

Awards Committee Report MARAC Spring 2025 Steering Committee

As we wrap up the bulk of the “awards” season for the 2024 year, I just want to note my appreciation for all the subcommittee chairs and co-chairs. They’ve been amazing this year and we’ve accomplished a lot of good work towards recognizing our colleagues!

Chair Kira Dietz started working with subcommittee chairs in the fall to update the overall Awards Committee manual and subcommittee manuals. While those changes are complete, I’ve been delayed in getting them to the MARAC secretary, but expect to complete that process following the spring meeting, while incorporating a couple of more recent additions.

I would also like to mention my appreciation to the Web Team for their revision of the Awards web page structure earlier this year.

Reports from awards subcommittees are included below.

Arline Custer Committee (Elise DeAndrea): The Custer Committee has no new updates, as they are between awards cycles.

Distinguished Service Award (Jessica Webster): DSA has made a decision for the 2024 award, which will be presented at the Spring 2025 MARAC business meeting.

Finding Aid/Finch Awards (David Grinnell): The Finding Aids Committee has selected a winner for the 2024 Finding Aids Award, which will be presented at the Spring 2025 MARAC business meeting.

Scholarship Awards (Tesa Burns): The Scholarship Committee has selected winners for the travel awards to the Spring in-person meeting. They have also selected the inaugural winner for the Becker Award. Winners for all awards and travel funds will be presented at the Spring 2025 MARAC business meeting.

Given that this is the first Becker Award, the committee has made some observations about the process and will implement some minor changes to the language on the website for next year. The updated language is noted in red in the revised text on the page following this report.

Respectfully submitted,
Kira Dietz
Awards Chair
April 25, 2025

Becker Award Website Update

Ronald L. Becker Award

The Ronald L. Becker Award aims to promote professional development among new professionals within the MARAC region. It is named in honor of Ron Becker, a founding member of MARAC who was a very active member and leader. He was MARAC Chair, a New Jersey caucus representative, and editor of *The Mid-Atlantic Archivist*. After 43 years as an archivist, Ron retired in 2016. He continues to advocate for archives students and new professionals and participated in an oral history project for MARAC's 50th anniversary.

The annual award of up to \$1,500 would be used for costs associated with professional development, including:

- Conference expenses – including membership, registration, flights, lodging, meals, gas mileage, etc., for any professional organization (except for MARAC-related conference expenses)
- Editorial services/fees for article, journal, or book submissions
- Continuing education course(s) or certification(s) either online or in person for any educational opportunity that the candidate relates to their professional goals, not just those explicitly related to archives and its related fields. Examples: project management, computer science, database management, privacy, and data security.
- Workshop fees and travel

Other proposed uses by nominees should be evaluated by the committee and may be applied if the application meets the criteria. The total award given will be for expenses documented in the budget, up to \$1500 (meaning a successful nominee requesting only \$1,000 would be reimbursed for that amount).

Please note that the value of this award is taxable, if more than \$600 is awarded. **The funds need to be spent by June 30 of the following fiscal year.**

Eligibility:

To be considered for the award, an individual must currently:

- Live or work in the MARAC Region
- Be a MARAC member in good standing
- **Work in the archival field for 5 years or less, not including graduate school employment**

Note: The Ronald L. Becker Award can only be awarded to a member once.

Applications:

1. Cover letter/proposal outlining a specific plan for how the nominee would utilize the funds, also addressing how this award and the experiences it subsidizes will benefit their career (not to exceed 1,000 words)
2. Resume or CV
3. Budget documentation that references and justifies expected costs

Application Process:

Send a single PDF of the cover letter/proposal, resume, and budget plan to the MARAC Scholarship Committee Chair, Tesa Burns, at scholarship@marac.info by **March 31, 2025**. Please include "MARAC Becker Award Application" in the subject line. All applicants will receive an email confirming their application has been received.

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Communications Committee Steering Report

April 24, 2025

The Communications Committee is composed of Missy Nerino, Carolyn Friedrich, Lara Szypszak, Anna Juliar, Jill Tominosky, Renae Rapp, Michael Martin, Molly Tighe, Heidi Abbey Moyer, Diane Bockrath, Nicole Font, Megan Craynon, and Kathleen Donahoe. Kevin Clair and Sara Predmore are ex-officio members.

