

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

February 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Virtual via Zoom

AGENDA

I. Call to Order (5 min)

- A. Introductions
- B. Approval of Agenda

II. Approval of Steering Committee Minutes (5 min)

- A. October 19, 2023 Steering Committee Minutes

III. Officer's Reports (15 min)

- A. Chair
 - a. Chair's Report (Jessica Webster)
 - b. Administrator's Report (Sara Predmore)
- B. Chair-Elect (Ali Zawoyski)
- C. Meetings Coordinator (Mary Mannix)
- D. Secretary (Kevin Clair)
- E. Treasurer (Amy Fitch)
- F. Parliamentarian (Arian Ravanbakhsh)

IV. Advisory Positions (15 min)

- A. Historian (Lauren Brown)
- B. Archivist (Joni Floyd)
- C. Development Coordinator (Brian Keough)
- D. Web Team (Laura Montgomery/Heather Perez)
- E. Regional Archival Association Consortium (Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz)
- F. National Coalition for History (Jan Zastrow)

V. Old Business (30 min)

- A. New dues proposal (Amy Fitch)
- B. Discussion of Strategic Plan (Jessica Webster)

VI. New Business (30 min)

- A. Vote on Strategic Plan
- B. Proposal for new award (Kira Dietz and Tara Maharjan)
- C. Updates on the forthcoming quarter (all)
- D. Next Meeting Date (Jessica Webster/Sara Predmore)

VII. Standing and Operational Committees (15 min)

- A. Awards (Jessica Webster)
- B. Communications (Michael Martin/Missy Nerino)
- C. Diversity & Inclusion (Rayna Andrews)
- D. Education (Colleen Bradley-Sanders)
- E. Membership (Vicki Russo)
- F. Nominations and Elections (Jennifer Mitchell)

VIII. State Caucus New Business and Updates (15 min)

- A. Delaware (Diane Bockrath)
- B. District of Columbia (Christopher Anglim)
- C. Maryland (Allison Fischbach)
- D. New Jersey (Tara Maharjan)
- E. New York (Danielle Glynn)
- F. Pennsylvania (Taylor Mason)
- G. Virginia (Zachary Hottel)
- H. West Virginia (Lori Hostuttler)

IX. Adjournment

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2 February 2024

To: MARAC Steering Committee Members

From: Jessica L. Webster

Chair's Report

Since our last Steering Meeting, I have been working on the following:

1. After our in-person strategic plan listening session at the Saratoga Springs conference, I hosted a Zoom listening session on the subject on November 9 to gather feedback from members who could not attend the in-person session.
2. I tasked the Members-at-Large with incorporating feedback to the draft strategic plan and revise the plan to coalesce tasks and goals around major themes. I've distributed this plan to Steering with the intention to discuss and vote on the plan during our winter Steering meeting.
3. I have been advising our Chair-Elect, Ali Zawoyski, on starting the appointments process for the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica L. Webster

Chair, 2023-2024

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To: MARAC STEERING COMMITTEE
From: SARA PREDMORE, MARAC ADMINISTRATOR
Date: January 25, 2024
Re: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Membership Statistics

There were 886 active members (as of January 15, 2024):

754 Regular Members
64 Retired Members
68 Student Members

Membership Statistics Comparison

Member Type	2022 (as of 1/21/22)	2023 (as of 1/15/23)	2024 (as of 1/15/24)	% change 2023-2024
Regular	739	733	754	2.86%
Retired	63	64	64	0.00%
Student	72	66	68	3.03%
Total	874	863	886	2.67%

State Caucus Membership Statistics Comparison

Caucus	2022 (as of 1/21/22)	2023 (as of 1/15/23)	2024 (as of 1/15/24)
DC	138	165	137
Delaware	31	34	43
Maryland	181	219	189
New Jersey	118	110	121
New York	164	181	181
Pennsylvania	185	178	190
Virginia	146	149	154
West Virginia	17	16	16

Note: As some members may be part of more than one caucus, total membership numbers and total state caucus numbers may differ.

