

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites 2016-17 Annual Report

Treasurer's Report - Peg Strobel and Lucy Beard

The NCWHS completes the fiscal year with a surplus due to careful stewardship of our income, which is derived from membership dues, donations, and overhead on mission-related projects (i.e. National Historic Landmark applications managed through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service). Our expenses include routine but crucial items such as insurance, licenses, IT support and database management, and postage. For the past ten months, NCWHS has operated without dedicated staff support. The business of the Collaborative has been made possible with the gratis time and effort of the Evanston History Center staff and NCWHS board members. We expect to expend more funds on a salary for part time staff in the coming year.

Thank you to Peg Strobel who, as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the past year, has kept a careful eye on the NPS Cooperative Agreement accounts and the general operating fund. She stepped down as Treasurer in May and was replaced by board member Lucienne Beard. Thank you to those of you who joined for the first time or renewed your membership in NCWHS. A hearty thankyou to those who donated to the annual appeal as well. Your support is critical to the organization's success.

NCWHS Committees:

Heritage Trails:

Marsha Weinstein and Nancy Brown, Co-Chairs

The goal of the Heritage Trails Committee is to highlight the role of each state in the 72-year national battle to achieve, "Votes for Women." The campaign was conducted in parlors, churches, town halls, parks, union halls, and other community locations. While a handful of sites associated with the most well-known suffrage leaders have been turned into museums, the vast majority are unknown to the general public. The Votes for Women Trail identifies the buildings, sites, historical markers, and monuments where women's suffrage activity took place. The locations and accompanying descriptions will be made accessible to the public via a mobile-friendly website. Sites will also include those important to minority women, men who supported suffrage, and anti-suffragists. The Votes for Women Trail's ultimate objective is to show how social change occurs, to honor the suffrage movement's countless participants, and to inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote.

The Votes for Women Trail is a national grassroots effort to document a national grassroots effort that dramatically expanded democracy in our country. Volunteers in 25 states are already at work identifying sites and entering them into a database that populates a Google map; to date there are over 425 sites entered into the database and more are uploaded every day. When completed, users will be able to enter a zip code that identifies any sites near them that were important to woman suffrage history. Professional historians, women's history enthusiasts, educators, and students will all be able to utilize the Votes for Women Trail for their research.

Membership and Development: NCWHS membership stands at 90 active members. We appreciate everyone who has joined or renewed their membership. The annual appeal, which took

place in December 2016, generated \$955 in donations. Thank you to everyone who gave and please consider making a gift this year.

National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Committee:

Committee members: Joanne Goodwin, Barb Howe, Heather Huyck, and Peg Strobel

The National Historic Landmarks Committee coordinated efforts related to three sites. The first two are part of our current task agreement with the National Park Service (NPS). The Pauli Murray Family Home at 906 Carroll Street in Durham, North Carolina, recognizes Murray as a pioneer for civil rights, women's rights, a founder of the National Organization for Women, and the first African American woman Episcopal priest. Heather Fearnbach and Dr. Sarah Azaransky prepared the nomination. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell approved the nomination on January 11, 2017.

The second NHL nomination under our task agreement is underway for the Klagetoh Chapter House on the Navajo Reservation in Klagetoh, Arizona, as a site to recognize Annie Dodge Wauneka (1910-1997). She was a major leader in improving public health among the Navajo and the first woman member of the Navajo Tribal Council. Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates, Inc., are preparing this nomination and are scheduled to submit a draft of this nomination on September 8, 2017.

Our third project has been to act as the fiscal agent for a nomination of the Mary Baker Eddy House at 8 Broad Street in Lynn, Massachusetts, that is being prepared under a contract with the Longyear Museum. Eddy (1821-1910) was the founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist and founder of the *Christian Science Monitor*. The first draft of this nomination has been submitted to the NPS.

National Park Service (NPS) Committee:

Joanne Goodwin, Pam Sanfilippo, Antonia Castañeda, Chair

Established in September, 2016, the NPS Committee is to sustain the partnership with NPS, including the development of Agreements (Cooperative and Task) within which NCWHS has proposed and produced numerous projects, including Women's History publications, webinars, and National Historic Landmark nominations for and with the National Park Service. The NPS Committee works with other NCWHS Committees on the development of project proposals for new Task Agreements.

Currently, the National Park Service is revising its policies and procedures, including those pertaining to application, acceptance, and management of projects. More information on the new policies and procedures will be available in October on the NPS website.

