ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

ANNUAL REPORT

Building a Strong Community of Historians

2017
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The OAH benefits every day from...a great team who helps build our membership, promotes our work, and orchestrates our complex OAH Annual Meeting. We are fortunate to have such allies.

The Organization of American Historians has had a very good year. The finances are strong, and exciting new initiatives are in the works. The OAH benefits every day from expert leadership at the headquarters in Bloomington. Executive Director Katherine Finley oversees a great team who helps build our membership, promotes our work, and orchestrates our complex OAH Annual Meeting. We are fortunate to have such allies.

Under Nancy Cott’s leadership, the OAH Annual Meeting in New Orleans was quite successful, with over 1,700 attendees and 360 sessions, many of them focused on the theme of “circulation.” Attendees, appropriately enough, enjoyed circulating with one another and through the historic streets of the city.

The next OAH Annual Meeting, in Sacramento, also promises to be quite successful. Organized around “the forms of history” by a dynamic program committee led by William G. Thomas III, and Claudrena Harold, the program has attracted an especially large number of proposals. Using a more efficient schedule, the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting offers a wide array of sessions on history in all its varieties: public, digital, and popular, grounded in museums, institutions, and performance. Sacramento’s fascinating and multilayered history holds its own attractions.

The Distinguished Lectureship Program continues to put some of our most eloquent members before the public across the country. The generous donation of speakers’ fees to the OAH is quite helpful in sustaining our association, and the special lectureship initiative on the Trump presidency has demonstrated the possibilities of the program.

The OAH continues to work closely with the National Park Service, collaborating on twenty new projects around the nation. We also support and benefit from the National Coalition for History, an effective advocate in Washington for the place of history in institutions important for the health of the discipline and of the nation.

The Journal of American History has come under the editorship of Ben Irvin, who has moved from Arizona to Bloomington. An early Americanist, Ben and the excellent editorial staff of the JAH will build on the momentum the journal has attained in recent decades.

The coming year will take advantage of three generous grants to the organization. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded money for the OAH’s “amplified initiative,” making the annual meeting accessible to members who cannot attend and working with partners in public and K–12 education to select audio and video from the meeting to share with their membership. The Mellon Foundation has also given the OAH a grant to strengthen historians’ connections with journalists. Finally, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided a grant to help the OAH determine how it can be more engaged in the civic life of our nation. We look forward to sharing updates on those initiatives and others with you in the coming months.
The other day, I went into a branch of a large national bank only to find that they had done away with all the teller windows. There were a few bankers on hand (for more complicated business), but for withdrawals and deposits, you had to go to a kiosk and use an automated machine. I’m sure these kiosks are the latest innovations in the banking world, but in the process of installing state-of-the-art technology, the bank seemed to have forgotten the customer service I had come to expect.

Just like the bank I visited, the OAH is constantly faced with balancing innovation (most likely in the form of new technology) and providing good customer (or member) service. This past year we too have tried to keep up with technology and the digital world but also maintain the OAH’s long and rich tradition of serving and promoting those who teach, present, and interpret history. In short, we need to continue to innovate and use the latest technology tools as a means of providing excellent member service, quality programs, and outstanding publications that present the latest research in and about the field.

How did we achieve this at the OAH this past year? The 2017 OAH Annual Meeting in New Orleans was very successful and incorporated a number of innovations that had been introduced in previous years. However, because many of our members and nonmember historians are unable to attend the annual meeting or work as historians outside the university or college setting, we decided that further innovations to the annual meeting were necessary. Thanks to a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, planning began this fiscal year for a new type of academic conference. The Mellon grant will allow the work presented at the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting (entitled “The Forms of History”) to be available to a broader audience, permitting instructors to engage with new ideas in their classrooms and researchers to access and cite the scholarship presented. Digital audio recordings of the sessions at the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting will provide the foundation for this “amplified meeting initiative” and will hopefully develop a new and innovative approach to academic meetings that will benefit all our historian members and the profession.

Several other innovations at the OAH involve presenting history to those outside the academy or in the general public to make it more relevant. This past year, for example, we added a new initiative, “Historians’ Perspectives on the Rise of Donald J. Trump,” to our Distinguished Lectureship Program. The election of Donald Trump as the 45th president
revealed many social, cultural, and political issues dividing the nation. Developing this program was a way that the OAH can deliver service to the public (and our historians) by providing historical perspectives on these issues and show the importance and relevance of studying history. Working with the American Society for State and Local History (AASLH) and the National Humanities Center, we partnered on developing webinars for those outside the academic world. These webinars (about which you can read in detail in the report that follows) were designed for high school teachers and public history practitioners, respectively, and had a record attendance. The OAH/National Park Service Collaboration continues to grow. Last year we were able to attract 20 new projects, many of them as part of an innovative civil rights initiative developed by NPS. The OAH is working on a record number of projects with the Park Service, which means that the expertise of our historians is being utilized at the parks where important historical discussions (including issues over slavery and Confederate monuments) are occurring.

