

## **Awards Committee Report MARAC Summer 2025 Steering Committee**

Welcome to the 2025/2026 Awards season! We currently have calls for nominations open for two awards (Custer and Finch). Both close at the end of July, then we head into fall nomination season.

The Finding Aids Awards Committee has a brief proposal to adjust the timeline for the eligibility period of the Finch Award. This proposal is attached to this report and the Awards Chair has some questions to bring to the Steering meeting.

An ad hoc group with representation from Awards, Steering, Finance, Scholarship, and Diversity and Inclusion Committees met to talk about next steps for the Bell Scholarship. There were some good points and considerations made during the course of that meeting, though we did not come up with a resolution about where to house the scholarship. We felt that an additional meeting with Awards, Scholarship, and Diversity and Inclusion Committees is the next step. That meeting has not been scheduled yet, but we hope to meet before the end of summer or in early fall.

Reports from awards subcommittees are included below.

**Arline Custer Committee (Sarah Almond):** Custer call is out and open until 7/31. Please encourage submissions.

**Distinguished Service Award (Ali Zawoyski):** No report. The new awards cycle starts in the fall.

**Finding Aid/Finch Awards (Amy Poe):** The committee last met on May 3, 2025 to thank outgoing and welcome incoming committee members at the spring meeting. The committee will convene in August to review Finch Award nominees.

The call for submissions for the C. Herbert Finch Award is ongoing through July 31, 2025. To date, two nominations were submitted for consideration. An announcement and reminder were made to MARAC membership, and an announcement through SAA is pending approval.

A request for minor website updates to the Finding Aid Awards pages was submitted to Sara Predmore, for consistency of committee contact information for the award names. The committee discussed and submitted a proposal to align the eligibility dates to the calendar year for both awards administered by the committee: the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award and the Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award. Primary objectives of the proposal are to increase peer recognition at the in-person spring

meeting and to mitigate potential ineligible submissions resulting from the staggered eligibility windows.

As follow-up to committee discussion regarding broken links on the MARAC website, the committee will explore developing a periodic process for maintaining access to and/or archiving links for Finch online publication and Miller finding aid award winners. In the coming months, the committee will reach out to winning member institutions to update or to identify as inactive, non-working links, and explore options to preserve annual winning resources as part of the MARAC institution records. Links to award winning submissions document the outcome of the committee's work and illustrate noteworthy archives resources produced in the MARAC region over time.

**Scholarship Awards (Jodi Boyle):** The Scholarship Committee finalized language and guidelines for the application for the inaugural Ronald Becker Award for Professional Development. Following a call for applications, the Committee then reviewed submissions and ultimately selected Nicole Font, archivist at the New York Botanical Garden's LuEster T. Mertz Library, as the recipient. Following a call for applications, the Committee also reviewed meeting and travel award applications and ultimately selected Gwen Wells of the Jones Memorial Library (Lynchburg, VA) as the Karen A. Stuart Local History Collection Workshop and Conference Attendance Award recipient; Emily Kubincanek of the Carnegie Library as the Marsha Trimble Meeting and Travel Award recipient; and Scylla Humbert, an MLIS student at the University of Pittsburgh, as the Joan Echtenkamp Klein Meeting and Travel Award recipient. Senior co-chair Tesa Burns announced the recipients at the Harrisburg meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kira Dietz  
Awards Chair  
July 18, 2025

**PROPOSAL from the Finding Aids Award Committee**  
**for the MARAC Spring Steering Committee**

**Proposal:** The Finding Aids Award Committee proposes to align the submission eligibility period of the C. Herbert Finch Award with the calendar year.

**Overview of the Issue:** The Finding Aids Award Committee is responsible for administering the award process for two awards:

C. Herbert Finch Award – **awarded in the fall** for the preceding MARAC fiscal year, nominations due end of July

Frederic M. Miller Finding Aids Award – **awarded in the spring** for the preceding calendar year, nominations due end of January

The committee has observed some confusion with the disparate eligibility windows for both awards, most notably the eligibility window for the Finch Award, for this iteration, July 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025. The eligibility for the Finding Aid Award for the last iteration was January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

For the 2024 C. Herbert Finch Award year (June 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024), there were no eligible nominees. As of July 17, 2025, there is only one nomination for the 2025 C. Herbert Finch Award year. Only two weeks remain until the deadline.

