



## NCWHS 2013-2014 Annual Report

### **President's Report and Summary** - Heather Huyck

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites has had a busy year, with significant partnership efforts, as we are getting increasing recognition and respect for our knowledge and expertise in linking historic sites/parks with women's history. We have exchanged letters with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, outlining ways to best work together and we will soon meet to discuss our next steps. At the September 2014 American Association for State and Local History meeting in St. Paul Minnesota we held an Affinity Group Meeting and began the process of forming a partnership group with AASLH.

As many of you know, our primary partnership has long been with the National Park Service. We completed one National Historic Landmark nomination and are working on another. Thanks to the hard work of NCWHS Board Members Barb Howe and Peg Strobel the Marjory Stoneman Douglas House nomination now only awaits approval by the Secretary of the Interior. As an early environmentalist this activist-author, famous for her book *River of Grass*, Ms. Douglas helped preserve the Everglades. Preparing NHL nominations entails massive amounts of work.

In March 2014 we held four webinars, "Telling the Whole Story: Doing Women's History at Your Site," broadcasting two hours each week for over 40 NPS staff and NCWHS members from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. This course worked to explore, research, and experiment with best practices in integrating women's history in historic sites. The webinars, "Finding," "Researching" and "Integrating" Women's History, presented and discussed many research sources -- written, oral, photographic, and tangible sources found at historic sites-- landscapes, buildings and structures and objects. We shared current scholarship, research techniques, and a variety of site-related exercises with participants so they have a solid foundation for future site interpretation and preservation. We are now considering how best to develop these webinars further.

We are developing our goals for the New Year now. In addition to the Heritage Trails, we want to do more with the webinars, develop our on-line presence, and expand our work with our partners. We invite you to join us on projects, committees or with our

partners. We invite you to join with us in answering AND sharing “What were all those women doing?” and “What was half of humanity experiencing? Seeing? Living?”

Thanks to everyone who has participated with us, partnered with us, and supported NCWHS and the determination that the Whole Story be told-- the history that fully includes all women, that recognizes our differences, our commonalities, our accomplishments, our shortcomings, our human lives throughout our history. We deeply appreciate your presence and support, and ask that you join us even more this coming year.

### **Vice President's Report - Lori Osborne**

In 2012 the NCWHS held a board retreat in St Louis where we discussed many things and made a list of goals for the coming years. This summer, the NCWHS Board reviewed our goals and discussed our progress over the past two years. Though we did not accomplish everything on our list, we're proud of all this nearly all volunteer organization completed:

- National Headquarters-- We moved to Evanston, IL and hired our first permanent if part-time person, Kris Hartzell, who has a background in historic preservation and site management and has greatly improved our membership services.
- Board operations -- We completed a review and updated our policies and procedures, and our roles and responsibilities of board members.
- Membership and outreach -- We updated our membership systems, including creating an online membership database and payment system; we worked on our web site, using it as a primary way we dispense information; we created a quarterly email newsletter; we continued our strong social media presence, regularly updating Facebook and Twitter.
- We participated in several national conferences, including creating sessions for: AASLH 2013 and 2014; OAH 2014; NCPH 2013 and 2014; NCPH and CCWH and AHA 2014. Marla Miller and Heather Huyck presented at the Massachusetts conference.
- We gave the first Peg Strobel Travel Grant to Ms. Tracey Hanshew who gave an insightful and original presentation, “Rodeo Cowgirls and Rural Feminism,” at the 2014 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in Toronto, Ontario.

### **Treasurer's Report - Barb Howe**

The NCWHS depends on membership dues, donations, and income from various projects to support our work. Our most recent source of outside income is the overhead we receive from our Cooperative Agreement projects with the National Park Service. It is a percentage of the expenses for the various tasks we complete under this agreement.

Our expenditures include routine but crucial items-- printing our brochures, buying required insurance, licenses, IT support, and postage. Last spring, we expanded our operations by moving our headquarters to the Evanston History Center and hiring staff. This means that we have increased our expenses, making it even more important that we increase our income from memberships and donations to remain sustainable. I very much

appreciate the assistance of Peg Strobel, our assistant treasurer, who does an amazing job of keeping track of our financial transactions related to our NPS Cooperative Agreement, and Page Harrington and Lori Osborne, who have done our local banking in Washington, D.C., and now, in Evanston.

