

Awards Committee Report MARAC Summer 2026 Steering Committee

I've been in communication with MAA about a new schedule for awards subcommittees to provide regular updates to the membership. Since we didn't have time to implement that just yet, I took the opportunity in the latest issue to provide some general updates on recent Award Committee activities and introduce some of the changes we have coming soon. Otherwise, this last quarter has largely been about working on subcommittee tasks, changes, and issues, as noted below.

The appendix to this report about the progress on the Bell Graduate Scholarship is a draft set of questions and talking points that Scholarship Awards and I are bringing to the summer Steering Meeting for consideration.

As always, I'm grateful for the awesome work of outgoing chairs and co-chairs from the awards committees, as well as the committee members! I look forward to working with the in-coming leaders for the next year.

Reports from awards committees are included below.

Arline Custer Committee (Allison Fischbach):

The call for submissions is out and open until 7/31 and can be submitted to the committee chair. Please encourage submissions. The committee will start reviewing submissions in August.

Distinguished Service Award (Ali Zawoyski):

Since last Steering, we notified the nominators and successfully awarded the DSA to Margaret Kidd (Congratulations Margaret!!) at the Spring Conference in Richmond. I reworked the presentation notes for the Summer MAA article, and the committee collaborated to make comments on the manual entry.

Finding Aid/Finch Awards (Sarah Alender):

The committee last met in June to discuss incoming and outgoing committee member transitions, as well as the updates to the C. Herbert Finch Award timeline. The committee is scheduled to meet again on July 22 to welcome incoming member Lexy deGraffenreid, go over the new timeline for the upcoming awards cycle, and finalize the changes to our internal documentation (mainly the Finding Aid Awards Committee Handbook).

Committee member updates:

As of July 1, Amy Poe has rotated off the committee as Senior Co-Chair. New committee leadership includes Sarah Alender as Senior Co-Chair and Amanda Menjivar as Junior Co-Chair. Matthew Snyder is also beginning his first full-length term on the committee as of July 1. Committee members for 2026 are: Sarah Alender (International Motor Racing Research Center), Amanda Menjivar (George Mason University; Senior Co-Chair elect for 2027), Matthew Snyder (New York Public Library; Junior Co-Chair elect for 2027), Isabel Folck (Hollins University), Deidre Johnson (Handley Library), and Lexy deGraffenreid (Princeton University).

Awards updates:

We have officially decided to align the submission dates for both the Fredric M. Miller Finding Award and the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award. The submission deadline for both awards for 2026 will be January 15, 2027, so the committee is anticipating meeting several times in the spring of 2027 in order to review awards submissions.

Due to this change in submission dates (shifting the C. Herbert Finch award submission window from July to January), for this year only, eligibility for the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award will cover a period of 18 months (August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026) in order to cover the transition period. In 2028, the eligibility window will revert to one year, and will encompass online publications published between January 1 and December 31, 2027.

A request for website updates to the Finding Aid Awards pages was submitted to Sara Predmore to update committee contact information and award submission dates, all of which is now up to date. In addition, a Google web form will be used for submissions for both the Fredric M. Miller Finding Award and the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award; links to these forms were also added to the relevant web pages.

Scholarship Awards (Megan Cranyon):

This quarter the scholarship committee work focused on the transition of Sr. Co-chair leadership from Jodi Boyle to Megan Craynon. Jodi and Megan held a one on one meeting to review committee workflows and documentation. Outgoing Sr. Co-chair Jodi Boyle and incoming Sr. Co-chair Megan Craynon participated in a meeting with Awards Chair Kira Kietz to discuss the new Danna Bell Award, covering planning, logistics, and recommendations for workflow. Incoming junior co-chair John Zarrillo was not available to attend the meeting live, however has been included on planning documentation and

continued correspondence for the Bell award. Megan and John will be meeting on July 17, to discuss committee workflows and division of co-chair responsibilities in anticipation of a busy scholarship year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira Dietz