New Membership Applications (as of 01/15/24)

Month	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
November	4	5	5
December	6	5	4
January	7	4	3
Total	17	14	12

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Elections: The 2024 election announcement was sent to membership on January 18, 2024. This is the first time that voting will be entirely electronic. Ballots were distributed through ElectionBuddy on January 25 to those who were members as of January 17th.

Website:

- Updated Award pages with fall winners and information for upcoming calls for nominations, Updated Minutes page with Steering minutes and reports, Updated Education Committee page, and New Jersey Caucus Awards page
- Revised Administrator Operations Manual entry and associated templates
- Revised Conference Scholarships page with new Symposium amounts and application requirements

Committee Support: Provided administrative support for the following committees to include attending meetings, coordinating efforts with chairs, and messaging.

Caucus Representatives: Met with Chair Elect and Caucus Reps to discuss responsibilities and update Ops Manual entry.

Education: Posted information and coordinated registration for January Coffee Talk, February Wellness workshop, and April Project Management

Executive Committee: Updated the interest form for 2024 Created a form for Chair-Elect use to solicit interest in appointed positions, Finance. Created a drive folder with shortcut links to all folders in MARAC's drive and shared with the Executive Committee to facilitate easier use of folders.

Finance: Administrator's debit card was compromised. Worked with Treasurer to cancel card and receive a new one. Updated card information for automatic payments, Enrolled for ACH payment with Polygon, Cancelled Zoom Events license

MCC: Saratoga Springs, Symposium, Harrisburg planning planning and messaging

Awards and Scholarships: Updated webpage, Distributed calls for submissions,

Communications: Set up committee e-list, distributed winter MAA

Nominations and Elections: Prepared ballots and messagi

Spring 2024 Symposium: Processed Vendor registrations (11 registered). Planning to open participant registration on Monday, January 29, 2024.

Upcoming Tasks:

Elections support

Continued work on Spring 2024 Symposium

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1/22/2024

To: MARAC Steering Committee Members

From: Ali Zawoyski

Chair-Elect's Report

Since the October Steering Committee Meeting, I have been engaged in the following activities:

1. Assisted Chair Jessica Webster to host two listening sessions (one in Saratoga and one virtual) for members to provide feedback on MARAC's Strategic Planning process.
2. Assisted the Saratoga LAC at the registration desk and the evening reception
3. Scheduled and hosted the [Caucus Chairs December Quarterly Meeting](#) with Special Guest: Treasurer Amy Fitch
4. Met with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to continue planning the April Symposium
5. Solicited volunteers for the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and appointed Rachael Dreyer to fill an immediate vacancy (January 2024-June 2025) and Melissa Erlandson, Mark Wolfe, and Genevieve (Genny) Girvan to fill upcoming positions (July 2024-June 2026).

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Zawoyski, Chair-Elect 2023-2024

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January 26, 2024

**TO: MARAC Officers
Caucus Representatives
Committee Chairs
MARAC Administrator
MARAC Archivist**

From: Amy Fitch, MARAC Treasurer

RE: Treasurer/Finance Committee Report

Respectfully submitted to the Steering Committee on Friday, January 26, in advance of the Winter 2023 Steering meeting to be held virtually on February 2, 2024.

1. Highlights of the Second Quarter Treasurer's Report (see first attachment) are listed below.

- The income is from membership dues; conference registration and vendors; publication advertising and sales; bank and investment interest; and individual donations.
- Expenses are from Administrator salary and phone; web service fees; advocacy; conference-related printing and postage; Administrator food, lodging, and travel for the Fall conference; expenses related to the Fall conference; awards; and banking fees.
- Expenditures from restricted funds were for the Fall conference travel awards, the Finch Award, and the Graduate Student Scholarship.
- The quarter ended with a net loss of (\$43,212.41), because the income from the Fall conference was realized the previous quarter while the expenses were paid in this quarter. However, the total net gain for the year to date is \$173.89. Year-over-year, this is \$11,850 better than the end of Q2 last year.

2. Average returns on investment for MARAC's accounts during the quarter (rounded to the nearest hundredth of a percent) follow. These are relatively high rates for us.