## **Committee Activities**

**Partnerships:** Heather Huyck, Barb Howe, Peg Strobel

- The National Park Service - We continued our work through our Cooperative Agreement, including the four webinars in women's history, the completed Marjorie Stoneman Douglas NHL nomination, and the work with the NPS on the next NHL nomination on Annie Wauneka, a Navajo leader who brought together traditional Navajo and western medicine together to respond to major health crises, especially tuberculosis. We continue to research other NHL possibilities. We also are working with the NPS to improve how sites understand and present women's history to their 280 million visitors each year.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation, with 300,000 members, owns several dozen properties in addition to providing preservationists legal, financial and technical tools. We will be working with the Trust on their National Treasures program, identifying women's history-focused properties for protection.
- The American Association for State and Local History with 6000 members, from the the smallest sites to the very largest ones has many different programs and resources. At the AASLH Annual Meeting in September we held a successful organizing meeting for an AASLH Affinity Group for Women's History.
- The U.S. Forest Service, with millions of acres of land it manages is increasingly emphasizing recreation and preservation as well as its natural resources. We will work with them to highlight the histories of women in the Forest Service.
- If you want to join us on any of these projects/partnerships, especially the NHL project, please contact us at [contact@ncwhs.org](mailto:contact@ncwhs.org).

**Online Communications:** Sue Ferentinos, Marla Miller, Michael Regoli

We are only nine people away from reaching 500 followers on Twitter! If you haven't already "followed" us (@NCWHS), be sure to do so to keep abreast of organizational activities and members. This summer we passed the 500-person milestone on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ncwhs](http://www.facebook.com/ncwhs), and now have 539 folks who have "liked" us in Facebook. The committee also manages our website [www.nchws.org](http://www.nchws.org) and invites members to share their insights and activities. NCWHS members: Please share your women's history-related updates, accomplishments, and innovations, so we can spread the news of all the good work being done. Please send your submissions to : [contact@ncwhs.org](mailto:contact@ncwhs.org).

**Membership and Development:** Page Harrington, Erin Krutko Devlin, Lori Osborne  
Increasing the number of active members has never been more important. The revenue generated funds our outreach efforts, and the behind-the-scenes administrative work that allows us to share materials, showcase those sites whose work deserves to be shown as best practices for doing good women's history, pass along information on new publications and programs, and keep the website full of useful content in the women's history field. Next month we will also launch a short survey asking what you would like included in our membership benefits-- please take a few minutes to let us know! We appreciate very much all of you who renew your membership, and hope that you will encourage your colleagues to join as well! You can always give a NCWHS membership as a holiday gift-- no wrapping or postage required. To join or renew your membership, use this link [www.ncwhs.org/index.php/membership](http://www.ncwhs.org/index.php/membership)

**Heritage Trails:** Janice Dilg, Marsha Weinstein

While the full Heritage Trails Committee has been on hiatus, the NCWHS Board and Committee members Pam Elam, Mary Melcher, Marsha Weinstein, and Janice Dilg have been working to advance the goal of a nationwide resource of women's heritage trails. If you haven't visited the NCWHS website lately, please do so. Michael Regoli, Marla Miller and Barb Howe have incorporated sites, tours, and trails from across the country into a dynamic interactive online [map](#) on the NCWHS website.

The committee has two new co-chairs: Janice Dilg, an independent historian in Oregon, and Marsha Weinstein, co-founder of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust and based in Kentucky. Our predecessors, Pam Elam in New York and Mary Melcher in Arizona who built this committee continue to provide us valuable support and knowledge.

Heritage Trails Committee members held a conference call in September to revitalize the committee. Building on our solid foundation, we are seeking new ways to expand the committee to include at least one representative from every state with an eye toward creating a national resource of women's heritage sites related to suffrage and Progressive Era women activists and reformers by 2020, the centennial year of women's suffrage. If you are interested in the learning more about the work of the Heritage Trails Committee, or know someone who could serve as a representative of your state, please contact us at [contact@ncwhs.org](mailto:contact@ncwhs.org).

**Special Thanks:**

- ★ Thanks to Marsha Weinstein for being our Secretary the past two years. Thanks to Marla Miller and Michael Regoli for their website and work; and to Susan Ferentinos for her Twitter and Facebook work.
- ★ Thanks to Barb Howe, Heather Huyck, Peg Strobel, and NPS Kimble Talley for their immense work researching, writing and producing the four "Telling the Whole Story" webinars.

- ★ Thanks to the Peg Strobel Travel Grant committee members Nupur Chaudhuri, Camesha Scruggs and Sherri Smith-Ferri.
  - ★ Thanks to our partners who have been supportive.
  - ★ Thanks to Linda Lear and Polly Welts Kaufman for their time and expertise on the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas NHL nomination.
  - ★ Thanks to Jennifer Burton for being our Annual Meeting presenter. We can't wait to hear from you!
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**NCWHS 2014-2015 Board and Officers:**

Heather Huyck, President

Lori Osborne, Vice President

Barb Howe, Treasurer

Peg Strobel, Asst Treasurer

Camesha Scruggs, Secretary

Joan Catapano

Nupur Chaudhuri

Janice Dilg

Pam Elam

Page Harrington

Mary Melcher

Sherrie Smith-Ferri

Marsha Weinstein