

Last month, through a generous scholarship from the KMHA, I had the opportunity to attend the American Association for State & Local History (AASLH) Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. I want to say *thank you* for making this experience possible for me as an early-career archivist and museum professional.

It was my first time attending a large conference, and I have to admit that I was nervous. What sessions should I choose? Will anyone talk to me? Will I know where to go? Looking back on my experience at the AASLH conference, I had little reason to worry.

The venue – the Marriott hotel in downtown Louisville – was easy to locate. On my first day at the conference, I entered the hotel and was immediately greeted by a smiling AASLH volunteer who directed me to the registration desk. The volunteer at the desk made me feel welcome and organized, while another volunteer nearby offered to point me in the direction of my workshop. I remember stepping away from the desk with renewed confidence and excitement.

I started the conference with a full-day workshop entitled *Identification and Care of Photographs*, led by Monique Fischer of the Northeast Document Conservation Center. It was excellent! We learned how to identify different types of photographic materials, how to detect deterioration, and how to plan for storage and preservation. I took away great ideas from this workshop, some of which I am already putting into practice.

The other sessions I attended focused on topics relevant to my work and interests, including heritage tourism, exhibit design, project management, women's history, and interpretation. There were also many networking events and other opportunities for informal interactions. I came home from the conference bursting with new knowledge, ideas, and plans.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.