- PNC CD: 3.20%
- PNC Savings Account: 0.42%
- Vanguard Bonds: 3.50%

3. The Fall 2023 conference report for Saratoga Springs, New York, is the second attachment. We had modest turnout with 215 attendees, which lowered registration income but also the total cost of meals. Thanks to a boost from a large selection of vendors, our results were only a loss of (\$1,825), after previously agreed-upon reimbursements from Steering and Membership.

4. After several months of searching, I have accepted an offer from Mann Weitz & Associates to prepare our FY23 tax return. MWA is a female-helmed, highly reputable firm that works primarily with nonprofits. While the fee is twice our budgeted amount, it is less than the two other quotes received. In December, I secured a \$1,500 gift to Operations to address this disparity. Going forward, we need to accept this significant increase in the cost of doing business and build it into the annual budget.

5. ACTION ITEM: As directed by Steering in October, Finance has crafted a proposal to increase membership dues (see third attachment). The result is a simple structure with rates that will provide funding to support our strategic goals as well as our operations. It also allows for more flexibility in welcoming those who may need a lower dues rate. I look forward to our discussion.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM: Finance encourages Steering to establish a formal, stated policy for future reviews of the dues structure and amounts. Examples to consider, either separately in combination, are:

“The MARAC dues rates and structure will be reviewed by the Finance Committee every ____ years in order to ensure they are sufficient to meet organizational goals.” OR

“The MARAC dues rates and structure will be reviewed by the Finance Committee if inflation increases by ____% or more in order to ensure they are sufficient to meet organizational goals.”

FY 2024, 2nd Quarter (October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
INCOME							
Membership Dues	\$40,000.00	\$18,287.00	\$1,569.00			\$19,856.00	50%
Conference Registration	\$68,000.00	\$33,012.00	\$9,080.00			\$42,092.00	62%
Conference Vendors	\$13,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,400.00			\$11,900.00	92%
Conference Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$4,300.00	\$0.00			\$4,300.00	86%
Publication Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$988.00			\$988.00	49%
Publication Sales	\$400.00	\$45.00	\$90.00			\$135.00	34%
Mailing List Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Off-Meeting Workshops	\$3,500.00	\$1,315.00	\$0.00			\$1,315.00	38%
Bank Interest	\$300.00	\$113.77	\$322.08			\$435.85	145%
Investment Interest	\$2,000.00	\$184.55	\$2,990.70			\$3,175.25	159%
Gifts to Operations	\$800.00	\$285.00	\$1,540.00			\$1,825.00	228%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00			\$15.00	0%
Total Income	\$135,000.00	\$65,057.32	\$20,979.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,037.10	64%
EXPENSES							
Administrator	\$22,000.00	\$2,999.89	\$4,073.16			\$7,073.05	32%
Web Services	\$8,775.00	\$7,954.37	\$194.40			\$8,148.77	93%
Archivist	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Accountant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Advocacy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00	100%
Insurance Policy	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Phone	\$600.00	\$149.27	\$149.62			\$298.89	50%
Postage	\$400.00	\$60.42	\$8.55			\$68.97	17%
Office Supplies	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Food	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$2,162.55			\$2,162.55	60%
Travel	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$478.74			\$478.74	35%
Equipment	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Printing and Design	\$2,500.00	\$752.77	\$260.71			\$1,013.48	41%
Conference	\$78,000.00	\$6,663.48	\$51,879.67			\$58,543.15	75%
Lodging	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$417.00			\$417.00	42%
Honoraria	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$0.00			\$800.00	50%
Awards and Prizes	\$1,450.00	\$62.75	\$500.00			\$562.75	39%
Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Banking Fees	\$7,200.00	\$2,183.07	\$1,945.79			\$4,128.86	57%
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$45.00	\$72.00			\$117.00	39%
Total Expenses	\$135,000.00	\$21,671.02	\$63,942.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,613.21	63%
Net Income or (Loss)		\$43,386.30	(\$42,962.41)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$423.89	

<u>Account Balances</u>			<u>Opening</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Closing</u>
PNC Checking	\$81,608.53	Operating	\$43,386.30	\$20,979.78	(\$63,942.19)	\$423.89
PNC Savings	\$77,226.88	Restricted	\$142,595.13	\$670.00	(\$2,750.00)	\$140,515.13
Vanguard Bonds	\$88,360.14	Reserve	\$47,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,250.00
Total	\$247,195.55	Surplus	\$58,981.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,981.53
		Totals	\$292,212.96	\$21,649.78	(\$66,692.19)	\$247,170.55

