State Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes

The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) met on March 23, 2009, at 12:10 p.m. in the Board Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). Board members present were: Barbara Teague, Coordinator, Jim Cundy, Deputy Coordinator; Valerie Edgeworth, Archives Month Coordinator; Mark Myers, Continuing Education Coordinator; Richard Belding, Citizen at Large; Mary Margaret Bell, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS); Rebecca Ryder, University of Kentucky (UK); Sue Lynn McDaniel, Western Kentucky University (WKU); Mary Winter, Citizen at Large; Jennifer Duplaga, Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), Citizen at Large. Not present was: Dr. James Greene, Harlan Independent School District.

The minutes of November 21, 2008 were reviewed. McDaniel made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Winter. Motion carried unanimously.

Council of State Archivists (CoSA) news – PAHR Bill
The bill “Preserving the American Historical Record” (PAHR) will be reintroduced in Congress by New York Representatives John McHugh (R) and Maurice Hinchey (D). Members of the PAHR Task Force continue to work with a pro bono lobbyist. The PAHR Webpage (http://www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp), maintained by the Society of American Archivists (SAA), is very helpful.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) news
Congress’s most recent Omnibus spending bill included a $1.75 million increase in funding for NHPRC. The question of NHPRC’s reauthorization was dropped last year, but will be voted on again this year.

SHRAB administrative support and SNAP grants
Kathleen Williams told CoSA Board members that NHPRC is looking into waiving the cash match requirement for State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) re-grants, and that information will be gathered about this to present to the Commission.

The last of the 2008 Administrative Support Grant funds will be spent on a workshop, “Grant Proposal Writing,” to be held at Western Kentucky University on April 24, 2009. Registration is limited to thirty, with administrative support money completing supporting twenty-two attendees.

Cundy said that 2010 SNAP Grant Application had been submitted. Grant funds from 2009 and 2010 will be used for meeting support, continuing education, CoSA dues, and the Board’s needs assessment for a circuit rider archivist position.

SHRAB Documentary
Due to technical problems with the current use copies of the documentary, the Board has to acquire new copies. Once useable versions are available, the documentary will be shown more widely.

Archives Month Planning
The Archives Month Coordinating Committee met in the morning, prior to the SHRAB meeting. The Committee is planning a documentary contest for 2009. The contest is for high school students and will be held in conjunction with the Junior Historical Society. It will be a contest to see who can make the best use of archival or other primary source materials in a video. Diane Bundy is coordinating the contest with the National History Day Coordinator and the Junior Historical Society Coordinator.

The Committee will hold another contest for the design of the 2009 Archives Month Poster. This will be for elementary and middle school students. The theme is Abraham Lincoln. The deadline will be the same size as in recent years. Selections will be made at the Committee’s meeting in June.
Strategic Plan
At the November 21, 2008 meeting, the elements of the Strategic Plan were assigned to various Board members. Selected Board members will report at subsequent meetings on progress they have made on their assignments:

Public Records Division staff reported on the action items under 1.1 and 1.2; and Edgeworth reported on action items under 4.3. Cundy said that Item 1.1 involves, generally, dissemination of information and discussion of activities within Kentucky’s archival community. PRD staff will establish an online format, such as a wiki, to facilitate that communication and to provide an “Ask a Colleague” forum. This can be done through the Department’s website, or possible set up as a Facebook account. PRD staff already partner with organizations such as KCA and ARMA to provide training, which is central to the work of the Division.

Item 1.2 involves the Board’s application for re-grant money from NHPRC. Cundy suggested that, because the cash match might be waived by the NHPRC in the future, these action items be postponed until 2011. The action item should be generalized beyond simple redistribution of money to more general language that leaves open the option of establishing a circuit rider position rather than a re-grant program.

Item 4.3 involves drafting and implementing the Board’s Communications Plan. Edgeworth had agreed to review communications plans from other states. She did not find a communications plan separate from any other state’s strategic plan. She will continue to investigate what is available and see if she can obtain draft communications plans from other states.

Ryder noted Action Item 2.2a, Facilitate interaction of the Kentucky Department for Education and the archival community to help archivists understand how educators want to use primary resources, with possibly moving toward collaborative content development; and 2.2b, Work with Kentuckiana Digital Library to promote its work to encourage teachers to use primary source materials. She demonstrated Kyleidoscope, an online resource that represents a step toward those ends. Kyleidoscope (http://kdl.kyvl.org/kyleidoscope.htm) offers teachers and students access to historical resources dating to pre-statehood. The site includes maps, images, manuscripts, books, journals oral histories, instructional worksheets and other educational materials. The website is the result of collaboration among the Kentucky Virtual Library, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections and Digital Programs. Ryder suggested that the SHRAB draft a letter to go out in support of the effort, stressing the importance of these resources for archives and archivists. This would help promote the use of historical materials by educators (2.2c – 2.2d). To accomplish 2.2e, Promote relationship of historical records to cultural tourism, the Board could show Kyleidoscope to staff at the Department of Travel.

For the next meeting, the appropriate Board members will report on progress made on Action Items 1.3a through 1.3c (Belding is responsible for these); 2.1 a through 2.1d (Bell/Edgeworth); and 2.3a (Winter/Myers).

Announcements
McDaniel said that her department has purchased and is using PastPerfect software to raise awareness of resources available at Western Kentucky University.

Next meeting
The date of the next meeting was set for June 22, 2009.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.