

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • New Jersey
New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

**BUSINESS MEETING,
Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:30AM-10:30AM
Zoom (Online)
MINUTES**

I. Call to Order (Knies)

- A) Meeting called to order at **9:33 AM**
- B) Review of Basic Zoom Protocol

II. Approval of the Agenda (Knies)

- A) Any revisions to the agenda? No revisions.
- B) Motion approved. Motion Seconded. Agenda approved by the membership.

III. Approval of Fall 2020 Business Meeting Minutes (Knies)

- A) Please review minutes at [Fall 2020 Business Minutes Draft](#)
- B) Any revisions to the minutes? No revisions.
- C) Motion approved. Motion Seconded. Minutes approved by the membership.
- D) Reminder that the minutes of the Steering Committee and the Business Meetings are posted on the website. The minutes of the most recent Steering Committee meeting, which was held April 9, will be posted in a few months, however, Jennie will share the agenda and talk about any of the topics covered with any members who are interested.

IV. Chair's Report (Knies)

- A) Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning and execution of the first-ever all virtual conference! I cannot name everyone, and the planning committees will be presenting in a bit, but this has been a wonderful experience and I feel like I can brag, because I didn't do much in the planning except to say "Okay" and I think this has been more jam-packed with content and professional than anything else I've attended in the past year. I hope that everyone who is attending the conference has had a positive experience.

50th Anniversary Committee. MARAC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. We now have an anniversary committee, whose charge is, in a nutshell, to help us celebrate. I'd like to thank MARAC Historian Lauren Brown, John LeGloahec, and Alexandra Plante for agreeing to tri-chair this committee. They have an email list: marac_50th@marac.info and will be communicating with the MARAC membership throughout the next two years, but please feel free to reach out to them if you have ideas re: celebrating our anniversary.

B) At the last meeting we reported on the excellent work of our Meeting Model Task Force. Co-chairs Liz Scott/Hillary Kativa carried out an extremely thorough survey and analysis of how MARAC conducts its conferences. Our next step is to form a Meeting Model Working Group to analyze and assess how our “experiments” work out and develop a plan moving forward. Obviously, this year, we are trying out one of the recommendations, which is to have one virtual and one in-person conference. In 2022, at College Park in the fall, we will be experimenting with a “longer” conference (by one day). After that, we’ll make some more concrete decisions about a sustainable model moving forward. This will be an ongoing evaluation process, with our ultimate goal to provide the right balance of affordable and accessible educational, networking, and other professional connections for our members

C) Quick highlight to remind everyone to check out Member Minute series!

D) Finally, a note that we will be discussion the Service Awards at the July Steering Committee Meeting and awarding them in the Fall at our Gettysburg conference.

II. Meeting Coordinator's Report (Mannix)

A) Program Committee Report (Elizabeth and Vincent Novara): The Program Committee Co-Chairs extend a thank you for the hard work and support of the Program Committee for this conference. Elizabeth and Vincent Novara note that originally they had hoped to be co-chairing the Spring 2020 conference in Harrisonburg, VA which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID 19. However, the extraordinary work of MARAC members allowed them to step in to help organize a successful virtual conference and that would not be possible without the full support of the Program Committee including: Bethany J. Antos, Laura Bell, Steven Bookman, Ilhan Citak, Megan Craynon, Kevin Delinger, Stephanie Gardner, Steven Gentry, Lynda Kachurek, Jessica Lydon, Sheridan Sayles, Courtney Tkacz, Elizabeth Wilkinson, and Blair Williams.

B) Virtual Arrangements Committee Report (Deb Schiff and John Zarrillo): The Virtual Arrangements Committee co-chairs thank the members of this year’s first Virtual Arrangements Committee for organizing a very successful first ever virtual conference. They thank in particular the Virtual Arrangements Committee members: John Beekman, Beth Zak-Cohen, Alan Delozier, Lisa Gensel, Jacqi Haun, Jane Ingold, Ebonie Jones, Helice Koffler, Catherine Mayfield, Alex Plante, Colleen McFarland Rademaker, Joe Schill, Sheridan Sayles, Jenny Sawdosh, Elizabeth Surlles, Max Thorn, and Annie Tummino. They also thank Virtual Poster Presentation coordinators Tara Maharjan and

Melissa Ziobro as well as Vendor Coordinator Nick Zmijewski and Program co-editors Emily Connel and David Ranzan.