Summary - Second Quarter FY 2024

Opening Balance	\$292,212.96
Total Income	\$21,649.78
Total Expenses	(\$66,692.19)
Closing Balance	\$247,170.55

<u>Restricted Funds</u>			<u>Opening</u>	<u>New Gifts</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Closing</u>
PNC Savings	\$52,154.99	Disaster Assist.	\$20,305.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$20,335.00
Vanguard Bonds	\$88,360.14	Education	\$107,443.51	\$620.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$106,563.51
Total	\$140,515.13	Graduate Schol	\$9,755.62	\$20.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$8,775.62
		Finch Award	\$5,091.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)	\$4,841.00
		Total	\$142,595.13	\$670.00	(\$2,750.00)	\$140,515.13

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Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00			\$15.00	0%
Total Income	\$135,000.00	\$65,057.32	\$20,979.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,037.10	64%
EXPENSES							
Administrator	\$11,225.00	\$8,157.48	\$1,194.31			\$9,351.79	83%
Executive Officers	\$25,900.00	\$3,044.89	\$6,047.13			\$9,092.02	35%
Caucus Funds	\$1,600.00	\$62.75	\$0.00			\$62.75	4%
Steering	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,109.00			\$1,109.00	69%
Communications	\$2,600.00	\$741.13	\$8.55			\$749.68	29%
Education	\$1,950.00	\$800.00	\$0.00			\$800.00	41%
Diversity and Inclusion	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Meetings Coordinating	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Finance	\$9,125.00	\$2,183.07	\$1,942.82			\$4,125.89	45%
Membership	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00	91%
Nominating	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Finding Aids	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Custer and Finch	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$500.00			\$500.00	111%
Distinguished Service	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Scholarship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	0%
Fall Conference (LAC)	\$60,000.00	\$4,600.35	\$52,140.38			\$56,740.73	95%
Spring Conference (LAC)	\$18,000.00	\$2,081.35	\$0.00			\$2,081.35	12%
Total Expenses	\$135,000.00	\$21,671.02	\$63,942.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,613.21	63%
Net Income or (Loss)		\$43,386.30	(\$42,962.41)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$423.89	

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		Totals	\$292,212.96	\$21,649.78	(\$66,692.19)	\$247,170.55

Summary - Second Quarter FY 2024

Opening Balance	\$292,212.96
Total Income	\$21,649.78
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		Finch Award	\$5,091.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)	\$4,841.00
		Total	\$142,595.13	\$670.00	(\$2,750.00)	\$140,515.13

2024 MARAC Dues Increase Proposal

The Finance Committee proposes dues increases of \$15 for the Regular rate and \$10 for the new Bridge/Retired rate to take effect on July 1, 2024. The dues structure after the increase will be as follows:

- Regular Member Rate - \$60
- Bridge/Retired Rate - \$30

Justification

In 1999, dues were set at \$35 for regular members and at \$20 for students and retired members. The regular member rate was increased to \$45 in 2017 to address increases in administrative fees and other expenses necessary for supporting an organization of MARAC's size; the student/retired rate was unchanged.

Eighteen years between increases is not a sustainable pattern. MARAC cannot remain financially sound by waiting until 2035 for its next dues increase. The organization is currently solvent, but inflation has made balancing the budget more difficult over the years and it is only getting worse. For many years, MARAC has relied on the surplus from conferences each year to make up for shortfalls in dues. Since the pandemic began, conferences are no longer a reliable source of income for the organization, and even the largest conferences are attended by only a small percentage of the overall membership (typically, about 35%). Services for the general membership as a whole should be funded by dues, while conferences should seek to fund themselves.

MARAC has taken many measures in recent years to consolidate services, increase workshop and conference registration fees to keep them solvent, and reduce printing and shipping expenses by moving to digital alternatives. Postage costs have been reduced by 56% and printing costs by 77% since FY2015. These measures have kept expenses in line and made MARAC a more efficient organization. But at the same time, MARAC has increased awards and scholarships, begun holding virtual conferences and workshops, started the mentorship program, and encouraged caucuses to hold more events at the state level.