Awards Chair

July 17, 2026

For the Bell Scholarship Discussion

- One model to consider is the [SAA Mosaic Scholarship](#), but during our discussions, we had some concerns about how to frame the application on the website. We would like some input from Steering and potentially D&I (Kira and Tara and Deb have had an initial conversation about this).
- The reality is there could be a space for a) litigation and b) backlash in the current environment, so Scholarship and I charged me with bringing this to Steering for comment.
- We need some help in terms of some logistics:
 - So far, we've discussed asking students to self-identify in their cover letter as a criteria for the Bell Scholarship. We're in agreement that's not an undue burden and SC has told me that many students already self-identify in their letters.
 - One question that came up is "Will the Award be open to all, but preference be given to BIPOC students? Or is it only being offered to BIPOC students?" (This could have implications for some options noted below.)
 - In theory, we can create a duplicate of the existing Grad Scholarship criteria and add relevant Bell criteria, unless anyone sees a huge concern there?
- Proposed timeline at the moment: Oct 31 deadline; decision in November (same as Grad School)
 - This makes it so all graduate scholarships are being reviewed at the same time and doesn't further distribute the workload of the SC
 - However, announcements usually go out in August, so we're going to have to move fast after July Steering
- There have been rising numbers of applications for the Grad School Scholarship, so there is not necessarily a concern about not having applicants for Bell in the initial years, but we will need to review the process after Year One and see if we need to make changes.

Options

Option 1: Offer the Bell Scholarship alongside the Graduate School Scholarship, working from the same pool of candidates. Candidates would need to self-identify in their letter to be in the Bell "pool." Candidates could ask to be considered for both scholarships, or one or the other, depending on what they indicate in their application. The Scholarship Committee (SC) would consider Bell nominees as a subset of the Grad School Scholarship, and the award would be listed separately on the website. (Alternatively, nominees could indicate they only want to be considered for Bell--this would depend on how we frame requirements.)

Pros:

- If there is a single pool, with highlighted applicants for Bell (either because students ask to be considered for both or just Bell), AND there are a low/zero number of Bell applicants in a given year, the committee has the discretion to choose a winner (or not). SC has indicated to me that many students already self-identify in their Graduate School applications.
- Leverages the existing criteria for Grad School, to which we could add 1-2 specific criteria for Bell.

Cons:

- It *could* be a little confusing to applicants and may take a year or two of finessing the process.
- It may be difficult to present on the website in terms of framing criteria.

Option 2: The Bell Scholarship is offered completely separately from the Graduate School Scholarship and would be a separate pool of candidates. Graduate students could only apply for one or the other.

Pros:

- Easier to explain on the website.
- Creates a clear distinction between Grad School and Bell.
- If there is not a clear nominee who meets the criteria, gives SC the discretion to not award a winner. (This is not to say anyone wants that, but it is an outcome of this option.)

Cons

- Removes committee discretion to award Bell if there is a low/zero applicant pool in a given year.
- It may be difficult to present on the website in terms of framing criteria.

Option 3: ??

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Communications Committee Steering Report

July 15, 2026

The Communications Committee is composed of Missy Nerino, Carolyn Friedrich, Regina Dziergas, Jill Tominosky, Michael Martin, Diane Bockrath, Anna Juliar, Kathleen Donahoe, 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; Regina Dziergas, 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; Michael Martin, Nicole Font, Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, and Daniel Stimpfle, Editorial Board Members
- Social Media Coordinator: Kathleen Donahoe

The Committee is pleased to welcome Regina Dziergas as our new Associate Editor of *The Mid-Atlantic Archivist*!

Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA)

The Summer 2026 (Vol. 55, No. 3) issue of MAA was published on July 7. A social media post advertising the issue was shared on Facebook and LinkedIn the same day. An announcement will be shared in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter.

This issue includes a conversation with the new MARAC Chair, Deb Schiff. An article highlights the theme of the upcoming virtual conference, "Archives Adapting to a Changing World." Other MARAC focused articles include a look at the silent auction held during the spring conference and a recognition of this year's Distinguished Service Award recipient, Margaret Turman Kidd. A piece from the Special Collections Research Center at George Mason University Library showcases how their team increased oversized storage and workspace. This issue features a Committee Update from the Awards Committee with a high level overview of the committee. Finally, this issue includes a review of *From Interrogation to Integration: Centering Social Justice in Special Collections, Archives, and Preservation* and the recipient of the MARAC Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship, Claire Nguyễn, wrote about community archival practices as invitations for healing.

