During 2013, the Council of State Archivists made significant progress on a number of new initiatives and ongoing projects. These include the following:

**COSA TRANSITION FINALIZED.** With Vicki Walch’s retirement as CoSA’s respected executive director, Anne Ackerson was hired and among her first responsibilities was moving the CoSA office to her home base of Albany, New York. As part of the transition, new accountants and a bookkeeper were hired, reams of paperwork were filed with the State of New York, and the process of switching all sorts of accounts was begun. CoSA now rents an office from the NYS Archives in downtown Albany. Here, Anne has access to a wealth of expertise, including CoSA Treasurer, Chris Ward, and CoSA past-president Kathleen Roe. Anne can usually be found in the office three days/week and she can be reached at other times from her home office.

**A FOND FAREWELL TO VICKI.** In recognition of her many contributions and years of service to CoSA and the state archives community, Vicki Walch was presented with CoSA’s first-ever Leadership Award, named in her honor, and feted at a warm and wonderful reception in New Orleans. Anne and Vicki remained in close contact throughout 2013 to facilitate the winding down of the office move and through the many issues that have arisen this year. Vicki’s guidance and expertise continue to be much appreciated.

**WE SAID GOODBYE TO JENIFER BURLIS-FREILICH.** At the end of 2013, long-time CoSA program staffer, Jenifer Burlis Freilich, bid CoSA farewell to pursue work closer to her Jefferson City, Missouri home. We wish her well on this new chapter and thank her for her many years of dedication to CoSA.

**THE STATE ELECTRONIC RECORDS INITIATIVE (SERI) moved into high gear in 2013,** addressing one of the most important issues facing state archives today: the management and long-term preservation and access of electronic records. The SERI Steering Committee and four subcommittees unveiled a basic training institute in July, began work on building a web portal of resources, and laid plans for advanced institutes in Richmond, VA and Salt Lake City and a full roster of monthly webinars for 2014. SERI is made possible with a **$490,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** and a **$139,750 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), AND hundreds of hours of volunteers who are providing leadership and expertise to the project.**

**WASHINGTON, DC BRIEFING.** For several years, CoSA has sponsored a gathering of stakeholders to review our activities, particularly as they related to our SERI work. 2013’s meeting was no exception. Approximately 35 representatives from organizations and agencies as diverse as the National Governors Association to Heritage Preservation to NHPRC and IMLS joined CoSA board officers Jim Corridan and Matt Veatch at the Library of Congress for an informative afternoon focused on electronic records. The 2014 briefing is set for March 18th.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE ARCHIVES** is an important awareness and educational tool that CoSA published in 2013 with funding from the NHPRC. All state and territory archives received a supply of copies to use in their own awareness efforts and many states have asked for more. We have enough on hand to supply requests in 2014; it is also downloadable from the CoSA website - http://www.statearchivists.org/reports/index.htm
COSA/NAGARA/SAA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS are regular opportunities for the presidents, vice-presidents and directors of the three organizations to share information and plan collaboratively. In 2013, these conversations led to joint communication with the Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in regard to the transfer of the Georgia State Archives and to the NHPRC Commission regarding future funding directions. This group continues to watch federal appropriations for NHPRC, IMLS and NEH and work on developing joint awareness messaging.

MONTHLY WEB CONFERENCES for CoSA members and state archives staff covered topics ranging from building awareness for electronic records to the standards and challenges of nitrate film to the care and feeding of friends groups, as well as updates about CoSA’s various projects. As always, we welcome your suggestions for topics.

STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARDS (SHRBs) were the focus of two Town Hall webinars in 2013 and attended by more than 100 SHRAB members and archives staffers. The SHRAB Member Manual, which can be accessed from Basecamp, was thoroughly updated. All of this activity is intended to strengthen the operations of the SHRABs and help them make good use of State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) grants available to them from NHPRC. CoSA also hosted a SHRAB Brown Bag Lunch in New Orleans where 50 people heard updates from Kathleen Williams, NHPRC’s Executive Director, and shared information about their SHRABs.

ANNUAL MEETING. CoSA’s 2013 annual meeting was held jointly with SAA in New Orleans. More than 50 state and territory archives and staff attended the Work Session and Business Meeting. Many took advantage of the travel reimbursement allowance available to those states paying at least $2,500 in dues, often receiving support for those dues payments from their NHPRC SNAP grants. We’re looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2014 CoSA-NAGARA-SAA joint annual meeting in Washington, DC, August 13-16. We understand that there will be an exceptional number of sessions of high interest to government archivists and records managers.

CORPORATE SPONSORS. Last, but certainly by no means least, we thank CoSA’s growing list of corporate sponsors, who are helping to support ongoing programming in a variety of ways. Leading the way is Ancestry.com, who has been a generous supporter for many years. Ancestry.com underwrites the Work Session lunch at the Annual Meeting, among other programs. Joining CoSA in 2013 were Gaylord Brothers, an Annual Meeting sponsor; FamilySearch, who will be a sponsor of the 2014 awards program; HISTORY™, and Hollinger/Metal Edge. If you deal with any of the companies, please thank them for support CoSA.