

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

Fall awards season is off to a good start and we look forward to sharing a variety of winners at the upcoming Fall Virtual Membership Meeting.

An ad hoc group with representation from Awards, Steering, Finance, Scholarship, and Diversity and Inclusion Committees has not been able to meet during the fall to continue discussions of the Bell Scholarship, but I hope to convene everyone later this fall and have an update at the Winter Steering meeting.

One of the committees (Finding Aid Awards) has not been able to contact a current member after reaching out in multiple ways. Their term was set to expire in Summer 2026. Section 8.10 of the bylaws indicates we need to have a special election to fill the vacancy of the remainder of the term. If that's the case, we will coordinate with Steering and Nominations & Elections on the process.

Reports from awards subcommittees are included below.

### **Arline Custer Committee (Sarah Almond):**

Submitted by Sarah E. Almond, October 16, 2025.

The Custer Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 award recipients.

The Arline Custer Memorial Award for Books goes to Ian Andrew Isherwood for his book, *The Battalion: Citizen Soldiers at War on the Western Front*. Published by Pen & Sword Books in 2025, *The Battalion* is well-conceptualized and exhibits a creative use of a family archive to support the narrative. Further, the additional context of the time period provided by the author in the opening chapters sets up subsequent materials quite nicely.

The Custer Award for Articles goes to Kristen J. Nyitray and Dana Reijerkerk for their book chapter, "Archivists and Emotional Labor: Preserving Personas and Personal Identities in Archives" published in *Archives and Emotions: An International Dialogue* (Bloomsbury, 2024).

The article is an important and thoughtful consideration of the public perception of archival work through time that turns a keen eye toward the emotional investment and the sustainability of the archival profession. The Committee received twelve nominations for the Custer Award this year—nine books and three articles. The number of submissions was slightly less than the year before, but equal to the amount received in 2023.

**Distinguished Service Award (Ali Zawoyski):** The new awards cycle starts in this fall. Please encourage nominations when the call goes out!

**Finding Aid/Finch Awards (Kira Dietz and Sarah Alender on behalf of Amy Poe):**

The Finding Aid Awards received nominations for the C. Herbert Finch Finding Aid Award and selected a winner. An additional nomination received honorable mention by the committee. Both will be announced at the Fall Membership Meeting on October 31.

The discussion of the Finding Aid and Finch Awards timelines is currently paused.

The Awards Chair and senior Co-Chair of the Finding Aid Awards committee will work with Steering appropriately to pursue the process for replacing a committee member who is no longer able to serve.

**Scholarship Awards (Jodi Boyle):**

The Scholarship Committee posted the Meeting and Travel Awards for the Fall Symposium and the Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship toward the end of the summer. The Committee also conducted additional outreach to publicize the graduate award with graduate programs in the MARAC region and a number of online programs that might also have candidates from the MARAC region.

The Committee had one applicant for the travel awards for the Fall Symposium (due September 15). After review, the Committee determined that Scylla Hecateis met the criteria of the award and should receive the Trimble Award. They were informed on October 1.

The graduate award is accepting applications until October 31 and the Committee has already received several complete ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira Dietz

Awards Chair

October 17, 2025

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## Communications Committee Steering Report

**October 16, 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

## *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* (MAA)

The Fall 2025 (Vol. 54, No. 4) issue of MAA was published on October 2. A social media post advertising the issue was shared on Facebook on October 2 and on LinkedIn. An announcement will be shared in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter.

This issue marked the second 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. Finance and the Editorial Team were pleasantly surprised at the cost of this issue as it was much lower than expected.