The caucus news editor worked with the Caucus Representatives to gather updates for the Summer 2026 issue and is pleased to report that caucus representation continues to be strong. Since new representatives are starting their terms this summer, the caucus news editor will attend their upcoming meeting and explain the procedure for gathering and submitting news items for MAA, emphasizing the need for contributors to submit time-sensitive announcements as early as possible so that upcoming events are activities are posted well in advance at the time of publication, and also clarifying what is appropriate Caucus News content.

The Advertising Editor is pleased to report that she has secured a 1-time ad, with possibility of renewal, with a new advertiser—recollect—out of New Zealand. NEDCC and Crowley have renewed their contracts for another year.

The MAA welcomes Regina Dziergas as Associate Editor and has begun her onboarding.

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 Archive, 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.

The Fall 2026 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date in early October.

The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series

Completed Work

- Meetings: The Editorial Board continued to meet via Google Meet on the first Thursday of every month, provided new material merited the board's attention. Three meetings were held during this period: May 7, June 4, and July 7, 2026.
- Manuscript No. 18 Oral History in Archives: The manuscript was sent out for peer review and both reviewers returned feedback to the Co-Editors. Peer review feedback was consolidated and submitted to the authors. Additionally, the beginning of more granular, copy editing comments on the second draft were compiled by the editorial board and submitted to the authors.

Current Work

- Manuscript No. 18 Oral History in Archives: Authors are working with editorial feedback and are expected to submit their next draft for review.

Future/Ongoing Work

- Outreach for proposals was extremely successful! There is not only a confirmed topic and author for No. 19, but additional topic proposals have been submitted and are in review with the editorial board for No. 20 and beyond.
- Securing copies of the long-lost issues of No. 1 and No. 7 at the University of Maryland has stalled for the time being.

Social Media

Blog

On the blog we posted four times, with 506 views and 320 visitors. Those posts were also shared to Facebook and LinkedIn.

Facebook

On Facebook, there were 25 posts from all group members. The most popular posts were about professional development opportunities and activities of our colleagues.

LinkedIn

On LinkedIn, MARAC posts had 1,085 impressions and 15 reactions. We had 83 page views and 50 unique visitors to our page. We also gained 32 new followers, bringing us to 333 total.

YouTube

MARAC videos had about 1,300 views with 26 hours of watch time. We gained 10 new subscribers as well. Our video thumbnails had about 2,500 impressions, with a 3.1% click-through-rate. YouTube did have a notification up that they have some missing statistics in early July and are working to fix that, so the Social Media Coordinator will review statistics once that is resolved and report to see if anything is updated/changed for this time period.

Other

The proposed Communications Survey (noted below) includes questions about social media preferences for MARAC members. Based on these results, the Committee will discuss any changes/additions to MARAC's social media outlets.

It came to the attention of the committee that MARAC lacks a Social Media Policy. The committee will be addressing this at the fall communications committee meeting and reviewing affiliate organizations' similar policies in the interim.

The term of the current Social Media Coordinator, Kathleen Donahoe, ends June 2027, and a replacement that can shadow her is being sought. A Call will be put out for potential interested candidates in the coming months.

Additional News

The committee met virtually on July 7, 2026.

[MARAC Communications Survey](#)

In the spring Steering Report, the committee noted that they will be crafting a survey for MARAC members about how they consume news related to the organization, due to the changing needs of MARAC members and the content & distribution of MAA. A small group of Communications Committee members (including Missy Nerino, Carolyn Friedrich, Megan Craynon, and Kathleen

Donahoe) and a representative from the Web Team (Jasmine Smith), as well as MARAC Administrator Sara Predmore corresponded and met May-July to craft a survey. The survey was reviewed and finalized at the committee's summer meeting.