**Discussion of the Proposal:** The committee proposes to align the eligibility dates and deadlines for both awards to the calendar year with nominations due January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

Although not necessarily all encompassing, some benefits and considerations, if the proposal is implemented, are as follows:

**Anticipated Benefits**

- Reduce potential confusion surrounding the eligibility window for dates of publication. For example: one recent Finding Aid Award nominee was disqualified because the date of publication of their finding aid preceded the publication window by several months. It's possible the submitting institution had the MARAC fiscal year in mind, not the calendar year.
- Achieve greater clarity on the deadline to submit nominees for award consideration with one unified deadline for both awards administered by the committee.
- Streamline call for submission communications and the ensuing nomination process for both awards to once per year, in alignment with the calendar year.

- Optimize opportunities for **in-person recognition for both awards** at the spring conference/in person member meeting, instead of virtual recognition for the Finch Award. The Finding Aids Award committee members are in strong agreement on the value of in-person recognition among peers. With the spring meeting anticipated to be the sole in-person annual meeting, aligning both awards to the calendar year will increase in-person recognition.
- Potentially increase the number of submissions for the C. Herbert Finch Award. Last year, there were no eligible nominees and this year, only one nomination has been submitted (two weeks from the deadline). Summer schedules (vacations and summer terms/time off at academic institutions) may be a factor in a lower number of submissions for the C. Herbert Finch Award.

### **Other Considerations**

- Timing of implementation and eligibility period for the first iteration of the change:
  - abbreviated nomination period of six months for calendar year 2025 **or**
  - extended eligibility period of 18 months for calendar year 2026
- Requires updating of handbook and website
- Increases focused work for the committee members in the first quarter of the calendar year
- Necessitates funds issued for both awards simultaneously (is this financially feasible?)
- Active and intentional communication to the membership about the shift will be needed

### **Questions for the Steering Committee:**

Are there reasons not to align with the calendar year—historical, financial, or others that we haven't considered?

What approval process is needed for the proposed change?

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## Communications Committee Steering Report

**July 18, 2025**

The Communications Committee is composed of Missy Nerino, Lara Szypszak, Carolyn Friedrich, Jill Tominosky, Michael Martin, Diane Bockrath, Anna Juliar, Kathleen Donahoe, Molly Tighe, Megan Craynon, Nicole Font, Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, Daniel Stimpfle. Sara Predmore and Kevin Clair serve in an *ex-officio* capacity.

## 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
- *The Practical Archivist* Editorial Board: Megan Craynon and Diane Bockrath, Co-Editors-in-Chief; Molly Tighe, Michael Martin, Nicole Font, Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, and Daniel Stimpfle, Editorial Board Members
- Social Media Coordinator: Kathleen Donahoe

## Committee Members

The Communications Committee is pleased to welcome Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, and Daniel Stimpfle are the three newest members of the committee as well as members of *The Practical Archivist* Editorial Board.

Many thanks to Diane Bockrath and Megan Craynon, who have taken up the roles of Co-Editors-in-Chief of *The Practical Archivist*, which were vacated by outgoing members Heidi Abbey Moyer and Renae Rapp.

## *Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA)*

The Summer 2025 (Vol. 54, No. 3) issue of MAA was published on July 11. A social media post advertising the issue will be shared on LinkedIn and an announcement will be shared in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter.

This issue marked the first entirely digital issue since the decision earlier this year to eliminate print copies and thus MAA institutional subscribers. The MAA Editorial Team and the Finance Committee are tracking the cost effectiveness and turn around times for issues moving forward to evaluate the decision.