This issue includes an article on the work at the University of Pittsburgh Library System's Archives & Special Collections to improve description and access points for a collection of bound sheet music volumes. Conference-related articles and updates

include information on the importance and use of conference evaluations and additional details about the upcoming Fall Symposium. A feature article in the issue outlines the challenges involved in digitizing over a century's worth of student newspapers in the Marshall University Special Collections. Another feature shares how the Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive (MARMA) digitized and made accessible footage from a Baltimore television station as part of a grant funded project. 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 Meetings Coordinating Committee. The Fall issue also continues MAA's series of book reviews with a critique of *Collection Thinking Within and Without Libraries, Archives and Museums*, edited by Jason Camlot, Martha Langford, and Linda M. Morra. Finally, this issue includes an article from the first recipient of the Ronald L. Becker Award for professional development, Nicole Font. Font shares how the scholarship supported her attendance at an international conference at the University of Burgundy in Dijon, France, where she presented on her recent reprocessing work to highlight contributions of women in natural history collections.

The caucus news editor worked with the Caucus Representatives to gather updates for the Fall 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 outlook remains positive, with a steady increase in revenue projected through FY 2026. In Summer 2025, advertising income totaled \$1,976 under the previous rate structure. With the renewal of contracts from AEON/Atlas Systems and Crowley at the updated rates beginning with the Fall 2025 issue, revenue rose to \$2,336. The upcoming Winter issue will still include advertisements from Hollinger and NEDCC at the legacy rate, but with Academy of Certified Archivists renewing at the new rate, we anticipate a modest increase in revenue to \$2,508. By Spring 2026, with all advertisers transitioning to the new pricing model, projected income is \$2,760. The Advertising Editor is encouraged by this upward trend—she also plans to reach out to several newer vendors in the coming months to explore additional opportunities for advertising partnerships.

The MAA continues to wait 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. The Editorial Team is also waiting to hear if past issues will be documented within MARAC's Archives.

With two members from the Communications Committee on the ad hoc Records Retention Committee, the MAA expects both points above can be discussed further and that workflows and expectations can be established moving forward.

The Winter 2026 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date in early to mid January.

# *The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series*

- Completed Work (July 2025 - October 2025)
  - Meetings: The Editorial Board continued to meet via Zoom on rotating days, the first Thursday of each month. Three meetings were held this period: Thursday, August 7; Thursday, September 4; and Thursday, October 2, 2025.
  - SAA 2025 Conference: promotional materials were distributed at the conference, including color flyers 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 (October - December 2025)
  - *The Practical Archivist* No. 17, Textiles and Their Care has been released and sent out to MARAC members. TPA editorial board members are working on distributing through networks, including information school programs, to further increase visibility and readership.
  - Authors No. 18 have requested extensions, due to academic work cycles, and will be submitting their draft manuscript December 1. Editing work will begin right away. The goal is a winter publication timeline, though the timeline will depend on the length and intensity of editing cycles.
  - Co-editors-in-chief are lining up peer reviewers for No. 18 now so that they are ready to go as soon as the first round of edits is complete.
  - TPA is currently seeking author(s) for No. 19, subject TBD, for summer 2026 release. TPA editorial board has tossed around topic ideas and may end up approaching potential authors.
  - 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.
- 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 are entering final revision for sending to the web team for updates. These guides will likely 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

On the blog we've shared 13 posts, with our blog as a whole garnering 630 views and 437 visitors. Those posts were also shared on Facebook and LinkedIn.

For Facebook, there were 60 posts between the social media coordinator and group members, with the most popular ones focusing on the MAA publication, *the Practical Archivist*, the Member Minutes, professional opportunities, as well as folks sharing news of colleagues.

On LinkedIn our posts had more than 4,000 impressions, and we've increased our follower count to about 260. Our page itself had 110 views, and we had 58 unique visitors. Our 14 posts there had 76 reactions and a few comments and reposts as well.

And for YouTube, our videos had 1.5k views since July, about 42 hours of watch time. We've gained 12 subscribers, and the thumbnails have had 6.1k impressions. Our click-through-rate did drop to 2.1%, but considering we haven't recently uploaded new content really, this is still in line with our usual trends.

## Additional News

Committee members Carolyn Friedrich and Missy Nerino are serving on the Records Retention Subcommittee. More on this is reported earlier in the MAA section.