There are also innovations in the works at the Publications Office with the hiring of a new executive editor, Benjamin H. Irvin., who started on July 1. The accomplishments of the Publications Office are detailed in the report by the Interim Executive Editor, Stephen Andrews.

Today, organizations must be innovative and relevant to survive, but if innovation is not combined with excellent customer service to members, then the long-term survival of a nonprofit organization is questionable. Both innovation and membership service rely on the creativeness and dedication of staff. As you will see in this report, the OAH members are well served because both the OAH staff and executive board are extremely dedicated to providing excellent customer service and developing innovative programs that ensure that the OAH will be around for many, many years to come.

ABOUT THE OAH

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) is the world’s largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history. Founded in 1907 as the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (MVHA), we became the OAH in 1965 to reflect a broader scope focusing on national studies of American history.

We represent more than 7,500 historians in the U.S. and abroad. Our members include college and university professors, high school teachers, archivists, museum curators, public historians, students, and scholars employed in state and federal government agencies and in the private sector.

We are funded through member dues, philanthropic contributions, revenue from the annual meeting, and the support of Indiana University.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
TREASURER’S REPORT AND EXCERPTS FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM JAY GOODGOLD

…the year ending on June 30, 2017 showed one of the best results we have had in many years. Two notable changes have been our improved revenue from Oxford University Press and stronger membership dues combined with a dues increase. The Oxford relationship continues to be a very important element for our future sustainability, and we are continually exploring new ways to enhance our revenue stream with them.

Our two investment funds at Indiana University, the OAH General Reserve Fund and the Fund for American History, have an aggregate value of just over $1.14 million. One technical item of note: the balance sheet shows an unusually large increase under net assets. Accounting rules require us to report grants upon receipt so the transfer to the OAH of the Mellon fund grant and the Japan and China travel grant skew the assets to the upside. In subsequent years these assets may not be renewed which will result in a decrease in the net assets.

In years past we have focused part of our discussion on the revenues we have received from the National Park Service (NPS) and the Distinguished Lectureship Program. This past year both have been on solid financial footing with a combined surplus of approximately $28,500. We have a record $4.55 million backlog with the NPS that should give us a healthy cushion for a number of years. We estimate that the net revenue to the OAH in FY2017–18 will be $138,000, a 13% increase. We have yet to see any diminution in our ability to secure contracts with the NPS. However, we are very carefully monitoring this important revenue source. As a reminder, these contracts we have with the NPS are an important way we help our membership by enabling them to receive fees for the various projects. The lectureship series continues its rebound of the past several years and its bookings going into FY2017–18 are ahead of plans. *The Journal of American History*, as noted in the comments on Oxford, remains at the core of our operations and its budget remains balanced.

One important variable for the OAH is the important $150,000 grant we received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for our 2018 Sacramento annual meeting. Led by OAH President Ed Ayers, this grant may enable us to rethink our expenditures while potentially enhancing our revenue base.

In summary, we are entering FY2017–18 in a good financial position. As we begin to collect dues from our members and begin the collection of monies for our convention, our cash flow will build. As always, our staff in Bloomington does an excellent job in keeping our expenditures at a very judicious level.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXCERPTS FROM AUDITED FINANCIALS

Crowe Horwath of Indianapolis, Indiana, prepared the audit report for the Organization of American Historians. After auditing the financial statements of the OAH, Crowe Horwath issued the following opinion on November 20, 2017:

“In our opinion, the financial statements—referred to in the attached audit report—present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization of American Historians as of June 30, 2017 and 2016, and changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.”