C) A look at our upcoming conferences

- i) Fall 2021: We will be in Gettysburg, PA from October 7-9, 2021 and we will be in person.
- ii) Spring 2022: We will be in Harrisonburg, VA from March 24-26.
- iii) Fal 2022: We will be in College Park, MD for the 50th Anniversary of MARAC from October 19-22.
- iv) Spring 2023: We will return for a virtual conference in the Spring per the suggestion of our Meeting Model Task Force.

III. Treasurer's Report (May)

A) The Treasurer's Report for FY2021 Quarter 3 was sent out alongside our agenda for today. The Report is also available in the latest issue of the Mid-Atlantic Archivist for anyone who is interested.

B) Our first quarter went well—we brought in more than we spent. We have a net income for our third quarter of \$6,668.82. This report shows that despite the difficult year we have had, MARAC is in good financial health!

C) This is due to the generosity of our members. THANK YOU to everyone who renewed their membership and paid for themselves or for others to attend this virtual conference.

D) Finally, as a reminder we encourage those who would like to to donoate to the Graduate Scholarship Fund to help more graduates attend these conferences. You can donate at www.marac.info/donate

IV. Awards Announcements & Presentations (Knies)

A) Before we get started with the awards as usual, the Chair would like everyone to know that all of the regularly provided travel scholarships for this conference have been reassigned to assist with offsetting the registration costs for this Virtual Conference given that no travel was necessary!

B) Travel Awards (Knies)

- i) Karen A. Stuart Award: The Karen A. Stuart Award provides funding for registration costs for conference and related activities. The award is made in memory of Karen A. Stuart, Library of Congress Archivist and former head librarian at the Maryland Historical Society. An active MARAC member, she served as the Maryland Caucus Chair and as a member of the Publications Committee.

Karen had a passion for local history and genealogy. She assisted thousands of researchers investigating local history and guided local history practitioners throughout Maryland in their work. MARAC establish this award to support the professional growth of those associated with local history collections.

ii) Marsha Trimble Conference Award: This award provides \$400 towards meeting registration and travel. This award is named in honor of Marsha Trimble, archivist in the Arthur J. Morris Library at UVA School of Law from 1977 to May 2002. She joined MARAC in 1976 and served on various Program & Local Arrangement Committees, the Education Committee, and Nominations & Elections Committee. She was elected as the Vice Chair and chaired the Meeting Coordinating Committee (MDD). Marsha also served as MARAC's 2nd Administrator.

Beyond these listed accomplishments, members who worked with Marsha were always inspired by her dedication, enthusiasm, and the sense of humor that enlivened many work and planning sessions. She was appropriately honored with the announcement of the scholarship in her name at the Spring 2002 meeting.

iii) Joan Echtenkamp Klein Conference Award: This award provides \$250 towards meeting registration and travel. This award honors the memory of Joan Echtenkamp Klein, the Alvin V. and Nancy Baird Curator for Historical Collections at the University of Virginia Claude Moore Health Sciences Library. Among her many accomplishments was the development of the History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series which featured nationally and internationally known scholars in the field.

Joan served MARAC as secretary from 2002 to 2006 and as a member of several program committees. She is remembered by many for her regular presence at MARAC meetings, her infectious laugh, and her outgoing personality.

C) Distinguished Service Award (Rohrbaugh)

i) This award recognizes members who have made significant contributions to the organization as well as the greater archival profession.

ii) This year the award is given to: Jim Gerencser. It is my pleasure to inform you that you are the 2021 recipient of the MARAC Distinguished Service Award. First awarded in 1992 in honor of MARAC's 20th anniversary, the Distinguished Service Award carries with it a \$250 honorarium, provided through the generosity of Hollinger Metal Edge. You are notably the 20th recipient of the award, and several of the individuals who wrote letters in support of your nomination are previous Distinguished Service Award recipients, including your primary nominators, Lisa Mangiafico and John LeGloahec.

This year's Distinguished Service Award Committee was impressed by the often quiet yet tremendously impactful ways you have gone above and beyond to serve MARAC and the archival profession. On numerous occasions, you have stepped in to ensure the financial health of our organization as well as smooth and successful operations. The Committee was equally impressed by your legacy as a mentor to students and new professionals. Countless archivists, including several who wrote letters in