This issue includes a conversation with MARAC's incoming chair, Zachary Hottel. Conference-related articles and updates include a look at vendors at MARAC conferences and the role of vendor coordinator, a save-the-date for the Fall Symposium, and the results of the Spring conference food drive in Harrisburg. The feature articles in this issue focus on exhibits. The first feature outlines how 3D modeling software can be used to design and plan exhibit spaces. A second feature shares how production files about 9/11 response theatre are being made more accessible and how a digital exhibit on the topic was developed in response to working with these materials. 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 Education Committee. The Summer issue also continues MAA's series of book reviews with a critique of *Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation*, edited by Mary Kandiuk. Finally, this issue includes an In Memoriam for V. Chapman-Smith and recognizes this year's Distinguished Service Award recipient, Cindy Bendroth.

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

The Advertising Editor is pleased to report that both Atlas Systems (ArchivesSpace/Aeon) and The Crowley Company have renewed their advertising contracts under the new fee schedule, which took effect July 1. Both organizations renewed half-page advertisements, resulting in an increase in revenue. This additional income will help offset the design costs associated with the publication. The Advertising Editor remains hopeful that the Academy of Certified Archivists will continue its partnership with MAA following the expiration of its current contract after the next issue.

Including the following from the Spring report: "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, 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.” Since the Spring report, one member from the MAA Editorial Team and one member from the Communications Committee are earmarked to serve on the ad hoc Records Retention Committee, where these points above can be discussed further.

The Fall 2025 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date in early October.

## *The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series*

### Completed Work (May-July 2025)

- Meetings: Through the spring, the Editorial Board continued to meet via Zoom on rotating days, either the first Friday or first Thursday of each month. Two meetings were held this period: Thursday, May 8 (rescheduled to avoid conflict with MARAC Spring 2025 Conference in Harrisburg), and Friday, June 6 (the final meeting with Heidi & Renae as Co-Editors-in-Chief).
- Meetings are on summer hiatus for July but will resume in August. With new members and a new co-editor-in chief team the regular meeting day/time is being evaluated for the next year.
- MARAC Spring 2025 Conference: promotional materials (made in-house at no cost) were distributed at the conference, including color flyers, 11x17 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. To date there have been no submissions to the survey.
- Leadership and Membership: Effective July 1, 2025, Diane Bockrath and Megan Craynon began their terms serving as the new Co-Editors-in-Chief. Three new board members were added for the 2025-2026 term: Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, and Daniel Stimpf for the 2025-2026 term. Nicole Font, Michael Martin and Molly Tighe are continuing in their positions on the Editorial Board for another term as well.

### Current Work (July-September 2025)

- A hand-off meeting has been scheduled for July 23 with Heidi & Renae, so that Diane & Megan can ensure continuity of both documentation and workflows.
- Next Issue Coming Soon. *The Practical Archivist* No. 17, Textiles and Their Care is with Krista, our graphic designer at Design & Print Services, Dickinson College.
- The timeline for release was pushed further out due to the July 4 holiday and vacations but we anticipate it being ready very soon.
- TPA anticipates the first draft of No. 18 will be submitted this summer, and editing work will begin. The goal is a winter publication timeline.
  - TPA will be working to secure peer reviewers for No. 18.
- TPA is currently seeking author(s) for No. 19, subject TBD, for summer 2026 release.
- Securing copies of the long-lost issues of No. 1 and No. 7 of the MARAC Technical Leaflet Series at the University of Maryland—this work has been stalled by competing priorities, but is expected to be resolved by the fall.

## Future/Ongoing Work

- Managing the Publication Process: The Editorial Board will continue background discussion regarding finding an affordable way to manage the publication process. This work is expected to be ongoing, with no specific target completion date. Discussions will depend on budgetary constraints MARAC Communications faces in any given fiscal year. Likewise, the style guides for authors and peer reviewers may continue to be revised in an iterative way, based upon any feedback from authors, peer reviewers, and the editorial board.
- Authors/Peer Reviewers: Creating and maintaining a list of potential authors and reviewers, to sustain the production schedule/model of 1-2 releases per year (release schedule contingent on budget).