Expenses are increasing due to inflation; since the last dues increase, the United States has experienced a cumulative 20.31% increase in inflation. Specifically, 2021 and 2022 witnessed the highest rates of inflation in more than 30 years. The MARAC membership rate set in 2017 at \$45 required \$56 in 2023 to have the same buying power (all figures are based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The rate of inflation has been reflected in increased costs to MARAC across the board.

- Prices for web services have increased 122% overall since FY2015; these include the MemberClicks membership management application that runs our website, membership database, and registration services, as well as smaller applications like Zoom and ElectionBuddy.

- The cost of the accountant who prepares our organizational tax return each year has increased 26% as of FY2023 and is anticipated to climb significantly next year.
- Our administrator, Sara Predmore, is only part time and yet is essential to our operations. Without her services, MARAC would collapse. The cost for this position has increased 14% since FY2015, when there was someone else in the role, and includes a raise in FY2021. Ostensibly, the salary expense should increase further to reflect the increasing responsibility of the role and the impacts of inflation.

MARAC has already trimmed as much as possible without reducing services. An increase in dues of \$15 and \$10 for the two membership rates respectively will help MARAC meet its operational costs through dues alone.

As we focus on the future, MARAC is embarking on an ambitious new strategic plan that will steer the organization for several years. Increasing dues also will provide working funds for new strategic initiatives to make MARAC more inclusive, nimble, and innovative in the years to come. The additional revenue will allow MARAC to explore new scholarship and advocacy opportunities, experiment with fresh networking event options, and increase the accessibility of our offerings.

Explanation of the Bridge Rate

The Student/Retired rate is being renamed the Bridge/Retired rate. There are many reasons why a MARAC member may need a lower dues rate. Students and unemployed archivists have little income, while underemployed archivists may want full-time work in a single position but haven't found it. Either they only have a part-time job and the wages to match, or they're piecing together 40-ish hours per week with multiple jobs, often without benefits. In these situations, the option for members to temporarily pay the lower Bridge rate can be a way for MARAC to retain their membership and continue to provide them with access to educational programming and networking opportunities that can improve their professional situation.

The term "bridge" can also denote reaching out. For retired members, we can build a bridge to connect with them when they are no longer connected by work or projects. We can also choose to use this rate to create connections to groups who are underrepresented in our profession, however that may be defined at a particular point in time, at the discretion of Steering.

Maintaining a Simple Dues Structure

A simplified dues structure supports efficient bookkeeping and fiscal accountability. A more complex dues structure may seem appealing to address issues of income inequality and individual members' capacity to pay. However, a complex approach can easily undermine the financial stability of an organization without addressing the larger, systemic economic issues of the profession.



January 24, 2024

To: MARAC Steering Committee

From: Arian Ravanbakhsh, Parliamentarian

Re: Report to Steering

The following report is submitted to the MARAC Steering Committee for the meeting to be held on February 2, 2024.

Parliamentarian Activities

The Parliamentarian has continued to advise the Executive Committee on matters relating to committee appointments and duties.

MARAC Historian Report - February/2024
(for the MARAC Steering Committee Meeting via Zoom)

I am continuing to work on mini-histories of MARAC committees and updating an historical MARAC leadership list, as described in my prior quarterly report. Joni Floyd (MARAC Archivist) and I are also continuing our conversations about revising/updating records retention profiles for the MARAC Archives.

Recently one of MARAC founders, Elsie Freeman Finch, passed away at a senior living facility in Kensington, Maryland. She was very much involved in the initial organizational meeting of what was to become MARAC, held on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland in June, 1972. In November I submitted a short article about this notable early member of MARAC to our newsletter.

Lauren Brown
MARAC Historian

MARAC Archivist Report
Steering Committee Meeting
February 2, 2024

DRUM Submission Reminder

Sent our reminder to MARAC Fall 2023 Program Committee Co-Chairs about the option to deposit their presentations in DRUM, the University of Maryland's digital repository. I also provided sample text for the email to be sent out to all conference presenters can be found below. Regrettably, the self-deposit option remains unavailable.