The committee organized a MARAC table at SAA's Annual Conference, which occurred in August in Anaheim, California. Many thanks to Nicole Font, who was the committee member who shuttled all the MARAC materials across the country and set up the table. And many thanks to MARAC members who sat at the table, including Kat Zinn, Kira Dietz, and Sheridan Sayles!

In the summer, the committee chair met with members of the Membership and Education Committees, as well as the Chair, Zach Hottel, to discuss participation in National Archives Month. It was decided to do a Google Form, which then would be sent out to MARAC membership. In total, 17 individuals responded to the call for responses, which were then shared via social media for National Archives Month.

The Committee plans to meet again in January before the Winter Steering Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Missy Nerino  
MARAC Communications Committee Chair

**MARAC**  
**Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report**  
**October 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 has been attending the planning meetings for the Fall 2025 symposium in Wilmington, DE.

A member of the D&I Committee has stepped up to serve as liaison for the Spring 2026 meeting in Richmond, VA and has been added to the Richmond distribution lists. There is an additional D&I committee member on the Richmond LAC.

**Meeting Contact Comfort Stickers**

The D&I Committee reworked the Contact Comfort Stickers Information sheet. We have shared the information with the Symposium committee and received edits and feedback from that group. The final document is attached to this report. We hope to share this sheet with Symposium attendees before the meeting and have it available at the Symposium as well.

**Symposium D&I Session Scholarships Awarded**

The D&I Committee in consultation with the Symposium Committee decided to review the accepted posters for the Symposium Session Scholarship. This decision was reached so we could still award scholarships this meeting and there were no traditional sessions at the symposium. There were 6 posters accepted at the symposium. The Committee reviewed the posters using our scoring rubric and awarded two posters the D&I Session Scholarships:

- Erin Mustard, Raíces Cultural Center.
- Meral Agish, Queens Memory Project, Queens Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Wink

MARAC D&I Committee Chair



## MARAC Contact Comfort Stickers

### What is it?

Contact Comfort Stickers are a voluntary program for attendees at in-person MARAC events to visually indicate their preference for contact and conversation with other attendees. The stickers are small, color and shape coded, and easy to adhere to a name badge.

### How were they developed?

These stickers are adapted from the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#) (ASAN) [Color Communication Badges](#), developed for use at Autistic spaces and conferences to help tell attendees the wearer's communication preferences.

### What do the stickers mean?

The stickers have both a color and shape that correspond to the comfort level of the wearer.



A **green circle** indicates that an attendee is actively seeking and open to communication; they are most likely comfortable with handshakes, but please ask about touch.



A **yellow triangle** means that an attendee may only want to talk to people they recognize or have met before, or they may be a little overwhelmed or uncomfortable by the setting. Those approaching attendees wearing this sticker should do so respectfully or wait for those wearing yellow stickers to approach them. Please ask before any type of touch, including handshakes.



A **red octagon** means that the person is not open to being approached by others. They may only want to talk to a few select attendees. Please allow someone wearing a red octagon to approach you. The individual is not interested in any touch.

### Why are attendees wearing these stickers?

MARAC attendees may be wearing these stickers for a variety of reasons. Some may be uncomfortable with touch or meeting new people, or have social anxiety. Others may be looking to social distance themselves. Please respect the wearer's choice and do not assume their reasoning for choosing one color over another.

### Do I have to participate?

No! This program is voluntary. MARAC attendees may choose to take a sticker or not. If you choose not to wear a sticker, please respect those wearing one.

### Can I change my sticker choice?

Yes! You can change your sticker if your comfort level changes during the event.

### Who can I contact with questions and feedback?

This is a new program for MARAC. The Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee introduced it during the Spring 2025 meeting in Harrisburg. The committee welcomes feedback to improve the program and to help clarify its intent. If you have questions or feedback, please email the D&I Committee chair at [DiversityChair@marac.info](mailto:DiversityChair@marac.info).

