



ARA Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 2.

Greetings members and subscribers!

It has been an eventful couple of weeks for the ARA.

Letter of introduction sent to Archivist of U.S.

We sent a [letter of introduction](#) to David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, where we explained how the ARA intends to work in a collaborative manner with both lawmakers and archives management to increase funding and improve research services at our archives. As ARA members know, our objective is to effect positive, lasting change to records access at archival facilities nationwide for both researchers and archives staff. We look forward to a response from Mr. Ferriero to begin a constructive dialogue to ensure NARA patrons continue to have access to the essential records of our democracy.

Strategic plan posted

We have posted our 2020-2021 [Strategic Plan](#) on our website. It outlines our mission, objectives and plans to address funding shortages at the archives

through outreach, collaboration and advocacy efforts. The economic uncertainty and financial hardship our country currently faces is likely to continue and also impact NARA's funding. Any further reductions to records access at NARA would drastically impact research professionals; since we are stakeholders, the ARA feels the need to speak now and protect the access we value.

New members

We are pleased to introduce our newest board members at this time.

- Michael Bracey, Army veteran, former NY prosecutor and independent researcher
- Jessica Taylor, President of Legacy Tree Genealogists

We are honored to have these two talented and accomplished directors to assist us with future advocacy efforts.

Check out our [professional researcher listing](#) and our [member sponsor page](#) to see friends and research colleagues who have joined our organization. We hope to gain your support also and encourage you to consider becoming a sustaining member at this time. We really do want to hear from you!

ARA merchandise

Support our mission ...in style! Click the photo to see the wide array of products available in our [online store](#).



The ARA will receive 20% of the purchase price of each item. One hundred percent of these funds will go towards our mission of advocating for access to the records that you need. Promote access to historical records and look good while you do it.

Coming events

We are pleased to announce we have scheduled our first ARA 'town hall' meeting for October 19th, 2020. It's time for our community to come together and set an agenda so that we may speak to Congress and archives management with one voice. Input from ARA members will determine the most pressing issues facing our researcher community. We encourage you to [join](#) prior to our town hall event. We look forward to hearing from you!

Membership benefits

ARA will continue to feature our professional members in articles and social media posts, offering a great opportunity for the public to connect with respected members of the research community.

All contributions and dues received will enable us to advocate for access to the historical records you need.

Members of our [Board of Directors](#) are all volunteers; they receive no

compensation. All member dues and donations go entirely toward the cost of association operations (web and media hosting, bookkeeping, video production, marketing, and advocacy efforts in Washington DC).

If you can, please pitch in! Our efforts now and in the future will help preserve the records access that is vitally important to each and every one of us.

For more details on membership visit our website here: [Membership plans](#).