Below are excerpts of the audited financial statements. Please note that these excerpts have not been audited by Crowe Horwath. However, you can find the full audited financial report at http://www.oah.org/auditors-report.

| ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS |
| STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION |
| June 30, 2017 and 2016 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 474,798</td>
<td>$ 286,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable, net (Note 2)</td>
<td>8,983</td>
<td>20,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables, net (Note 3)</td>
<td>78,537</td>
<td>82,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (Note 4)</td>
<td>1,819,681</td>
<td>1,697,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets, net</td>
<td>43,363</td>
<td>78,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, net (Note 5)</td>
<td>271,737</td>
<td>297,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,697,099</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,463,885</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 177,976</td>
<td>$ 152,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of credit (Note 6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue (Note 7)</td>
<td>570,873</td>
<td>614,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>748,849</strong></td>
<td><strong>891,990</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net assets: |
| Undesignated | (267,907) | (360,695) |
| Board designated | 1,133,091 | 1,068,258 |
| **Total unrestricted** | **865,184** | **707,563** |
| Temporarily restricted (Note 8) | 767,642 | 552,299 |
| Permanently restricted (Note 8) | 315,424 | 312,033 |
| **Total net assets** | **1,948,250** | **1,571,895** |

| **$ 2,697,099** | **$ 2,463,885** |
## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
#### Year ended June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 136,735</td>
<td>$ 23,562</td>
<td>$ 3,391</td>
<td>$ 163,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>535,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>535,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>543,158</td>
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<td></td>
<td>543,158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>51,679</td>
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<td></td>
<td>51,679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>710,659</td>
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<td>710,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>97,140</td>
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<td>Annual meeting</td>
<td>320,247</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>320,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>749,640</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>749,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 278,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 278,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectureship revenue</td>
<td>93,996</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>93,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>84,790</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>84,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment gain, net</td>
<td>140,876</td>
<td>43,933</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>184,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20,313</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released</td>
<td>130,152</td>
<td>(130,152)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>$ 3,615,285</td>
<td>215,343</td>
<td>3,391</td>
<td>$ 3,834,019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of American History</td>
<td>1,096,551</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,096,551</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other publications</td>
<td>123,136</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>123,136</td>
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<td>Meetings and conferences</td>
<td>331,058</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>331,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic committees</td>
<td>146,312</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>146,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison/advocacy</td>
<td>54,236</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative projects</td>
<td>845,178</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>845,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
<td>54,589</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership services</td>
<td>269,069</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>269,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total program services</td>
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<td>2,972,147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>430,409</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>430,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>54,508</td>
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<td>54,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>3,457,664</td>
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<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
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<td>376,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
<td>707,563</td>
<td>552,299</td>
<td>312,033</td>
<td>1,571,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets at end of year</td>
<td>$ 865,184</td>
<td>$ 767,642</td>
<td>$ 315,424</td>
<td>$ 1,948,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$142,673</td>
<td>$ 33,162</td>
<td>$ 452</td>
<td>$ 176,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions (Note 9)</td>
<td>535,900</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
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<td>52,082</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>Annual meeting</td>
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<td>310,709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
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<td>688,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
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<td>132,517</td>
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<td>132,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectureship revenue</td>
<td>96,563</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>111,629</td>
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<td>111,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment loss, net (Note 4)</td>
<td>(66,467)</td>
<td>(22,986)</td>
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<td>(89,453)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>14,771</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>14,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions (Note 8)</td>
<td>133,543</td>
<td>(133,543)</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>3,243,143</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>3,252,745</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of American History</td>
<td>1,049,322</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 1,049,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other publications</td>
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<td>131,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings and conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programmatic committees</td>
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<td>140,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison/advocacy</td>
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<td>39,313</td>
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<td>Collaborative projects</td>
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<td>4,738</td>
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<td>276,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>51,065</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td>2,881,340</td>
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<td>2,881,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>438,031</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>40,646</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td>478,677</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>478,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>3,360,017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,360,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td>(116,874)</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>(107,272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>824,437</td>
<td>543,149</td>
<td>311,581</td>
<td>1,679,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at end of year</strong></td>
<td>$ 707,563</td>
<td>$ 552,299</td>
<td>$ 312,033</td>
<td>$ 1,571,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

#### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$376,355</td>
<td>$(107,272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>42,613</td>
<td>42,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad debt expense</td>
<td>10,518</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net unrealized (gain) loss on investments</td>
<td>$(99,064)</td>
<td>176,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions restricted for long-term investment</td>
<td>$(3,391)</td>
<td>$(452)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in assets and liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>11,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>4,226</td>
<td>(34,521)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>20,766</td>
<td>(75,965)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>(43,302)</td>
<td>94,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>26,161</td>
<td>(13,746)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash from operating activities</td>
<td>335,163</td>
<td>92,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of fixed assets</td>
<td>(2,233)</td>
<td>(41,149)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchases of investments</td>
<td>(85,544)</td>
<td>(86,604)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and maturities of investments</td>
<td>62,114</td>
<td>53,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash from investing activities</td>
<td>(25,663)</td>
<td>(74,111)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from contributions restricted for long-term investment</td>
<td>3,391</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds on line of credit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments on line of credit</td>
<td>(125,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash from financing activities</td>
<td>(121,609)</td>
<td>125,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>187,891</td>
<td>143,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</td>
<td>286,907</td>
<td>142,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</strong></td>
<td>$474,798</td>
<td>$286,907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supplemental cash flows information:

