

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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MARAC Membership Meeting

2025 May 3, 8:30am

Harrisburg, PA

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31am.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved at 8:31am.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from last fall's Membership/Business Meeting were approved at 8:31am.

IV. Chair's Report

The *ad hoc* committee on the disaster relief fund has completed its work, preparing a rubric for evaluating funding requests. Hopefully no one needs this money, but we have it if you do.

We are making progress on the strategic plan. We have information on the website to allow members to track our progress; we will also be using a tracking spreadsheet to help us with planning for the next strategic plan.

Zach Hottel reported on the *ad hoc* advocacy committee work, to review MARAC's advocacy efforts and requests for support. The committee made three recommendations and developed a form for members to make advocacy requests to MARAC on behalf of organizations in the region. The committee recommended the creation of a three-person advocacy working group; MARAC Steering will be putting out a call for volunteers to serve on this committee soon. Members will be appointed by Steering, and not elected. There was a question about time commitments; it's hard to answer this question because we don't know how many requests we will get. Could be little, could be a lot, could vary a lot by time of year. Appointments will be for a two-year term.

We are looking for volunteers for two additional working groups: one addressing the effects of climate change, and another on organizational records retention. More information on this to come soon.

We are developing a second graduate student scholarship award in the memory of Danna Bell, to be awarded to a person of color. You can donate toward this award now, by going to the [donation form](#) on the MARAC website, selecting the Graduate Student Scholarship Fund, and indicating "Danna Bell Award" in the additional instructions.

The Mentoring Program will be calling for mentors/mentees soon, stay tuned for more information. It is a mentoring opportunity where mentors are paired with 2-3 mentees with similar professional interests. The committee has also developed a new peer-to-peer mentoring program. The call for next year's participants is on the way. There are also spots available on the subcommittee itself (two-year commitment). E-mail mentoring@marac.info for more information.

There are publishing opportunities available for *The Practical Archivist*. We are looking for submissions for No. 18 (fall/winter 2025). Thanks to everyone on the editorial board for preparing the submissions we have published so far. There are two new volunteers for the editorial board: Diane Bockrath and Megan Craynon.

V. Meeting Coordinator's Report

Welcome to Harrisburg! We have 379 total attendees, our biggest attendance at an in-person conference since 2018. We had 24 vendors. The food drive for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank raised over \$500 and seven boxes of food with over 200 physical items. The online food bank donation form goes offline on May 6.

Thanks to Taylor Mason and Tyler Stump (LAC co-chairs) and David Grinnell and Valerie-Anne Lutz (PC co-chairs). Thanks to everyone who has helped as program editor, vendor coordination, and technical coordination.

The MARAC Fall Symposium will take place on October 27 at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. Eira Tansey will be the facilitator for the symposium, on Sustainability and Archives. The Spring 2026 meeting will be in Richmond; from April 30-May 2 at the Omni Richmond Hotel. Room rates \$185/night. Farther out, fall 2026 will be a virtual meeting and spring 2027 will be (tentatively) in New Jersey. Contact meetings@marac.info if you're interested in planning any of these events or would like a MARAC event in your area.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Q3 of the fiscal year saw a net gain of \$60,860. Conference income and strong dues revenue are factors. We did raise membership dues, but this increase hasn't affected our membership numbers so far. Our income from CDs remains good. Our net gain for the year is now \$98,105. Our expenses for Q4 will be high due to conference expenses coming due, spring awards, paying yearly expenses (accountant, insurance, etc.).

Next business items for the Treasurer and Finance Committee – in May the FY2026 budget will be developed. Steering meets in early June to approve it. Hard to say what the impact of current politics will be on the budget (i.e. member travel budgets) so will be conservative in our planning. Budget development for the 2025 symposium will take place in June.

VII. Awards Announcements and Presentations

The following awards were presented.

Service Awards:

- Saratoga Springs conference planners: Brian Keough, LAC chair; Amanda May, PC co-chair; Josette Schluter, PC co-chair.

- Virtual 2024 conference planners: Colleen McFarland Rademaker, VAC co-chair; Scott Keeper, VAC co-chair; Megan Craynon, PC co-chair; Hillary Kativa, PC co-chair.
- Jessica Webster, past MARAC chair.
- Rayna Andrews, past Diversity & Inclusion chair and Philadelphia symposium organizer.
- Missy Nerino, past *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* editor.
- Lorna Loring, past Virginia Caucus representative.
- Tara Maharjan, past New Jersey Caucus representative and Becker Award coordinator.
- Elizabeth Wilkinson, past workshop coordinator.
- Lori Hostuttler, past West Virginia Caucus representative.
- Jan Zastrow, longtime National Coalition of History liaison.

Finding Aids Award: NYPL Music Division of the Performing Arts Library, Alvin Lucier papers, processed by Matthew Snyder.

Travel Awards:

- Marsha Trimble Meeting and Travel Award: Emily Kubincanek, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.
- Joan Echtenkamp Klein Award: Scylla Humbert, University of Pittsburgh.
- Karen A. Stuart Award: Gwen Wells, Jones Memorial Library.

Distinguished Service Award: The DSA is presented to members who have made significant contributions to MARAC and to the archival profession. Nominators highlighted this person's service to MARAC, of which she has been a member for over 30 years. She has been on Program Committee, various elected and appointed committees, and as a caucus representative. She is unfailingly collegial and inclusive, and a mentor to new MARAC members and archivists in general. She often worked with and befriended new archivists, and never hesitated to share her knowledge with others. She received no fewer than seven letters of support. In Pennsylvania she has developed collection policy documentation to ensure state records are accessioned properly, to ensure that archivists across PA are properly supported, and attends to the needs of underrepresented groups in archival work. She helped to plan the digital records center at the new Pennsylvania State Archives facility; one letter of support described it as a model for other state archives

Jessica Webster presented the Distinguished Service Award to Cindy Bendroth of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

Diversity and Inclusion Session Scholarship Award: Session 3, Ashley Todd-Diaz, Suzanne Yaukey, and Bethany Firebaugh (Towson University) and Harrison Wick (Indiana University of Pennsylvania).

Ronald L. Becker Award: Presented in honor of Ron Becker, a founding member of MARAC and leader in the profession. A former New Jersey caucus representative, this award was developed by the New Jersey caucus and is awarded to early-career archivists for general professional development funding. The award was presented to Nicole Font, New York Botanical Garden. She will be using the award to travel to Dijon, France, to present her work at a conference for and about women botanists.

VIII. New Business

Mary Mannix invited people to stay until the end of the day.

The next membership meeting will be held virtually on October 31.

IX. Announcements and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28am.