Committee Assignments

- Chair: Missy Nerino
- *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* Editorial Board: Carolyn Friedrich, Editor; Lara Szypszak, Associate Editor; Jill Tominosky, Advertising Editor; Anna Juliar, Caucus News Rep
- *Practical Archivist* Editorial Board: Heidi Abbey Moyer and Renae Rapp, Co-Editors-in-Chief; Molly Tighe, Michael Martin, Nicole Font, Diane Bockrath, and Megan Craynon, Editorial Board Members
- Social Media Coordinator: Kathleen Donahoe

Committee Budget

During Fall 2024, Krista Hanley, designer at Dickinson's Print Center, informed us of a significant increase in the cost of her design services. As both the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* and *The Practical Archivist* utilize Krista's services, this has dramatically affected the budget for the Communications Committee.

The budget for the committee had been increased for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to accommodate the redesign of *The Practical Archivist*, but the price increase occurred effective immediately in the fall, so the additional increase could not be factored into the budget.

This spring, Amy Fitch, MARAC's Treasurer, reached out to Missy Nerino to discuss the budget for the committee moving forward. Fitch, Nerino, Sara Predmore, and the Editorial Board for *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* met. Additionally, Nerino met separately with

Heidi Abbey Moyer to discuss the impact on the budget for *The Practical Archivist*.

Due to this increase, several changes have been implemented. MAA has opted to eliminate paper copies and institutional subscribers. More information on this decision is details in the MAA section. Additionally, a more regular schedule for publishing issues of *The Practical Archivist* will be implemented for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to ensure the budget remains in check for the committee.

Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA)

The Spring 2025 (Vol. 54, No. 2) issue of MAA was published on April 4. A social media post advertising the issue was shared on LinkedIn April 8, 2025, and an announcement was shared in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter on April 16, 2025.

This issue includes an interview with Laura E. Helton, author of *Scattered and Fugitive Things: How Black Collectors Created Archives and Remade History* and winner of the 2025 Arline Custer Memorial Award for best book. A second feature was written by Nancy R. Lambert, recipient of the MARAC Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship, about her processing work at Queens College Special Collections and Archives. Another article discusses responses to asbestos and its impact on staff, researchers, and the internship of the article's author, Josh Redd. One article described the work involved in a grant funded project at The College of New Jersey to create an online research hub, among other goals. Another informative article detailed how zines in the Frederick Wertham Collection at the Library of Congress were made more accessible to researchers through careful cataloging. This issue continues the Committee Update, a new feature added to the MAA as part of the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. This update features the Finance Committee. The Spring issue also continues MAA's series of book reviews with an analysis of *Six Steps to a Long-Range Preservation Plan: A Guide for Cultural Heritage Collections* by Sherelyn Ogden. Finally, this issue includes an In Memoriam for Danna Bell from her colleagues at the Library of Congress.

The caucus news editor worked with the Caucus Representatives to gather updates for the Spring 2025 issue and is pleased to report that caucus representation continues to be robust, highlighting member accomplishments across the geographic area represented by MARAC.

Advertising continues with business as usual. The Advertising Editor created a report for the Finance Committee that helped to inform the budgeting discussion for the MAA, which is detailed below. A new rate card with the MAA's updated advertising rates has been posted on MARAC's website.

The MAA team discussed budgeting for the MAA for the upcoming fiscal year 25-26 with Missy Nerino, Communications Committee Chair; Amy Fitch, Treasurer; and Sara

Predmore, MARAC Administrator on March 24. The group compared income from advertising and institutional subscribers against the cost of postage and limitations imposed by print issues that require four page increments. Previously, printing a small quantity of each issue allowed MARAC to receive a discounted rate from Dickinson's Print Center. In addition to increases in design costs during the past year, Dickinson eliminated this discount. The option to eliminate printed copies of the MAA appears to be the most cost-effective decision moving forward. The loss of income from the MAA's nine institutional subscribers would be offset by eliminating the cost of postage and potential decrease in design time and cost with the elimination of the required four page increments. Therefore, starting with the Summer issue of the MAA, the newsletter will only be published in digital format. Since several institutional subscribers would be renewing in the near future, the decision was made to make a clean stop rather than track subscriptions and slowly decrease the number of printed copies. Sara Predmore notified the subscribers and handled the business of concluding their subscriptions. The MAA team anticipates that digital only publication will allow the newsletter to be more nimble and cost effective in the long term.