Meeting with MARAC Historian

Met briefly with Lauren Brown to discuss MARAC collection development policy and records retention schedule. More involved discussion is loosely scheduled for the summer months.

Joni J. Floyd
MARAC Archivist

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New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

**Development Coordinator Report
Steering Committee Meeting
January 30, 2024**

At Saratoga Springs, Cheryl Stadel-Bevans and Marisa Bourgoïn created a beautiful quilt that was auctioned for \$300. They donated proceeds to the Archival Education Fund. Thank you to Cheryl and Marisa!

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Keough

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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

Submitted to: Steering Committee

January 26, 2024

Web Team members for 2023-2024:

Laura Montgomery (co-chair), Heather Perez (co-chair), Diane Biunno, Jasmine Smith, Chris Loos, Diana Reed, Sara Predmore (ex-officio)

Updates since the last Steering Meeting:

- Web team members periodically updated conference, job opportunities, committee, and caucus pages as requested
 - Laura - moved the Fall 2023 conference content to the “Previous Conferences” section of the website
 - Heather - with the Education Committee, heavily revised the pages relating to their offerings. Made updates to the Publications page and caucus pages.
 - Diane - updates to the Steering Committee page, including names and email addresses.
 - Jasmine - updates the MARAC Job Opportunities page weekly, adding new submissions, removing outdated listings, and keeping submitters informed
 - Diana - review messages in the Web Team gmail account and forward them to the appropriate team member and is the Web Team representative member on the MARAC Task Force on Committee Membership
 - Chris - conducted a quality check of any changes to the website, including edits to caucus pages (VA, NJ, and PA), the Communications Committee page, and the pages under the Education subheading

Please double check your webpage(s) on the MARAC website and contact us at maracwebteam@gmail.com if you notice any issues or if you would like to make any updates.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Montgomery and Heather Perez, Co-chairs

Regional Archival Associations Consortium Representative

Winter 2024 MARAC Steering Committee Report

- Communicated announcements from RAAC to MARAC Executive Committee and Caucus Representatives

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz



Winter 2024 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY Report
MARAC Steering Committee Meeting, Feb. 2, 2024

FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEDERAL BUDGET (from Lee White, NCH Executive Director): In November, Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating into early 2024. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) was able to push through the legislation despite opposition from a large group of far-right Republicans.

Under the two-tiered plan, agencies covered by the Agriculture, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD bills had their funding extended to Jan. 19. The departments and agencies covered by the eight other appropriations bills had funding extended to Feb. 2. Note that the bills that fund programs of interest to the history, archival, and education communities are included in the second tranche of bills.

The logic was that by pushing the deadline back into the new year, it would give the House and Senate the opportunity to pass the 12 spending bills individually and avoid a situation where all appropriations bills are lumped into a single omnibus spending package as in recent years. Congress left for the holidays without taking any further action on appropriations bills, leaving only a few weeks in January to craft a FY 24 budget, which Congress has not been able to do.

As this is being written, the budget process remains in a state of flux. A new CR has been proposed by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Speaker Johnson that would extend the expiration deadlines for the appropriations bills listed above to March 1 and March 8, respectively. Given the contentiousness we have seen throughout 2023 and the razor thin Republican majority in the House, there remains a real possibility of a government shutdown.

Generally the Senate bills include flat funding for FY 24. This reflects the caps on non-defense discretionary spending for the next two fiscal years that were agreed to as part of the budget deal passed last year to raise the debt ceiling. However, Republican leadership in the House has, in some cases, cut FY 24 spending below the amounts agreed to in the budget agreement. As a result, most of the funding levels for programs that affect history, archives, humanities, and education are higher in the Senate bills than the House versions. Please see the NCH website for a detailed report at <https://historycoalition.org/>

NEW AOTUS: Last May, Dr. Colleen Joy Shogan was sworn in as the 11th Archivist of the United States. Dr. Shogan is the first political scientist and first woman to serve in the position in a non-acting capacity. After she was nominated by the White House, NCH issued a statement in support of her nomination. At the request of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), NCH submitted questions to be asked of the nominee at her confirmation hearing. We're delighted to have her (officially) at the helm!

—Jan Zastrow
NCH Representative
zastrow@hawaii.edu