

Federal Policy Report to the Association of Documentary Editors
July 19, 2016

Humanities Advocacy Day 2016: As has become our tradition, the turnout of ADE members for the National Humanities Alliance (NHA) Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day (HAD) was good, though not as high as in previous years. We appreciate the time and efforts of the at least five ADE members who participated—Charlene Bickford, Mary Jo Binker, Chris Brick, Katie Leibert and Katie Gehred. The ADE was represented in the Nebraska, Virginia, and Rhode Island groups as well as the NHPRC group. We also appreciate the fact that individuals like Jack Fitzmier of the American Academy of Religion, Amy Ferrer, of the American Philosophical Association, Colleen McQuillen from the University of Illinois, Chicago, Rachel Arteaga of the University of Washington, Simpson Center for the Humanities, Erica Dowell of the University of Pennsylvania and Robert Vaughn of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities spoke for the NHPRC in their meetings.

The programs presented at the NHA meeting provided us with excellent examples of the relevance and usefulness of humanities education, public programs in the humanities, and humanities research. We all received training in making a strong and reasonable case for the continuation of, and even increased federal funding for the Humanities in this period of shrinking budgets.

At HAD the NHPRC advocacy group was composed of ADE members Bickford, Binker and Brick, Leibert, Gehred and Lee White, legislative director for the National Coalition for History.

Thanks to the efforts of the HAD staff, we met with more legislative staff people than ever before. Working alone or in small groups, we met with staffers for eight Republican representatives who serve on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government—Rep. Mike Quigley (R-Ill.); Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS); Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR); Rep. Tom Graves, (R-GA); Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NE), Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WN) and Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA) as well as with Rep. Jose Serrano, (D-NY) the ranking member. (Please note: Rep. Fattah resigned June 23, 2016 following his conviction on charges of racketeering and influence

peddling.) In addition, members of the NHPRC group met with Rep. Sanford Bishop, (D-GA). Bickford also made a brief unscheduled visit to the office of Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA). In the Senate, members of the NHPRC advocacy group met with staffers for Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) as well as with Dale Cabaniss, lead staff person for the Senate Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee chaired by Sen. John Boozman, (R-AR). All the meetings were cordial and the staff, while noncommittal, seemed supportive of the NHPRC request for \$5 million for FY2017.

NHA/HAD Summary: We urge ADE members to start planning now to participate in the NHA meeting and HAD 2017 (scheduled for March 13-14, 2017). The NHA annual meeting is both intellectually stimulating and good training for HAD, but if you can't make both, HAD is the most important one to attend. Congressional visits and other contacts from knowledgeable and articulate spokespersons for the programs of the NEH and NHPRC are extremely important in making the Congress and staff aware that these two small, but effective entities have wide-ranging positive impact. We also urge ADE members to encourage their congressional representatives to join the Congressional History Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to provide a forum for members of Congress to share their interest in history and to promote an awareness of the subject on Capitol Hill. To learn more about how to urge congressional representatives to join the caucus, go to <http://historycoalition.org/congressional-history-caucus/>

NHPRC

NHPRC Appropriations

FY2016: The Obama Administration requested \$5 million for FY'16 the same level of funding as FY2015 and FY2012. Congress approved this request.

FY2017: The Obama Administration requested \$5 million for FY2017 the same level of funding as FY2016. On July 7, the House of Representatives approved the FY2017 Financial Services and General Government (FS&GG)

appropriations bill. It includes \$6 million for the NHPRC, which is \$1 million more than the Administration requested and \$1 million more than the NHPRC received in FY2016 and FY2015. In addition, this twenty percent increase represents the first significant boost in the NHPRC's budget since its peak of \$13 million in FY2010.

The Senate version of the FY2017 FS&GG bill has passed the Appropriations Committee. It includes \$5 million in level funding for the NHPRC.

To find up-to-date information on how to contact members of the House and Senate subcommittees on Financial Services and General Government appropriations and their staffs go to:

www.contactingthecongress.org

NEH Appropriations

FY2016: The Obama Administration requested a slight increase in NEH funding to \$147.9 million, from the FY2015 appropriation of \$146. Congress approved \$147.9 million.

FY2017: The Obama Administration requested an increase in NEH funding to \$155 million which while well above the FY2013 post-sequestration level of \$138 million is still well below the FY2010 figure of \$167.5

During the week of July 11, the House was expected to consider the Interior-Environment FY2017 appropriations bill which includes \$149.8 million for the NEH. While well below the administration's request, this still represents a \$1.9 million increase over FY2016.

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a FY2017 Interior funding bill that includes only a \$500,000 increase in funding over FY2016, up to a level of \$148.4 million.

Committee Membership

Charlene Bickford, co-chair

Mary Jo Binker, co-chair

Christopher Brick, co-chair

Jim McClure

Paul Israel

Dan Feller

Christy Regenhardt

Ray Smock, ex officio (ADE NHPRC Rep.)