Conversations are underway to see the MAA and other MARAC documentation added to MARAC's Archives and to explore options for adding issues to the Internet Archives. On March 28, the MAA received an update that the MARAC Archivist is waiting to meet with the Access Team at the University of Maryland to discuss scheduling, although this communication was directed at the Web Team, and it is still unclear what role the MAA editorial team will need or be able to play. The MAA is also waiting on a timeline for ingest of back issues of the MAA dating from 2014 to present to be made available on the Internet Archives, and if additional steps will be required on our end to assist in this process. These conversations may dovetail with the ad hoc Records Retention committee Steering is planning to implement.

Following up on a concern stated in the Winter 2025 report, the MAA team notes that the Spring issue proceeded largely according to schedule, and the designer was communicative about her upcoming time out of office. The MAA team was able to work quickly so that the issue was completed and published prior to the designer's time away.

The Summer 2025 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date of early July.

The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series

Completed Work (February-April 2025)

- **Meeting Best Practices:** During spring, the Editorial Board continued to meet via Zoom on rotating days, either the first Friday or first Thursday of each month. The work of the Editorial Board was conducted via email when possible and in one-hour, online meetings (10-11 a.m.).
- **Meeting Dates:** Held monthly Editorial Board meetings on Friday, February 7; Thursday, March 6; and Friday, April 4. Remaining meetings for the spring and early summer are planned for Thursday, May 8 (rescheduled to avoid conflict with MARAC Spring 2025 Conference in Harrisburg), and Friday, June 6.
- **Documentation/Reports:** Continued to update documentation for the workflows of the Editorial Board as well as style guide for authors and peer reviewers. Completed content for the MARAC Operations Manual.
- **Completed and Approved eISSN Registration with Library of Congress:** Now that No. 16 is published, our request for a permanent eISSN has been finalized. The eISSN is 2834-3867.
- **MARAC Spring 2025 Conference:** Completed promotional materials (made in-house at no cost) to distribute at the conference, including color flyers, 11 x 17 sign, pinback buttons, and bookmarks containing a QR code that links to a survey so that the Editorial Board can more effectively solicit feedback from potential authors. These will be near the Registration Table or another area designated for distribution. Many thanks to Nicole Font for creating the bookmarks and survey for the Editorial Board.
- **Leadership and Membership:** Continued to address goals for February through June 2025. Continued discussing leadership and composition of the Editorial Board beyond June 2025, when both Co-Editors-in-Chief will be stepping down. Effective July 1, 2025, Diane Bockrath and Megan Craynon have volunteered to serve as the new Co-Editors-in-Chief. We are extremely grateful for Diane and Megan's willingness to serve and know that they will continue the excellent work of the Editorial Board through 2026. We also requested at least two new members to join the Editorial Board for 2025-2026.
- **Approval for Expanding Authorship for the Publication:** Members of the Editorial Board unanimously voted to change the eligible authors for *The Practical Archivist* so that any archivist (or allied professional) may submit a proposal idea and manuscript for consideration with the caveat that preference will be given to current MARAC members. This was approved by the MARAC Steering Committee.
- **Approval for Draft DEIA Statement:** This has been tabled due to the current political climate and other concerns of MARAC members. The Editorial Board has completed a draft of a DEIA Statement. Many thanks to Michael Martin and Megan Craynon for leading this initiative.
- **Finalized Draft GenAI Statement:** Our GenAI Statement is complete and has been approved by the Communications Committee and MARAC Steering Committee. The Editorial Board is considering where to include this (online or in each issue). Many thanks to Diane Bockrath for leading this work!

Current Work (April-June 2025)

- **Next Issue Coming in Late Spring/Summer 2025:** The Editorial Board is finalizing details for our next issue, *The Practical Archivist* No. 17, which focuses on textiles. This issue is still on track for a May/June publication release, pending final layout with our graphic designer at Design & Print Services, Dickinson College.
- **Continuing discussion about limiting publication to one issue per year,** (hopefully on a temporary basis) due in part to rising costs of layout as well as the need/desire to focus on streamlining the workflows for review and copyediting processes.
- **Continuing discussions about further defining standing subcommittees** to streamline workflows. Subcommittees may include: Policies (Generative AI and DEIA), Marketing/PR, OJS Workflow and Peer Review, etc.
- **Revising documentation for the workflows of the Editorial Board** aiming for a smooth leadership succession process. Continuing transfer of content from former editor's Google Drive to MARAC Google Drive. Identifying content that will need to have restricted access to maintain confidentiality with the peer-review process. Continuing to revise the style guides for authors and peer reviewers.
- Sharing a "Call for Proposals" (CFPs) during the MARAC Spring 2025 Conference.
- Securing copies of the long-lost issues of No. 1 and No. 7 of the *MARAC Technical Leaflet Series* at the University of Maryland. Many thanks to Megan Craynon for her ongoing work to finalize this!