support of your nomination, count you as a mentor and many more value you as a trusted colleague and friend. Your past and ongoing contributions to MARAC are truly exceptional. Your nominators cited your years as Treasurer (2008-2014) and Interim Treasurer (2015-2016); committee service on Finance (2007-2018), Nominations and Elections (2014-2015), Development (2003-2014), and Membership (1999-2003) as well as several influential appointments to ad hoc committee including the Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws Changes (2014-2015) and serving as Chair of the “35 for 35” Financial Campaign (2007-2009); your seven-time service on Local Arrangements and Program Committees, including serving as Chair of the Fall 2003 Program Committee; and session presentations and workshops too numerous to list here. One of your most remarkable contributions to MARAC was your work to bring the organization’s administration to your institutional home, Dickinson College, in 2011, providing oversight and even serving as Acting Administrator in 2016. You have served and continue to serve MARAC on top of your dedicated and often innovative work as the College Archivist at Dickinson, service to SAA and the Pennsylvania SHRAB, frequently serving as a grant reviewer, and your volunteer work for a number of local community organizations.

As John LeGloahec wrote in his nomination letter, “[Jim] has distinguished himself to his community, his employer, and his profession and there is no better individual to be recognized by this organization that he has supported throughout his archival career, with the MARAC Distinguished Service Award.”

It was a joy to read the many heartfelt letters like John’s that supported your nomination. So many people have been inspired by your work, and I count myself among them! I will attach your nomination letters so you can read them yourself in full, but here are a few highlights: “When Jim joined me on the Membership Development Committee in 1999, I did not know 22 years later I would count him among my closest friends and advisors, in archives and in life. His good sense, wit, intellect and generosity have made Jim a remarkable archivist, mentor, and friend.”
— Lisa Mangiafico

“It has been a pleasure to work with Jim on MARAC Steering and on some of the other committees he and I had worked on. He is brilliant and patient, willing to share his knowledge and also work to keep things moving forward. I wish more people knew about his hard work and his support of the MARAC and archival profession.”
— Danna Bell

“I can think of no better way to honor Jim and his contributions to the archival profession at the local, regional, and national levels than by recognizing his accomplishments and service to the profession with this award. Nowhere is this service more apparent than Jim’s over twenty years of mentorship to countless interested students and new archival professionals. Jim has provided guidance and

support to countless Dickinson and non-Dickinson students alike, myself included, interested in exploring the archival profession or just starting out as new professionals...During my time as a student worker, Jim deftly navigated the balance between introducing student workers to archival concepts and the realities of a full-time course load. Jim also encouraged interested students to pursue graduate education, internship, or other employment opportunities and similarly worked to provide those opportunities himself.” — Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz

“Jim has an uncanny knack for getting the best out of his colleagues and employees. During [my Dickinson] internship I didn’t just learn how to be an archivist, but also how to be a supervisor and a manager. And, in turn, I learned how to be a mentor myself. I know many other archivists after me have learned the same. All thanks to Jim’s dedication to the field and its members.” — Michele Lavoie

“His tenure as Treasurer for MARAC was one of his great gifts to our organization. His ability to keep good records and keep the organization in the black created a high level of confidence among members. I was able to experience this first hand as I served on the finance committee for a number of years while Jim served as treasurer. Under his leadership I learned so much about finances of a not-for-profit organization, skills that were well-used in my own professional life.” — Pamela Whitenack “I viewed Jim as the MARAC voice of reason; when I needed a reality check, he was there. He was never judgmental and always truthfully realistic.” — Mary Mannix

“Fiscal responsibility is paramount to MARAC as an organization. Truth be told, Jim’s actions and accomplishments in MARAC’s financial sphere may lay under the radar of many members; however, it is precisely because he has been so successful in his various roles in MARAC that the membership is larger, more inclusive, more diverse, and more fiscally sound as it moves ahead. He has excelled in this role and has made MARAC a better organization because of it.” — Robin Emrich

Congratulations, Jim! Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to MARAC and the profession.

V. Old Business (Knies)

A) There is no old business to report. So Jennie has placed a lovely slide here from the Suffragette Parade in Washington, DC in 1913 as a place holder.

VI. New Business (Knies)

A) Any new business? No.

VII. Gettysburg Presentation

A) Invitation to join MARAC in person again this Fall in Historic Gettysburg, PA from October 7-9, 2021. We are looking forward to finally getting to see each other in person and we have a great slate of tours, talks, and presentations.

VIII. Question and Answer (Knies)

A) Before we end, I thought we would just leave a moment to see if there any questions/announcements.

IX. Announcements & Adjournment (Knies)

A) Any announcements?

B) Reminder to check out the Virtual Poster Session!

C) Reminder to check out the Member Minute!

D) Enjoy the rest of the conference! See everyone in Gettysburg!

E) Motion to Adjourn. Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM

Signed by: Sarah Ponichtera 10/09/21