In-kind contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>$535,900</td>
<td>$535,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

RENEWAL, RECRUITMENT, AND BENEFITS

The OAH ended FY2016–17 with 6,688 members, which was a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year. Our retention rate was on par with FY2015–16, but new member acquisition was down slightly. The organization benefits from an unprecedentedly large number of very loyal members, and our highest retention rates are in our upper dues categories, which is why, despite slightly lower membership numbers overall, we still finished the fiscal year in the black in membership revenue.

In FY2016–2017 we added a new member benefit—a one-year digital subscription to the relaunched *American Heritage*. This was announced just prior to the start of the 2017 renewal cycle. Oxford University Press added two new databases to their deeply discounted options for OAH members. Lastly, we have been developing a platform to enable our members to have online discussion spaces, which we will begin rolling out before the end of the year.

Also this year, we partnered with the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) to create a webinar series—History Crash Courses, which are akin to the State of the Field sessions at the OAH Annual Meeting. OAH members lead the webinars, while AASLH provides the technical and registration support. The two trial webinars (the first was on World War I and the second was on immigration) were offered free to AASLH and OAH members and were exceptionally popular. Subsequent webinars will have a small cost associated with them. On the OAH side, work on the webinars has been a collaboration between the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program and the Meetings and Membership Departments.

The continued focus of the Membership Department is improved communications and engagement with both members and prospects to attract and retain students and the younger generation of historians. We have a new part-time employee who is assisting with developing website and blog content and an intern who is working to implement a more cohesive social media presence (as well as helping us appeal to a younger audience). The Membership Department continues to work closely with the Meetings Department and the Publications Office (specifically, *The American Historian* and *Process*) to develop meaningful content and experiences to attract and retain members of the rising generations of U.S. historians, working in academic as well as public and private spheres.
Since 1981, the Distinguished Lectureship Program has served as the OAH speakers’ bureau for general educational outreach and engagement. During FY2016–17, 82 OAH lectures were presented to audiences in 30 states plus the District of Columbia and Singapore…

Since 1981, the Distinguished Lectureship Program has served as the OAH speakers’ bureau for general educational outreach and engagement. It also contributes a valuable, steady nondues source of revenue to the OAH general operating fund.

During FY2016–17, 82 OAH lectures were presented to audiences in 30 states plus the District of Columbia and Singapore (Yale-NUS College). Our speakers continued to be hosted primarily by colleges and universities; other host organizations included:

- Catholic Memorial School in West Roxbury, Massachusetts
- The Delaware Humanities Forum, the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Minnesota Historical Society
- Grand Lake Gardens Senior Living Community, Oakland, California and the Boca Grande Community Center in Boca Grande, Florida
- Milpitas Library, part of the Santa Clara County Public Library system in California
- The New York City Department of Education.

New Initiatives

Historians’ Perspectives on the Rise of Donald J. Trump—With support and guidance from the OAH Executive Board, the lectureship program framed this new initiative in January 2017 to provide historical insights on current events as a resource for all who wish to foster dialogue on college campuses and in communities nationwide. At this writing, more than 100 OAH Distinguished Lecturers have volunteered to participate, addressing a wide variety of relevant topics.

Webinars—The lectureship program partnered with two national organizations this year to present OAH lectures as webinars:

- The National Humanities Center hosted OAH Distinguished Lecturer David Wrobel’s presentation on Great Depression history for teachers as part of its “America in Class” webinar series. (135 registered for this free webinar and more than 60 attended.)
Webinars, Cont.

- The OAH and the American Association for State and Local History cosponsored a “History Crash Course” webinar about World War I for public history practitioners, led by OAH Distinguished Lecturer Jennifer Keene. (More than 200 people attended this free webinar—a record for the AASLH.)

Video Lectures

More than 60 OAH Distinguished lecture videos are currently available on YouTube. The most-watched of those added during FY2016–17 are:

- “The Great Depression: Causes, Impact, Consequence” by OAH Distinguished Lecturer David M. Kennedy and
- “Rethinking Jim Crow Segregation” by OAH Distinguished Lecturer N. D. B. Connolly.

Thanks

We recognize and gratefully acknowledge the individuals who gave OAH lectures in FY2016–17. For the complete list of names, please see the Development and Philanthropy section of this report.
One of the best attributes of the OAH-NPS program is that it provides an infrastructure within which to experiment and be creative in the service of historical goals...

The Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service have worked collaboratively for over 20 years in a shared mission to ensure that the history presented to the American public in the units of the NPS is in line with current scholarly understandings of the past. The program also seeks to expand the dialogue among professional historians, by exposing academic historians to the methodologies of public history and enabling public historians and those doing history work within NPS to take part in a larger scholarly conversation about the past and about the publics, as historians, with whom we work.

The formal relationship between the OAH and the NPS began in 1994, at the height of the culture wars, a time of growing awareness within the historical profession that academic history was not having much of an impact on public perceptions of the past and that public historians working to present thoughtful, nuanced information about the past needed professional support as they came increasingly under fire amid public controversy. As the public conversation, the NPS, and the profession have evolved, so has the OAH-NPS relationship. Indeed, one of the best attributes of the OAH-NPS program is that it provides an infrastructure within which to experiment and be creative in the service of historical goals. While the projects completed through the program vary in period and scope, they tend to fall into the general categories of primary research, historical synthesis, peer review, professional development, and consulting.

In FY2016–17 the OAH collaborated with the NPS on over 70 ongoing projects, which included 20 new projects. These multiyear collaborations include ongoing work on NPS administrative histories, historic resource studies, scholar roundtables, National Register and National Landmark nominations, an NPS workshop, and other specialized studies and projects. For more information about the OAH-NPS partnership, please visit www.oah.org.
Liang Maoxin, professor of American history and Director of the Institute of American Studies at Northeast Normal University (NENU) in Changchun and a leader in the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC), standing with OAH Past President Nancy Cott, a recipient of a China residency, at a newly built NENU campus in a suburban location for “applied” subjects such as business. Professor Cott’s seminar was held at the campus in Changchun.

Nancy Cott with Ren Ci, one of the graduate students enrolled in her seminar on “Race, Citizenship and Marriage in U.S. History” held at Northeast Normal University in Changchun.
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY
PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The three residency programs offered by the OAH continue to be popular with our members and remain very competitive.

JAPAN
Since 1997, the Japan–United States Friendship Commission has provided a grant to the OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies to allow U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, attending seminars, and advising students and researchers interested in American history. In 2017 Jana K. Lipman of Tulane University was hosted by Osaka University discussing American nationalism and race/ethnic relations, immigration, and social/cultural history of the United States in the 20th century; Lisa McGirr of Harvard University was hosted by Rikkyo University discussing social, cultural, and political history from the late nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. The residencies program also funded two Japanese graduate students studying in the United States to attend the OAH Annual Meeting: Ryosuke Kondo, Harvard University, and Mishio Yamanaka, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

GERMANY
The Germany residency program is funded by a grant from the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation. This program allows one U.S. historian to spend thirty days at the University of Tübingen to conduct an advanced undergraduate/graduate student seminar. All reports from Germany indicate that this program is a great success and is very popular with the students at the University of Tübingen. The 2017 recipient was Libby Garland of Kingsborough Community College, City University of New York.

CHINA
The Ford Foundation provides a grant for the OAH and the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC) to offer residencies in China. The U.S. recipients in 2017 were: Nathan Citino of Rice University, hosted by Shaanxi University discussing American foreign policy since World War II and history of the international Cold War; Nancy F. Cott of Harvard University, hosted by Northeast Normal University discussing marriage, citizenship and race in U.S. history; and Margaret Humphreys, Duke University, hosted by Shanghai University discussing American social history of medicine. Three Chinese scholars received funding to attend the 2017 OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university: Deyi Ma, Heilongjiang University, hosted by Stanford University; Wang Yang, Yunnan Normal University, hosted by the University of California, Irvine; and Bin Wu, Northeast Normal University, hosted by San Francisco State University.
PUBLICATIONS OVERVIEW

JOURNAL, MAGAZINE, AND BLOG

The publications office continues to work closely with OAH staff to provide a coherent and well-organized effort to enhance member benefits and produce world-class scholarship...

This past year has been one of transition—moving from the editorship of Edward T. Linenthal and toward the arrival of incoming executive editor Benjamin H. Irvin. The *Journal of American History (JAH)* staff has wrapped up many of its outstanding projects and looks forward to launching new initiatives in the fall.

The staff has continued to refine the ways that the *JAH* works with the other parts of the publications office and has continued to reach out to the Organization of American Historians (OAH) membership and beyond. It has also come up with new features to enable the *JAH*, *The American Historian*, *Process*: A Blog for American History, the *JAH* podcast, the “Teaching the *Journal of American History*” feature, Recent Scholarship Online, and OAH’s social media outlets to work together. The publications office continues to work closely with OAH staff in the business office, especially membership, meetings, and the Distinguished Lectureship Program, to provide a coherent and well-organized effort to enhance member benefits and produce world-class scholarship.