Critical Future Work (June 2025 and Beyond)

- **Managing the Publication Process:** Continue discussion finding an affordable way to manage the publication process.
- **Leadership Succession:** This will be led by Diane and Megan beginning July 1, 2025. Many thanks again from Heidi and Renae and from the rest of the TPA Editorial Board for their willingness to take on these roles. We know that the publication will be in excellent hands with their expertise, energy, and leadership over the next year.

As a final note of appreciation, Heidi and Renae wish to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the members of the Editorial Board for their steadfast commitment to the development of *The Practical Archivist*. It has truly been a team effort and pleasure to work with so many colleagues to make the publication thrive. We also want to share our thanks to Missy Nerino for her strong leadership of the Communications Committee and appreciate the support of the Communications Committee, MARAC Steering Committee members, and Krista Hanley at Dickinson College for all of their assistance over the past two years.

Social Media

On the blog we shared 7 posts; our page got 482 views in this timeframe, with 383 unique visitors.

On Facebook, there were 37 posts shared by myself or members. The most popular posts focused on job opportunities, professional development, *The Practical Archivist*, and our upcoming Spring meeting. The numbers on the number of people posting/commenting and the overall views for the page are hard to gauge as we've been dealing with a few random bursts of spam accounts.

On LinkedIn we've reached 187 followers, and our posts have had 1510 impressions, 52 reactions, and a few comments and reposts. The page itself has had 51 views and 32 unique visitors. We've changed the URL of the page to try and make it more discoverable in general internet searching, so we'll see if that has any impact on future numbers.

Finally, on YouTube our videos had 929 views and more than 80 hours of watch time, despite there not being new content since November. We gained seven subscribers, and the thumbnails of our content had nearly 12,000 impressions.

We're also discussing the potential for a BlueSky account, and a survey to general membership to determine which platforms would best connect with MARAC members.

Additional News

The Committee plans to organize an organizational table for the SAA Annual Meeting, held in Anaheim, Ca., in August. A sign-up sheet for Steering members (or any MARAC members attending) to sit at the table will be sent around later this summer.

The Committee will meet again sometime late July before the summer Steering Meeting.

Many thanks to outgoing members Heidi Abbey Moyer and Renae Rapp for their dedication to *The Practical Archivist* and the Communications Committee as a whole!

Respectfully submitted by
Missy Nerino
MARAC Communications Committee Chair

MARAC
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report
April 2025

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee did not meet during this quarter but we corresponded via email about a variety of items.

Diversity Session Scholarship, Spring Meeting

The D&I Committee reviewed all accepted sessions for the Spring Harrisburg Meeting. Session 3, Connecting Students and Alumni to Transform the Experiences of Underserved Community Members into Legacy was chosen as the recipient of the diversity session scholarship. The session is at 11am on Friday, May 2, 2025.

The D&I Committee chair will meet with the MARAC Treasurer during the Spring meeting in Harrisburg to discuss the Diversity Session Scholarship procedures as they regard to finances as changes have been made since the procedures were first drafted.

Meeting Comfort Stickers

The D&I Committee is introducing a new program at the Spring Harrisburg meeting, comfort stickers. This voluntary program allows attendees to easily indicate their comfort with being approached at the meeting. The committee has adapted the program from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN). Stickers have been self-printed and will be available along with instructions about their use at the registration desk.

D&I Resource List

The D&I Resource List was updated and published on the MARAC website. This resource list was also shared to membership by MARAC Administrator.

MAC Request for DEI Actions Information

The D&I Chair responded to a request for information on DEI Actions within MARAC from the Midwest Archives Conference vice president. In the email, the chair, shared what MARAC has done to respond to the current US Government's Administration attack on DEI and archives.

