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## ARA Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 3.

Greetings members and subscribers!

We have some important developments to share with you.

### **NARA responds to the ARA**

NARA's Chief Operating Officer, William 'Jay' Bosanko responded to our letter on behalf of the AOUSA indicating that archives management would be open to working with us and listening to our concerns regarding future NARA policies that will impact researchers. We have opened a constructive dialogue with NARA focused on ways we can collaborate to ensure continued access to historical records for researchers and their clients.

### **ARA Legislative Committee at work**

We have begun the process of connecting with lawmakers who sit on financial and oversight committees in DC. Our advocacy efforts are now being overseen and advised by professional lobbyists who work for powerful government relations firms in DC and who

have volunteered their time to aid us in this endeavor. We will continue to update the community as we progress with our advocacy campaign on behalf of the researcher community.

## How you can help

If you have a connection to a museum, educational institution, or veterans organization please reach out and ask them if they would be willing to sign a letter of support for our effort to bring additional funds to NARA's research services. This will improve our chances of securing adequate levels of funding for the research rooms as we begin to approach lawmakers. If we can demonstrate how important this issue is to the general public it will strengthen our message exponentially.

## Tell us your story

There is no better way for us to appeal to our representatives than through real-life, personal examples of how COVID-19 and archives closures have affected us. Tell us how COVID-19 has impacted you, your family, and your clients. We will share only your first name and will feature excerpts from your story on the website (and in our communications with Congress). Please email your story here: [Personal Story Submission](#).

## Join the discussion

We are pleased to invite members to attend our first town hall event on October 19th at 6PM Eastern/7PM Central. We will be sending a Zoom invite to the town hall to all of our registered members in the coming weeks. If you are not a member yet please [join](#) so that you can participate.

Don Mounts will be moderating our discussion and selecting questions submitted from our members to ask our panel of three board members:

- Jessica Taylor (genealogy)
- Steve Greene (historical records/special media)
- Geoff Gentilini (military records)

We are asking members to submit two questions that you would like our panel to answer and discuss during the town hall. This is an opportunity to initiate a conversation on the issues that are most relevant to you and to learn how we plan to represent your interests.

Please email your two questions to Don Mounts here: [Town Hall Q&A Submission](#).

## Conclusion

We would like to thank all of you who have embarked on this journey with us. Your input and assistance have been vital to our rapid growth in such a short period of time. We believe recent and future ARA efforts will benefit researchers, veterans and their families, private organizations, historians, the public and the archives. We are proud to have your support and we could not do it without you!

If you have questions or concerns please reach out to a [board member](#). We want to hear from you and we can't speak on your behalf unless we know your concerns. If you have not already done so, please click here: [become a member](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