The Communications Committee requests Steering Members to [review the report](#) and will solicit feedback at the summer Steering Meeting. Assuming no objections, the timeline for distribution is as follows:

- Early August (approx. August 3-7) - Have Sara P. send out a pre-survey email
- August 10 - Open survey
- August 28 - Close survey
- Early September - Have committee members review results & create action plan
- October - Report back to full committee and include survey results in Committee Steering report; begin implementing actionable items for Fall 2026 issue of MAA and social media
- Early 2027 - Fully implement & document changes based on survey results

MARAC Table at SAA

The Communications Committee filled out the form to have an exhibitor table at the annual SAA meeting, scheduled for July 29-August 1, 2026, in New Orleans. Committee members Missy Nerino and Anna Juliar are working with Sara P. and others for materials for the table.

As always, we welcome and encourage current Steering members attending SAA [to sign-up for a slot at the table](#) to help spread word about MARAC!

National Archives Month

At the summer committee meeting, members discussed how MARAC should celebrate National Archives Month. It was decided that the best path forward is to share word of the amazing work MARAC-area repositories are doing locally. The Communications Committee will create an editable doc which members can add local events. The Social Media Coordinator, Kathleen, can share these on MARAC channels.

Furthermore, committee member Taylor Schuler wondered if we kept a directory of local archival groups. Sara P. noted that each caucus page has a link to groups, but she wasn't sure how those were managed. Taylor and Sara are working with the caucus reps now to keep these updated.

Future Meeting

The Committee plans to meet again in October ahead of the virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Missy Nerino
MARAC Communications Committee Chair

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Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report

July 2026

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 2025 meeting 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 Chair Updates

The D&I Committee Chair, Tara Wink, met with the new MARAC Chair, Deb Schiff, and Awards Committee Chair, Kira Dietz, to discuss FY2027 plans.

Tara also met with Amanda May, the new Meetings Manual Editor, to discuss D&I Committee changes for the manual.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Wink

MARAC D&I Committee Chair

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MARAC Education Committee Report 15 July 2026

Activities:

Spring Conference April 2026 Richmond, Virginia

- Successfully executed three in-person full day workshops
 - Disaster Recovery
 - Donor Relations
 - Reference Isn't Dead: Building and Maintaining a Patron-Oriented Reference Team

Upcoming Virtual Workshop:

- *Events Made Easy: Developing and Executing Programs* on July 23, 2:00-4:00 pm EST and July 24, 2:00-4:00 pm EST presented by Tess Colwell and Alex O'Keefe
- *Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Ensuring the Digital Accessibility of Archives* on 4 August 2026 1:00 pm-2:00 pm EDT presented by Paul T. Jaeger, PhD, JD, MLS, MEd
- *Setting up a Digitization Program & Managing Digitization Projects* on 29 September, 1:00-4:00 pm presented by Alexandra Trim

Caucus Conversations series:

- West Virginia: *The Road to an Abandoned Property Bill: Building LAM and Governmental Relationships* on 28 July, 3:00-4:00 pm EDT

2026 Virtual offerings in the hopper:

- The Delaware Caucus conversation is slated for the autumn

2027 Spring Meeting Workshops

Title	Presenters	Length
Accessioning 101	Rachel Searcy, NYU	Full-day
Are You Ready? Preparing for disasters one step at a time	Donia Conn, Associate Professor of Practice, Simmons University	Full day

Workshops proposal form is open for rolling submissions:

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 documentation
- Drafting workflow for Caucus conversations
- Prepping content and policies for adding workshops to DRUM

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Clausen-Brown, Workshop Co-coordinator

Mae Casey, outgoing Website Coordinator

Jessica Grimmer, outgoing Digital/DRUM Coordinator

Gillian Mahoney, Workshop Co-coordinator

Jen Wachtel Litwin, Caucus Conversation Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chair

Incoming members:

Enid Ocegueda

Charlene Martin

Laura Montgomery

I want to thank outgoing members Mae Casey and Jessica Grimmer for their service and contributions made to the Education Committee. Wishing you both continued success in all your future projects.