Respectfully submitted by Tara Wink, Committee Chair

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MARAC Education Committee Report 25 April 2025

Activities and ongoing tasks:

The third webinar in the Caucus Conversations series took place on Wednesday, March 26th. This Caucus Conversation was organized by the Maryland caucus. The webinar was "The Future of Digital Archiving at the Maryland State Archives" and the speakers, all from the Maryland State Archives, were Kathryn Barringer, Director of Appraisal and Description; Megan Craynon, Deputy Director of Special Collections and Library Services; and James Watson, Director of Imaging Services. 81 people attended.

The New Jersey Caucus is next on the schedule, and the event is tentatively planned for Friday May 30th at 1pm. The current title is "Community Archiving at the Ironbound Community Corporation" and the speaker is Joe Della Fave.

Workshops proposal form is open for rolling submissions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8eU8LqYtQx0FBk1_3r6QWYVWHjOI26zAPg51_4SMotmz3_g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Upcoming Workshops:

2025 Workshops				
Workshop Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length
Embracing Folklife Collections: The Roles of Community and Shared Stewardship	Ryan Koons and Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare	Summer 2025 (tentative)	In Person; Baltimore, MD	Full day
Accessible Presentations, Exhibitions, and Audio/Visual Resources	Susanna Coit, Jennifer Arnott, and Jennifer Hale; Perkins School for the Blind	June 17	virtual	2 hours
Preserving Digital Collections	Katherine Fisher, Emory	July 17	virtual	90 min.
2025 Spring Meeting Workshops				
Primary Source Literacy and Active Learning	Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh grover@etown.edu	5/1	In-Person	Half-day

Project Management in the Archival Workspace	Vin Novara	5/1	In-Person	Full day
Oral History in the Archives	Elizabeth Call; Marilyn McKinley; Landyn Hatch	5/1	In-Person	Full day
Managing Change in your Archives	Fynette Eaton	5/1	In-Person	Half-day
Caring for Photograph Collections	Amanda Murray, Katherine Jacus	5/1	In-Person	Half-day
Managing Digital Records in Archives and Special Collections	Seth Shaw, SAA (@ PA State Archives)	5/1	In-person	Full day

2025 Virtual offerings in the hopper (TENTATIVE**):**

- Making outreach videos (summer or fall)
- Leveraging Information Assets

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Bradley-Sanders, Chair

May Casey, Website Coordinator

Melissa Erlandson, Communications Coordinator

Jessica Grimmer, Workshops

Amy MacDonald, Co-Workshop Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Co-Workshop Coordinator

MARAC Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) Report
Steering Committee Meeting
May 1, 2025

The Nominations and Elections Committee consists of: Tiffany Cole (Chair), Kathy Evans, Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Tara Maharjan, and Lori Hostuttler

1. Attended January 31 Steering Committee Meeting
2. The 2025 election ballot closed February 6. NEC members sent emails to winners and non-winners between February 17-21. MARAC membership was emailed the election results on February 25.
3. Final 2025 election results:
*[The ** beside a name denotes those who will serve as Chair or Junior Co-Chair (in second year) and then Senior Co-Chair (in third year) during their term of service, depending on the committee.]*
Chair-elect:
Deb Schiff, The College of New Jersey
Secretary:
Kevin Clair, Penn State University
Meetings Coordinator:
Mary K. Mannix, Frederick County Public Libraries
Member-at-Large:
Carley Altenburger, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library
Katy Rawdon, Temple University
Sheridan Sayles, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Jessica Webster, Baruch College, City University of NY
Awards Committee Chair:
Kira Dietz, Virginia Tech
Arline Custer Memorial Award Committee:
Maria Day, Maryland State Archives**
Rayna Andrews, College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Distinguished Service Award Committee:
Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh, Elizabethtown College
Finding Aids Award Committee:
Amanda Menjivar, George Mason University**
Deidre Johnson, Handley Library
Nominations and Elections Committee:
Dustin Frohlich, University of Delaware Library, Museums & Press**
Nathan Fralick, Pennsylvania Western University
Meagan Cairns, Maryknoll Mission Archives
Scholarship Committee:
John Zarrillo, Georgetown University**
Lauren Pash, Presbyterian Historical Society
4. Outgoing committee chairs and steering committee officers should reach out to newly elected members to discuss transition plans by June 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Cole
NEC Chair