**The Journal of American History**: We are proud that the *JAH* continues to publish the best scholarship in American history. Over the past year the *JAH* has published pieces that cover the full chronological range of that history and engage a wide variety of fields. The creation and evolution of *The American Historian (TAH)* and *Process* have provided venues for pieces and features that are of high quality but do not fit within the structure of the *JAH*. Having a place to feature these pieces has allowed the *JAH* to focus even more on its most important content—cutting-edge scholarship based on new research.

**The American Historian (TAH)**: has moved into its third year of publication and continues to expand its scope and variety. This past year’s issues focused on the history of aging, writing history for a popular audience, the politics of motherhood, and education...
and history. *The American Historian* also featured several innovative pedagogy articles and an entire issue dedicated to teaching and the history of education. We are happy that the writers for *TAH* range across the full spectrum of membership of the OAH. *TAH* has featured articles by public historians, tenured professors at a range of two- and four-year colleges and universities, K–12 teachers, graduate students, and those involved in publishing.

**Process—A Blog for American History:** Of all of the publications platforms, perhaps *Process* has had the most rapid and expansive growth this year. The staff completely redesigned the look and functionality of the blog, making it more readable and dynamic. With the benefit of this fast-moving and versatile platform, the OAH has been able to provide an increasingly popular space for historically grounded commentary on the present. Social media has brought widely read works of cultural and political commentary to a new audience, beyond the existing OAH membership. *Process* has drawn people to *The American Historian* online, the *JAH* Editor’s Choice articles available through the Oxford University Press Journals Web site, *JAH* podcasts, and the “Teaching the *JAH*” feature.

We have been aided by a flexible and hardworking staff that has gladly taken on new duties to improve the OAH publications office. Thanks to all of them for making this year of transition a success.
MEETINGS OVERVIEW

The 2017 OAH Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Thursday, April 6 to Sunday, April 9. The conference theme “Circulation” was developed by OAH Past President Nancy F. Cott and the 2017 program committee cochairs Brenda E. Stevenson and Robert O. Self. Blocks of approximately sixteen sessions were held each day, with plenary sessions on Thursday and Friday. Breakfasts, luncheons, and receptions were held on Friday and Saturday, and the Exhibit Hall was open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The 2017 OAH Program Committee evaluated over 360 full-session and single-paper proposals. The final program included 200 sessions, networking and social events, meal functions, and tours. The program included the “Hey, I Know Your Work!” mentorship program that connected nineteen mentors with 21 recent scholars. In 2017 we also continued “The Chat Room,” an informal seminar where attendees gather to discuss predetermined topics. The Chat Room seminars continued to be a success, attracting close to 100 attendees. Two plenary sessions—“Historians in Court” and “African American History, Art, and the Public Museum: A Conversation with Lonnie Bunch and Richard Powell”—were held on Thursday and Friday, respectively. The plenary sessions were
located in the rear of the Exhibit Hall, which worked well to increase traffic significantly, as remarked by exhibitors.

Total attendance at the 2017 meeting was 1,724, a 1.2% decrease from 2016. The decrease can be attributed to the early filling of the hotel room block and a difficulty matching the price at alternate hotels due to the French Quarter Festival, which was booked after the OAH booked the dates. The Exhibit Hall contained sixty-one exhibit booths, four panel displays, and one museum exhibit, “Purchased Lives.” The Exhibit Hall opened at 12:30 pm on Thursday, April 6, closing with the Happy Hour Opening Night Reception from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm; the hall was also open during the conference on Friday (9:00 am to 6:00 pm) and Saturday (9:00 am to 5:00 pm). The 2017 OAH Annual Meeting included a number of offsite events including the OAH at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Advertising for the program saw an increase of 27% and included advertising in both the Annual Meeting Program and On-Site Program.

The Meetings Department worked closely with the Membership Department to enhance the promotion of the 2017 OAH Annual Meeting. In a push to increase attendance, the OAH continued with a four-panel mailer that outlined the highlights, points of interest, and reasons to attend the conference, as well as the traditional postcard that was mailed as a final reminder to register.

The OAH website gave us the opportunity to display extensive information about the conference. This allowed us to familiarize those who do not receive the Annual Meeting Program to the conference. We increased our Twitter and Facebook promotions, as well as advertising in the publications of the OAH and partner organizations.

