

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
April 7, 2003

Participants: Edward Sanderson, President; Jay D. Vogt, Treasurer; Britta Bloomberg, Secretary; Judith Bittner, Immediate Past President; Ruth Pierpont, Executive Committee member; James McConaha, and Cathie Matthews, Directors; Nancy Schamu, Executive Director; and Rich Nolan and Sean Dalton of Ball Janik.

### **Call to order**

The President called the meeting to order at 3:05 p. m.

### **Conversation with Lobbyists**

Nancy Schamu introduced Sean Dalton and Rich Nolan of Ball Janik, LLP, whom the National Conference has hired to represent us with the Congress to achieve a \$50 million appropriation for the States from the Historic Preservation Fund for fiscal year 2004. Ball Janik will begin with a multi-member letter to the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees. Working with Preservation Action, the National Conference will identify Members who are likely to sign such a letter and will contact SHPOs for support materials (projects that would be funded if the appropriation reached \$50 million) that would help convince other Members to sign.

The President made it clear that the National Conference wants this effort to include support for the entire Historic Preservation Fund request with an emphasis on the States and the \$50 million.

### **Transportation Reauthorization**

The President discussed an April 2, 2002, letter that Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, had sent to Mitch Daniels, Office of Management and Budget about the Administration's legislative proposal for reauthorizing the surface transportation program. A copy of the letter had been faxed to all National Conference Board Members on April seventh. The President asked all those on the call to read the letter carefully and get back to him or the Executive Director if they had any problems with the National Trust's approach. The President wants to respond in a supportive way to the National Trust on this concept in the hope that the Trust and the Conference can reach a common position.

### **July Board of Directors Meeting**

The National Conference staff is working with Ted Hild on the plans for the July 2003 Board of Directors meeting. The preliminary agenda involves a SHPO roundtable on heritage tourism on Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup>, an all-day strategic planning session for the next three years led by our consultant Bitsy Waters, a tour of downtown Chicago on Friday morning followed by the Board of Directors meeting Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

### **Preserve America**

The Executive Director indicated that the Advisory Council and other federal agencies had begun the initiation of the implementation of Preserve America. While the Department of Commerce is taking on the grants aspect, the Department of the Interior (Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett) has the responsibility for the designation of Preserve America communities. The National Conference is working on a meeting with the Assistant Secretary to volunteer the Secretary's historic preservation program as implemented by the State Historic Preservation Officers as a way to jump-start their activity. Part of the presentation will include reference to the 2000 local communities that the Secretary has already recognized through the Certified Local Government program through the SHPOs.

### **National Park Service Director's Award for Partnerships**

The National Park Service has instituted a new award to recognize partnerships. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is the first recipient of the award. The President will travel to San Diego, California, to receive the award from the Director on behalf of the National Conference on April 17, 2003.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is Monday May 5, 2003, at 3:00 pm EDT.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm EDT.

Nancy Schamu, Executive Director,  
for Britta Bloomberg, Secretary