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Membership Committee Report 7/24/2026

1. Chairs met on July 6, 2026 to catch Morgan up on current and future committee tasks.
 - a. Discussed ideas for the Member Survey, but need more information from the Strategic Planning Committee
 - b. Discussed ideas for possible virtual meet and greet during the fall conference
 - c. Planning to call a committee meeting in September
2. Jen volunteered as the MARAC representative for NAGARA and is attending the conference July 21-24 to table for MARAC.
3. Chairs will meet with Deb on July 16 to discuss Member Survey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Pulsney and Morgan Miller-Scarborough, Co-chairs Membership Committee

MARAC Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) Report
Steering Committee Meeting
July 24, 2026

The Nominations and Elections Committee consists of: Dana Niemeyer (Chair), Kay Hahn, Meagan Cairns, Melissa McMullen, and Steven M. Bookman.

1. Attended the April 30, 2026, Steering Committee meeting
2. Met virtually with Dustin Frohlich (outgoing NEC Chair) as part of the transition process and was granted access to shared committee documents
 - a. Created (based on provided template) Draft 2026-27 election cycle calendar to reflect deadlines for the new year
3. Emailed all 2026-27 NEC
 - a. Provided the NEC handbook and operations manual for review
 - b. Provided a list of positions for which the committee will be seeking candidates
 - c. Encouraged those attending the SAA annual meeting to begin making soft inquiries for the upcoming election

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Niemeyer

NEC Chair

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Submitted to: Steering Committee

July 15, 2026

Web Team members for 2026-2027:

Diana Dymond Reed (Chair), Chris Loos, Sush Jammi, Shelby Daniels-Young, Maegan Peterman, Jane Cross, Sara Predmore (ex-officio)

Updates since the last Steering Meeting:

- Team members have made the following regular edits and updates to the MARAC website since the last report in April:
 - Jasmine - Updated pages with corrections as requested.
 - Diana - Updated Committee and Caucus pages.
 - Chris - Updates the MARAC Job Opportunities page weekly, adding new submissions, removing outdated listings, and keeping submitters informed. Reviewed messages in the Web Team Gmail account and forwarded them to the appropriate team member; conducted quality checks of any changes to the website.
 - Ruth - Updates to the Steering Committee page, including names and email addresses as needed. Fixed several violations from the website accessibility audit.
 - Sara - Continuously keeps it all running, updated, and looking amazing. (Thank you!)
- Jasmine and Ruth have rotated off the team.
- Welcoming our new team members: Sush Jammi, Shelby Daniels-Young, Maegan Peterman, and Jane Cross.

****Please double-check ALL of the webpage(s) for your committee or caucus 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. Consider adding to your committee's Ops Manual that the committee should review their areas of the website and communicate issues to the Web Team annually or every two years.**

Respectfully submitted,
MARAC Web Team members

MARAC Climate Change Working Group

Update to Steering Committee 2026-07-08

Chairs: Kim Hoffman, Amy Wickner

Members: Mark Coulbourne, Steven D'Avria, Nicole Font, Shane Moran, Alan Munshower, Katy Rawdon

Working Group members are finalizing recommendations within two umbrella categories:

1. Disaster preparation support, especially training
2. Support for members to evaluate institutional climate impacts

We are now wrapping up the recommendation development phase and beginning to finalize the language and format of the report.

Since our last report, we have solicited input from MARAC Treasurer Amy Fitch in order to understand how financial considerations may impact the feasibility of some of our more ambitious recommendations. We will be adjusting our draft with this feedback in mind.

Looking ahead, we are making plans for editing and polishing the document as a group effort.

In their final form, we aim to provide the following for each proposal:

Name of the proposal

How it works: 2-3-line summary

Activities: What is actually to be done?

Roles: Who does what? What relationships are involved?

Agreements: What policies, contracts, or other arrangements are needed?

Finances: What would it cost? What financial resources are available, if any?

Feedback: What information and input will be needed from MARAC membership? From leadership?

Disadvantages: What are potential downsides? What could go wrong?

Justification: Why would it be valuable for MARAC to pursue this course of action for our region & members?

Paths: Potential extensive, middle, and minimal paths that MARAC could take while remaining impactful

Relevant examples: name, links, brief descriptions if applicable

We continue to welcome any input from the Steering Committee as we enter the final phase of building out our report.