The 2018 OAH Annual Meeting, “Forms of History,” to be held in
Sacramento, California, has received an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to implement the Amplified Initiative. This initiative plans to share the work that takes place at the conference to a broader audience using an online portal accessible by partner organizations. This experiment aims to expand the reach of historians and their work.
2017 AWARDS AND PRIZES
AWARDS AND PRIZES GIVEN IN 2017

The Organization of American Historians sponsors or cosponsors awards, prizes, fellowships, and grants given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. The awards and prizes are presented each year at the OAH Annual Meeting.

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS TOTALED $17,500.
- John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award—1 award, $500
- Frederick Jackson Turner Award—1 award, $1,000
- Merle Curti Intellectual History Award—1 award, $500
- Merle Curti Social History Award—1 award, $500
- Ray Allen Billington Prize—1 prize, $1,000
- Avery O. Craven Award—1 award, $500
- James A. Rawley Prize—1 prize, $1,000
- Willi Paul Adams Award—1 award, $1,000
- Ellis W. Hawley Prize—1 prize, $500
- Liberty Legacy Foundation Award—1 award, $1,000
- Lawrence W. Levine Award—1 award, $1,000
- Darlene Clark Hine Award—1 award, $1,000
- David Montgomery Award—1 award, $1,000
- Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History—1 prize, $1,000
- Lerner-Scott Prize—1 prize, $1,000
- Louis Pelzer Memorial Award—1 award, $500
- Binkley-Stephenson Award—1 award, $500
- Huggins-Quarles Award—1 award, $1,500
- Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award—1 award, $500
- Erik Barnouw Award—1 award, $500
- John Higham Research Fellowship—2 awards, $750 each = $1,500 total

IN ADDITION:
- The Huggins-Quarles Award recipient also received $750 for travel.
- Five Samuel and Marion Merrill Graduate Student Travel Grants of $500 each were presented in 2017 from funds supported by a bequest from the Merrill Trust, totaling $2,500.
- Five grants of $750 each from the Presidents’ Travel Fund for Emerging Historians were given in 2017, totaling $3,750.
• The China Residencies Program resumed in 2017 with funding from the Ford Foundation. Three U.S. scholars traveled to China to lead seminars, and three Chinese scholars traveled to the U.S. to attend the OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university following the meeting.
• The Fritz Thyssen Foundation provides funding for one resident scholar to offer a seminar at the University of Tübingen each year on a U.S. history topic of his or her design. The program will continue through 2020.
• The OAH was awarded $28,000 from the Japan–United States Friendship Commission to fund the Japan Residencies Program in 2017. Two OAH members were selected to receive residencies, and two Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend the 2017 OAH Annual Meeting.

NON-MONETARY AWARDS
• Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award
• Friend of History Award
• Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History

2017 OAH AWARD AND PRIZE WINNERS

THE JOHN D’EMILIO LGBTQ HISTORY DISSERTATION AWARD was given for the first time in 2017 for the best PhD dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history.
• Ian Michael Baldwin, University of Redlands, “Family, Housing, and the Political Geography of Gay Liberation in Los Angeles County, 1960–1986” (University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Adviser: Professor Marcia Gallo)

THE ROY ROSENZWEIG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD is given annually to an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history.
• Linda Gordon, New York University

The annual FRIEND OF HISTORY AWARD recognizes an institution or organization, or an individual working primarily outside college or university settings, for outstanding support of historical research, the public presentation of American history, or the work of the OAH.
• Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director, Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture

THE FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER AWARD is given annually for a first scholarly book dealing with some aspect of American history.
• Max Krochmal, Texas Christian University, Blue Texas: The Making of a Multiracial Democratic Coalition in the Civil Rights Era (University of North Carolina Press)
THE MERLE CURTI INTELLECTUAL HISTORY AWARD is given annually for the best book published in American intellectual history.


THE MERLE CURTI SOCIAL HISTORY AWARD is given annually for the best book published in American social history.


THE RAY ALLEN BILLINGTON PRIZE is given every two years for the best book on the history of native and/or settler peoples in frontier, border, and borderland zones of intercultural contact in any century to the present and to include works that address the legacies of those zones.


THE AVERY O. CRAVEN AWARD is given annually for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the Era of Reconstruction, with the exception of works of purely military history.


THE JAMES A. RAWLEY PRIZE is given annually for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States.


THE WILLI PAUL ADAMS AWARD is given every two years for the best book on American history published in a foreign language.


HONORABLE MENTION:


THE ELLIS W. HAWLEY PRIZE is given annually for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present.

THE LIBERTY LEGACY FOUNDATION AWARD is given annually for the best book on the civil rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present.


**HONORABLE MENTION:**


THE LAWRENCE W. LEVINE AWARD is given annually for the best book in American cultural history.