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## MARAC Education Committee Report 14 October 2025

### **Activities:**

#### *Virtual Workshops and Webinars:*

- Risk Assessments and Emergency Preparedness for Cultural Institutions, 8 September
  - 27 attendees
- Centering Professional Wellness in a Field That is Unwell webinar, on 18 September
  - 25 attendees

#### *In person workshop:*

- Embracing Folklife Collections: The Roles of Community and Shared Stewardship was cancelled due to low enrollment.

#### *Caucus Conversations series:*

The fifth conversation took place on 7 October. The New York Caucus organized *Bridging the Gap: Consumer-Level AI and Archival Description*. Hope Dunbar and Ken Axford discussed how the University at Buffalo's pilot project applied AI tools to the WBFO Radio Archive. Seventy-five people were in attendance.

### **Upcoming Off Conference Workshops and Webinars:**

| Title                                                                                | Presenter(s) | Date             | Mode    | Length      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|-------------|
| Communicating Your Collection: Making Short Video Content for Outreach and Education | Allie Alvis  | 18 & 19 November | Virtual | 2 half days |
| Networking at Professional Conferences                                               | Kate Juhl    | Feb/March 2026   | Virtual |             |

### **2026 Spring Meeting, Richmond**

| Title                                            | Presenter(s)                                                                          | Length   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Disaster Recovery                                | Kara McClurken, Director, Preservation Services, UVA                                  | Full-day |
| Reference Isn't Dead: Building and Maintaining a | Morgan Miller, Rachel Frazier, Director of Reference Services, Maryland State Archive | Full day |

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Patron-Oriented Reference Team |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |
| Donor Relations                | Dr. Aaron D. Purcell, Director of Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries, Virginia Tech; Lynn Eaton Director of Special Collections Research Center at George Mason University | Full day |

### 2026 Virtual offerings in the hopper:

- Pennsylvania Caucus Conversation
- Outreach event planning

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)

### Ongoing and future tasks:

- Developing webinars
- Investigate technical leaflets as webinar series
- Updating and creating workflows, draft emails, timelines, and list of past workshop and webinar offerings
- Prepping content and policies for adding workshops to DRUM
- Developing list of GLAM organizations in MARAC region to promote workshops

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Clausen-Brown, Workshop Co-coordinator

May Casey, Website Coordinator

Jessica Grimmer, Digital/DRUM Coordinator

Gillian Mahoney, Workshop Co-coordinator

Jada Twitty, Communications Coordinator

Jen Wachtel Litwin, Caucus Conversation Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chair



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## Membership Committee Report 10/13/2025

1. Membership has collaborated with Missy Nerino and Kathleen Donahue from Communications Committee to do Member Spotlights on social media and the MARAC Blog. We have had 16 participants who are now being featured during National Archives Month in October.
  - a. <https://themaracblog.wordpress.com/>
2. We have surveyed Meeting Match participants from the previous Harrisburg 2025 Conference. 14 participants filled out the anonymous survey and had some great suggestions for improvement. We are planning to meet as a committee to see if there are any suggestions we can implement for future in-person conferences.
3. Had brief discussions with Tara Wink( D &I Committee) and Mary Mannix on professional networking workshop to come out of previous Steering discussion. Mary later told us Education Committee is working on a networking webinar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liza Zakharova and Jen Pulsney, Co-chairs Membership Committee

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

### **Steering Committee Meeting**

**October 17, 2025**

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

1. NEC Chair met virtually with MARAC administrator (Sara Predmore) to orient to election process and to establish elections timeline
2. Drafted Nomination Form with open positions for 2026 election
3. MARAC administrator distributed finalized [Nomination Form](#) among MARAC membership on Friday 10/3/2025
4. As of 10/17, NEC has received three nominations (two for Caucus Representatives and one for Finding Aid Awards committee)
5. NEC met Friday, 10/17/2025 to discuss election process and timeline. The committee will meet again on 11/21 to assess slate of nominees, determine which positions still need additional volunteers, and to establish a plan of action for filling those positions.
6. When the ballot closes on 12/1/2025, NEC will begin reaching out to nominees to confirm their interest in the positions and request bios for the ballot, where needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Frohlich

NEC Chair