

## Points to Consider for our Association

If history is an effective guide, we can look to AAA's experience from 2014-16 to forecast impacts on the Association.

- The issue is extremely divisive for our community. AAA's prior experience involved extremely heated exchanges among a deeply divided membership, and harmful threats, including death threats, targeting AAA staff.
- We are likely to lose members. AAA lost more than 200 members who felt it was inappropriate for AAA to entertain the prospect of an academic boycott. We may be significantly restricted in the choice of cities where future Annual and Section Meetings can be located, decreasing the affordability of participation for members. There are now 35 states that have adopted anti-BDS laws or executive orders. Of these, 22 states specifically ban contracts with entities who wish to contract with the state or its subdivisions, such as publicly operated convention centers, unless the entities certify that they do not advocate or subscribe to a boycott of Israel or its institutions. This would include cities such as Atlanta, San Francisco, Detroit, and Phoenix, among many others. Some lower courts have held this requirement to be a violation of First Amendment freedom of speech rights. However, the Supreme Court recently refused to accept an appeal from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld Arkansas' requirement that contractors with the state must certify non-participation in a boycott of Israel. According to our attorney, the refusal of the Supreme Court to review the decision in the Arkansas case will be viewed by lower courts as an indication of the Supreme Court's sentiment on the boycott issue, namely, that states may impose this anti-boycott certification requirement on its contractors.
- We may lose sponsors, further reducing the affordability of meeting participation. We lost one corporate sponsor who had contributed \$10,000/year for three years prior to the 2013 Business Meeting to help underwrite our annual meeting.
- We may gain sponsors. We gained one generous individual donor whose \$5,000 gift started the Travel Fund to support Annual Meeting participation from the region, which has subsequently been backed by a few modest supplemental donations.
- Our fund-raising efforts may be adversely affected in other ways. We had multiple grant-making organizations reject our funding requests to support the development of the World on the Move traveling exhibition because they felt AAA was acting inappropriately for an educational and scholarly society.