a non-controversial bill, and expects it to be introduced again this year, most likely in the Senate first. She said that COSA is also actively supporting reauthorization and appropriations for the National Historical Records Publication (NHPRC).

Ms. Teague then described the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records project (IPER), which is focused on training for state and local governments. She mentioned that the project is funded by a \$2.6 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). She said that the IPER webinars for essential records and records emergency planning and response are now underway in several states, with more coming online soon. Ms. Teague said that in the next few years, COSA will be working to maintain the programs that they currently have, and they will also be expanding their efforts involving electronic records and digitization.

Federal Grant Opportunities for State Records Management Activities

Secretary Bennett introduced Kathleen Williams, Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Ms. Williams said that NHPRC's main audience is state historical records advisory boards. NHPRC provides grants for various board activities, and federal money reaches local communities through these projects. She also said that NHPRC is committed to doing more electronic records projects, but they don't have as much money to devote to these efforts. She added that the emphasis is on hands-on electronic records programs, as opposed to training or classes. She said that NHPRC also has a digitized historical records project that awards between 100 and 120 grants per year. She mentioned several other projects that the Commission funds, including preservation of electronic records, archival and records management programs, collecting and preserving historical resources, and tools and techniques that advance the work of archivists and records managers.

Secretary Hargett asked about efforts to encourage younger generations to get involved with archiving. Ms. Teague said that younger people are more likely to become engaged in projects that involve technology. Ms. Williams said that exposure to archives is important to developing interest among younger generations. She said that class field trips to the archives are an effective way to accomplish this goal. Ms. Teague and Ms. Williams said that other things that help to get both youth and adults interested in archives include historical exhibits, television programs that focus on antiques and historical items, media outreach, and online resources, such as YouTube videos of historical sites and displays.

Committee Roundtable Discussion

Secretary Reed gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Washington State Heritage Center, including the exhibit on women in government. Secretary McClintock said that Puerto Rico is considering putting archives under the Department of State. Secretary Ritchie said he was working to arrange an exhibit of a copy of the U.S. Constitution. Secretary Bennett said that Arizona's Memory Project is working to digitize many documents. Secretary Browning said Florida is considering what to do with the ballots from the 2000 Presidential Election recount, when the retention period is up. Several members of the Committee described activities in their states commemorating important events in state history.

There were no action items for this committee. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.