THE DARLENE CLARK HINE AWARD is given annually for the best book in African American women’s and gender history.


THE DAVID MONTGOMERY AWARD is given annually for the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history, with co-sponsorship by the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA).


THE MARY JURICH NICKLISS PRIZE IN U.S. WOMEN’S AND/OR GENDER HISTORY is given annually for the most original book in U.S. women’s and/or gender history.


THE LERNER-SCOTT PRIZE is given annually for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history.

- **Ava Purkiss**, University of Michigan, “Mind, Soul, Body, and Race: Black Women’s Purposeful Exercise in the Age of Physical Culture, 1900–1939” [dissertation completed at the University of Texas, Austin (History) under the direction of Professors Tiffany Gill and Daina Ramey Berry]

**HONORABLE MENTION:**

- **Jenna Healey**, Yale University, “Sooner or Later: Age, Pregnancy, and the Reproductive Revolution in Late Twentieth-Century America” [dissertation completed at Yale University, directed by Professor Naomi Rogers]
THE LOUIS PELZER MEMORIAL AWARD is given annually for the best essay in American history by a graduate student.

- Daniel Platt, Brown University, “Usury Reform and the Natures of Capital in the Progressive Era”

THE BINKLEY-STEPHENSON AWARD is given annually for the best article that appeared in the Journal of American History during the preceding calendar year.

- Yael A. Sternhell, Tel Aviv University, “The Afterlives of a Confederate Archive: Civil War Documents and the Making of Sectional Reconciliation” (March 2016)

THE HUGGINS-QUARLES AWARD is given annually for graduate students of color to assist them with expenses related to travel to research collections for the completion of the PhD dissertation.


THE MARY K. BONSTEEL TACHAU TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD is given annually for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education within the field of American history.

- Michael Williams, Warren New Tech High School (NC)

THE ERIK BARNOWUW AWARD is given annually for outstanding programming on television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of American history.

- The Mine Wars, A Film Posse, Inc. production for American Experience: Randall MacLowry, Producer and Director; Mark Zwonitzer, Writer; James E. Dunford, Managing Director; Susan Bellows, Senior Producer; Mark Samels, Executive Producer

The annual STANTON-HORTON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORY recognizes excellence in historical projects for, by, and with the National Park Service and is intended to honor projects, parks, or programs that make the NPS a leader in promoting public understanding of and engagement with American history.

- “Fostering Public Dialogue around Birthright Citizenship,” Northeast Region History Program [April Antonellis, Education Specialist; Christine Arato, Chief Historian; Eric Goodwin, Volunteer]

HONORABLE MENTION:

- “Future of Richmond’s Past,” an inclusive partnership between the park, universities, and museums organizing Civil War sesquicentennial programming.

HONORABLE MENTION:

- “Telling All American Stories” (www.nps.gov/tellingallamericansstories), an exploration of histories and stories documenting the lives and experiences of Native American, African American, Latino/a, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, European, and LGBTQ, by the National Park Service’s Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education
OAH/JAAS JAPAN RESIDENCIES PROGRAM
The OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS), with the generous support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program that also brings Japanese graduate students who are studying in the United States to the OAH Annual Meeting.

- **Jana K. Lipman**, Tulane University
  Osaka University: American nationalism and race/ethnic relations, immigration and social/cultural history of the United States in the 20th century
- **Lisa McGirr**, Harvard University
  Rikkyo University: social, cultural, and political history from the late nineteenth to the twentieth centuries

Two Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend this year’s OAH Annual Meeting:
- **Ryosuke Kondo**, Harvard University
- **Mishio Yamanaka**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

GERMANY RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Thanks to a generous grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the OAH is pleased to continue the Germany Residency Program in American history at the University of Tübingen. The resident scholar will offer a seminar on a U.S. history topic of his or her design.

- **Libby Garland**, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

OAH/AHRAC CHINA RESIDENCIES PROGRAM
Thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, the Organization of American Historians and the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC) are pleased to announce the fourth year of the exchange program between the two organizations.

- **Nathan Citino**, Rice University
  Shaanxi University: American Foreign Policy since World War II/History of the International Cold War
- **Nancy F. Cott**, Harvard University
  Northeast Normal University: Marriage, Citizenship and Race in U.S. History
- **Margaret Humphreys**, Duke University
  Shanghai University: American Social History of Medicine

Three Chinese scholars were selected to receive funding to attend this year’s OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university following the meeting:
- **Deyi Ma**, Heilongjiang University, hosted by Stanford University
- **Wang Yang**, Yunnan Normal University, hosted by University of California, Irvine
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