## Social Media

Since the last quarter, we have posted 4 times on the blog, with 402 views and 342 visitors. Those posts also went to Facebook and LinkedIn. On Facebook there were 32 total posts from admin and members; the most popular posts were about MARAC awards and professional development opportunities.

On LinkedIn, we've grown to 216 followers and our page has had 78 views in that time frame. Our posts have had 830 impressions. And on YouTube, our videos have had 641 views and a total of 30 hours of watch time. We've gotten 6 new subscribers as well. The thumbnails of our videos have had about 4,600 impressions, which is less than last time, but our click-through-rate has jumped back up to 3%. And like the last reporting, this is all without adding any additional content to the channel.



Due in part to some changing trends in social media use, due largely to political and cultural changes, we are closely evaluating the interactions with social media. The social media coordinator is planning, in the coming months, on making a survey and sending it out to membership for considerations on what platforms to focus on.

Additionally, the social media coordinator is looking at reintroducing Member Spotlights on the blog again, which were extremely popular during the pandemic. During the pandemic, this information was gathered by a former Member-at-Large, but we are exploring reaching out to the Membership committee for their involvement..

## Additional News

The Committee has applied to have a table at the SAA conference in Anaheim, California, in August. We are currently still awaiting approval to see if we have a table. Should that be approved, members of the Communications Committee will manage setting up and tearing down the table, and a sign-up sheet will be sent to the Steering Committee to staff the table during times with more foot traffic.

Missy reached out to the chairs of MARAC's Education, Membership, and Advocacy Committees to check on any initiatives for National Archives Month in October. Due to the changing political landscape, many GLAM institutions are experiencing loss of funding or staffing, highlighting the importance of National Archives Month on the field. On July 16, the Chairs all met to discuss possible collaboration to highlight MARAC and the field during National Archives Month, and we are collaborating to issue a Google form to MARAC membership which can be utilized on MARAC social media channels during October.

The Committee will meet again sometime early October before the fall Steering Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Missy Nerino  
MARAC Communications Committee Chair

**MARAC**  
**Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report**  
**July 2025**

The D&I Committee met on June 20, 2025 via Zoom. The D&I Committee Chair and other members also met with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Danna Bell Scholarship on June 9, 2025.

Please note that the names of D&I Committee members, with the exception of the chair, have been excluded from the D&I Steering report since the Winter meetings because of concerns with the current climate. The names of members volunteering to serve on committees can be shared during the Zoom Steering Meeting.

**D&I Liaisons For Upcoming Meetings**

The chair of the D&I Committee is serving as liaison for the Fall 2025 symposium in Wilmington, DE and has been added to the symposium distribution lists and Google Drive.

A member of the D&I Committee has stepped up to serve as liaison for the Spring 2026 meeting in Richmond, VA and will be added to the Richmond distribution lists.

**Meeting Comfort Stickers**

The D&I Committee introduced a new program, comfort stickers, at the Spring meeting in Harrisburg, PA. These stickers indicated individual's comfort with being approached at in person meetings. While we did not receive any communication on the efficacy of these stickers, we do believe that we could have been better at promoting these stickers both before and during the meeting. Additional sheets of stickers were given to the MARAC administrator, Sara Predmore, for future meetings. Additionally the chair has the sticker template to print future stickers.

**Danna Bell Scholarship**

Two D&I Committee members and the committee chair attended the inaugural meeting of the ad hoc committee to discuss the new Danna Bell Scholarship. In that meeting it was briefly discussed that the D&I Committee could take over awarding the scholarship to help lighten the load of the Scholarship Committee. However, it was agreed that should the D&I Committee take over the scholarship they would have to work closely with the Scholarship Committee to make sure the procedures and policies mirrored the existing Graduate Scholarship.

The D&I Committee also discussed adding a requirement to have the scholarship awardee serve on a committee in MARAC after receiving the funding. This would help to diversify the service within MARAC and provide the awardee with an opportunity to network with archival professionals in a meaningful way and learn more about the organization.