Nominating Committee:

Lucienne Beard and Antonia Castañeda

Currently, the NCWHS Board is comprised of fourteen members. On September 31, 2017, the end of our fiscal year, four of our members complete their respective terms and cycle off of the Board. **We thank Nupur Chaudhuri, Pam Elam, Barbara Howe, and Peg Strobel for their many years of service as Board members, and officers.** Their leadership has been instrumental in the development of NCWHS as a leading national organization for Women's history sites. We welcome new officers and new Board members at our monthly meeting on October 9, 2017.

Online Communications: We have 1,311 followers on Twitter and 1,105 people have "liked" us on Facebook. We hope you have found NCWHS online if you use these social media outlets—and

please share our posts with your friends and colleagues. In addition, we love posting news from members on Facebook: let us know via contact@ncwhs.org if you've got brief news you'd like us to post. The committee also manages our website www.ncwhs.org.

Research and Interpretation Committee:

Heather Huyck and Nancy Hewitt, Co-Chairs

RIC currently includes members from the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, Alice Paul Institute, Harriet Tubman NHP, Boston NHP, and Lincoln Summer Cottage as well as academically based members from Roosevelt, Rutgers, and UMass-Amherst. This past year, we developed a list of scholarly conferences and application due dates to facilitate organizing sessions where members can present the work of the NCWHS. The Committee updated the NCWHS website bibliography, and we are eager to expand its content further. In March with NCWHS support, RIC celebrated the Maggie Walker Project in Richmond, VA, with Iron Mountain and the NPS. The Walker Project created a database of 22,000 items from boxes of newly discovered historical materials.

RIC members also attended the Western Association of Women Historians meeting in San Diego with a NCWHS session "Taking Women's History to the Public" that included presentations by Joanne Goodwin and Heather Huyck. Six NCWHS members attended the 2017 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and Gender at Hofstra University where RIC organized a roundtable on "Powerful Partnerships for Teaching Women's History" and a tour of Sagamore Hill NHS. During a private tour of the museum and house, participants saw the new exhibit on the Roosevelt women and then gathered for a talk on that topic by Dr. Stacey Cordery, author of *Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker*. RIC had hoped to lead an intensive four-day tour of women's history sites from Rochester NY to New York City just before the Berks. While that did not work out, we will be posting information on the NCWHS website for members interested in taking their own tour. And we will try to reschedule a group tour for 2018. We were sorry to see our friend and supporter Dr. Stephanie Toothman retire from the NPS, but we are completing a Task Directive in hopes of offering a new series of NPS workshops for park staff, commercial tour guides and scholars in 2019-2020.

Partnerships:

- **National Park Service (NPS)** - We continued working with NPS through our Cooperative Agreement, including working on two women's history-related National Historic Landmark nominations (more details in NPS and NHL committee reports above). We also are working with NPS to improve how sites understand and present women's history to their 280 million visitors each year.
- **Maggie Lena Walker Papers Project** - NCWHS partnered with the Maggie Walker Community, Colonial Williamsburg, and Iron Mountain to catalogue the Maggie Lena Walker Collection. In March 2017, Altria Group then funded a celebration of Walker's work and the project. Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934) led the Independent Order of St. Luke, an African American fraternal burial society, founded a Richmond bank and newspaper, and participated in many civic organizations. The collection, which is owned by the Stalling family, includes over 15,000 documents. Over an eight-year period, a group of volunteers, the Maggie Walker Community, had been processing the documents and creating a 22,000-item database. NCWHS provided technical, administrative, and moral support to this project. Former NCWHS president Heather Huyck supervised the project. Colonial Williamsburg stored the documents

while the Maggie Walker Community worked on them. Iron Mountain information management company, digitized 100 of the most significant documents.

- **National Trust for Historic Preservation** - We continued working with the Trust on their National Treasures program, identifying women's history-focused properties for protection. The Trust was an important partner on the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray NHL nomination.
- **American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)** - NCWHS is partnering with the Women's History Affinity Group (WHAG) of AASLH. The advisory committee for WHAG is co-chaired by Rebecca Price and former NCWHS board member Page Harrington. At the AASLH 2016 conference in Detroit, MI, NCWHS Vice President Lori Osborne was part of a WHAG presentation that also included Susan Ferentinos, former NCWHS Board member.

NCWHS Officers and Board:

Nupur Chaudhuri, President
Pam Elam, Vice President
Lori Osborne, Vice President for Operations
Peg Strobel, Treasurer
Lynn Weiner, Secretary
Lucy Beard
Nancy Brown
Antonia Castaneda
Joan Catapano
Erin Krutko Devlin
Joanne Goodwin
Nancy Hewitt
Barb Howe
Yolanda Chavez-Leyva
Pam Sanfillipo
Lynn Weiner
Marsha Weinstein