Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday and Friday, June 27 and 28, 2024, at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. AASLH Chair Christy Coleman led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the February 25, 2024, Council Meeting in Washington, D.C.
2. Discussed the importance of in-person meetings and agreed to continue providing Zoom access for Council members who cannot attend in-person, as well as modest financial support for Council member’s travel when necessary, and to emphasize the value of having an onsite meeting at the conference and at least one other time a year.
3. Reviewed the financial and investment reports for the third quarter of the fiscal year. As of March 31, 2024, cash was $717,156, accounts receivable were $24,815, investments were $2,562,745, and total assets were $3,447,012. Year-to-date actual revenues for the third quarter were $1,569,954, and year-to-date actual expenses were $1,459,822, leaving a net surplus of $110,132 on March 31, 2023.
4. Approved the FY2025 Budget (for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) as recommended by the Finance Committee. The budgeted revenues for FY2025 are $2,137,187 and the expenses are $2,129,210, leaving a budgeted surplus of $7,977.
5. Approved an Endowment Payout Procedure, which provides a schedule for taking regular draws from the Endowment into the operating budget in three installments in the middle to the end of the fiscal year.
6. Discussed the Awards Committee’s recommendations regarding a submission for the Award of Distinction this year, AASLH’s highest honor.
7. Heard a report from the Making History Matter Campaign Committee Chair Erin Carlson Mast and campaign consultant Jennifer Chalos about progress to date. More than $640,000 has been raised from approximately 250 donors. The fundraising goal is $1 million to be invested in the following way: $250,000 to support new programs and building capacity to serve small history organizations and to promote inclusion; $750,000 to sustain AASLH’s growth and future.
8. Discussed the History News article and Technical Leaflet (“Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy Rubric”) written by Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Task Force members Anne Ackerson, Joan Baldwin, and Bethany Hawkins. Agreed that the Governance Committee will work with the task force to update internal policies before the Standards and Ethics Committee is asked to make recommendations for external policies.
9. Spent the remainder of the afternoon and all of the following morning reviewing the current strategic plan, information about AASLH’s membership and the field, and comments from the committees and staff about the strategic plan. Also discussed the kinds challenges and opportunities that the organization and the field might be facing in three to five years. Produced revisions to the plan which will be shared with the membership before strategic planning continues at the fall and winter Council meetings.