**Need for an additional member**

The chair received an email from a member who is leaving the archival profession and MARAC. Therefore, there is a need for a new member for the group. The chair communicated that need with the new MARAC Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Wink

MARAC D&I Committee Chair

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## MARAC Education Committee Report 18 July 2025

### Activities:

#### *Harrisburg, PA—Spring Conference May 2025*

- Successfully executed five in-person workshops
  - Primary Source Literacy and Active Learning
  - Project Management in the Archival Workspace
  - Oral History in the Archives
  - Managing Change in your Archives
  - Caring for Photograph Collections

#### *Caucus Conversations series:*

The fourth webinar took place on 29 May. The New Jersey Caucus organized *Community Archiving at the Ironbound Community Corporation*. The webinar explored community archiving initiatives at the Ironbound Community Corporation, an organization serving the culturally rich and historically significant Ironbound neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey. Fifty-two people were in attendance.

#### *Virtual Workshops and Webinars:*

- Accessible Presentations, Exhibitions, and Audio/Visual Resources workshop, 17 June
  - 39 Attendees
- Preserving Digital Collections webinar, on 17 July
  - 48 attendees

### Upcoming Workshops and Webinars:

Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length
Embracing Folklife Collections: The Roles of Community and Shared Stewardship	Ryan Koons, Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare, Mark Breeding	11 August	In Person Catonsville, MD	Full day
Risk Assessments and Emergency Preparedness for Cultural Institutions	Dyani Feige, Director of Preservation Services, CCAHA	8 September	Virtual	1 hour
TBD (Wellness)	Rachael Woody	18 September	Virtual	90 min.
TBD (Making outreach videos)	Allie Alvis	18 & 19 November	Virtual	2 half days

**2025 Virtual offerings in the hopper:**

- Digitization best practices
- Fifth Caucus Conversation

*Workshops proposal form is open for rolling submissions:*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8eU8LqYtQx0FBk1\\_3r6QWyVWHjOI26zAPg51\\_4SMotmz3\\_g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8eU8LqYtQx0FBk1_3r6QWyVWHjOI26zAPg51_4SMotmz3_g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Bradley-Sanders, outgoing Chair

May Casey, Website Coordinator

Melissa Erlandson, outgoing Communications Coordinator

Jessica Grimmer, Workshops

Amy MacDonald, outgoing Co-Workshop Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, outgoing Co-Workshop Coordinator, **Incoming chair**

*Incoming members:*

Karen Clausen-Brown

Jada Twitty

Jen Wachtel Litwin



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## Membership Committee Report 07/25/2025

1. Meet and Greet at Harrisburg, PA Conference was successful. It was well attended and folks seemed to enjoy the ice-breaker and food as there were many still mingling at 9PM.
  - a. We are considering having a counter to track the number of attendees at future events.
2. New Member Orientation at Harrisburg, PA Conference was well attended by new members as well as Steering members.
3. Co-chairs are creating a feedback form for participants of the Meeting Match program.
  - a. Overall, we had 14 Experienced Members and 27 New Members and were grouped in trios.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liza Zakharova and Jen Pulsney, Co-chairs Membership Committee

## **MARAC Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) Report**

### **Steering Committee Meeting**

**July 25, 2025**

The Nominations and Elections Committee consists of: Dustin Frohlich (Chair), Colleen Bradley-Sanders, Meagan Cairns, Dyani Feige, Nathan Fralick

1. Attended (virtually) May 1 Steering Committee meeting
2. Met virtually with Tiffany Cole (outgoing NEC Chair) as part of the transition process and was granted access to shared committee documents
  - a. Created (based on provided template) draft 2025-26 election cycle calendar to reflect deadlines for new year
3. Emailed all 2025-26 NEC
  - a. Provided NEC handbook and operations manual for review
  - b. Provide list of positions for which the committee will be seeking candidates
  - c. Encouraged those attending SAA annual meeting to begin making soft inquiries for upcoming election
4. Received note of interest from a potential candidate for Finding Aid Awards

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Frohlich

NEC Chair