

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • New Jersey
New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

DC Caucus Report Steering Committee Meeting Baltimore, MD October 16, 2014

DC Caucus Happy Hour: The most recent DC Caucus happy hour was held on July 29 at Vapiano. We had an excellent turnout with roughly 15 caucus members attending. The next DC Caucus happy hour will be held in November or December.

Friends of the DC Archives Organizational Meeting: On September 9 I attended a meeting of the Friends of the DC Archives organizational committee. We discussed the mission of the group as well as possible governance models. Half of the meeting was also spent discussing advocacy and outreach efforts to draw attention and support to the DC Archives prior to the November election and during the mayoral transition.

Friends of the DC Archives Meeting: On October 1 I attended the quarterly Friends of the DC Archives meeting. We finalized our mission statement and discussed the governance of the group and its officers. We also discussed and debated advocacy and outreach efforts that the group could realistically manage and how to attract support and attention from FDCA members and DC residents alike.

Friends of the DC Archives Postcards: During October I volunteered to help contribute to the creation of postcards advocating for the DC Archives to be mailed to the DC mayoral candidates and the DC Council. The DC Caucus will be contributing a small amount of financial assistance and I will be encouraging DC Caucus members to send the postcards to targeted individuals.

Friends of the DC Archives Press Release and Letter to Candidates: Participated in the creation of a letter to be sent to the DC mayoral candidates and the DC Council as well as a press release advocating for the DC Archives. Signed the letter as a DC resident and DC Caucus Representative.

Friends of the DC Archives Website: Participated in the creation of a website for the Friends of the DC Archives. The website is still under construction, but the website will host information about the DC Archives, an online petition for anyone who supports the DC Archives, and more.

DC Lone Arrangers Potential Meeting: During the summer, I was in contact with the two DC Caucus members who had volunteered to lead the DC Lone Arrangers group to try and arrange a meeting of DC, MD, and VA lone arrangers during the Baltimore Conference. As of this time, the meeting is still tentative.

DC Home Movie Day: During September and October, I began working with the organizer of DC Home Movie Day to discuss how the DC Caucus could support the event. Unfortunately,

Home Movie Day falls on Saturday, Oct. 18, but we discussed how the DC Caucus could solicit volunteers who aren't attending the Baltimore Conference, spread the word among DC Caucus members, and contribute a small amount of financial assistance.

Donations Partnership Project Buttons: During September and October, I began working with two DC Caucus members who were organizing a donations partnership project to help establish new avenues of communication between archival repositories. The DC Caucus is helping to support the creation of buttons advertising the project that can be given out to anyone interested in supporting the project.

Catholic University of American – MARAC Liaison: Worked with the AGLISS student group at Catholic University to appoint one of their members as a liaison to MARAC and the DC Caucus after the model of their new SAA student chapter. This partnership is in its early stages and it is too soon to tell how it might work out.

DC Caucus Facebook Page: Created a Facebook page for the DC Caucus to provide caucus members with another avenue to share news and announcements.

New Member Welcome: Sent emails to new MARAC/DC Caucus members welcoming them to MARAC and the DC Caucus. Each email also briefly described past activities of the DC Caucus and upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz, DC Caucus Representative

Friends of the DC Archives

To: Council at-large candidates (listed below)

Re: Support for DC Archives

October 14, 2014

In 2013 the District Government appropriated the funds for a new state-of-the-art archives to replace the current dilapidated DC Archives on Naylor Court. This commitment by the Mayor and City Council indicates that the leaders of the District of Columbia recognize that the records in the Archives need a building that insures the protection of these important documents. Though a new building is of vital importance, the Mayor and City Council must also consider the need for appropriate staffing levels and enforcement of the current regulations for the handling of government records. Without appropriate storage, preservation and access, all records, including significant historic materials documenting DC's heritage, will remain unavailable to residents, researchers and city officials.

The Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA) is a recently formed volunteer organization that advocates for a strong DC Archives and good records management. To meet these goals, FDCA asks your commitment as a candidate for District office for:

- **continued appropriate funding for the new facility for the Office of Public Records and its three divisions, in particular the DC Archives;**
- **appropriate staff and resources for the care of the records at Naylor Court to ensure access and preservation of historical records and treasures; and**
- **vigorous oversight of DC agencies to assure compliance with the mandate for good records management for all formats.**

We hope that you will support the DC Office of Public Records/Archives and mention the importance of preserving the District records in your campaign.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Rice, 202-437-7787/c, ricebill@aol.com. We plan to publish the responses.

William N. Brown, president of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.

Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz, DC Representative, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Fynnette Eaton, Fellow, Society of American Archivists

(organizations for identification only)

To: Anita D. Bonds, Michael D. Brown, Wendell Felder, Calvin H. Gurley, Graylan Hagler, Brian Hart, Eric Jones, Marc Morgan, Khalid Pitts, Eugene Puryear, Kishan Putta, Elissa Silverman, Courtney R. Snowden, Frederick Steiner, Robert White

The Friends of the DC Archives is a volunteer organization that advocates for a strong D.C. Archives that will preserve and make accessible D.C. records in all formats to ensure the accountability of its public officials and promote understanding of the history of the nation's capital.

FRIENDS OF THE DC ARCHIVES

For Release: October 14, 2014

Contact: Bill Rice, 202-437-7787/c, ricebill@aol.com

Candidates Asked to Support DC Archives

The Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA), a recently formed organization advocating for a state-of-the-art archives for the District, is asking the candidates in the November election to support the existing commitment for a new facility for the Office of Public Records to replace the dilapidated facility on Naylor Court, NW.

"FDCA wants to make sure the District gets a new facility, makes immediate, short-term improvements to the existing building and begins to carry out the mandate for good records management throughout the DC Government," said Trudy Peterson, FDCA co-chair and a former head of the National Archives. "We need a well-functioning Archives to understand our history and to hold government accountable."

FDCA is asking the candidates to support:

- **continued appropriate funding for the new facility for the Office of Public Records and its three divisions, in particular the DC Archives;**
- **suitable staff and resources for the care of the records at Naylor Court to assure access and preservation of recent records and historical treasures; and**
- **vigorous oversight of DC agencies to assure compliance with the mandate for good records management for all formats.**

FDCA is also reminding elected and appointed officials who are leaving office to preserve and transfer their official records to the DC Office of Public Records, as required by law.

The Friends of the DC Archives is a volunteer organization that advocates for a strong D.C. Archives that will preserve and make accessible D.C. records in all formats to ensure the accountability of its public officials and promote understanding of the history of the nation's capital.

MARAC Steering Committee

Delaware Caucus Report

October 16, 2014

Baltimore, MD

Submitted by: Emily Cottle,
Delaware Caucus Representative

On Thursday August 28, nearly a dozen members of the Delaware caucus came out for an off-conference get-together, as was suggested by caucus members at the Rochester meeting in the spring. We met in Odessa, Delaware and look to have another gathering outside of the conferences before the end of the year.

I submitted my assigned State of the State post for the MARAC blog in September.

The Delaware caucus has welcomed 2 new members since July's steering committee meeting.

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**Maryland Caucus Report
Steering Committee Meeting
Baltimore, MD
October 16, 2014**

1. Sent out a call to the MD Caucus for news for the MARAC blog, which was collated into a State of State post for October 2014.
2. Continued welcoming new members to the caucus via email, including incorporating information about the MemberClicks website, the MARAC Blog, and other communications outlets.
3. Began planning numerous events for the MS Caucus, including two in Annapolis, and one at UMD.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Novara
Maryland Caucus Representative

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New York Caucus Report

Steering Committee Meeting

Baltimore, MD

October 16, 2014

New Members

Sent emails welcoming new members and answered question about MARAC.

Archives Month

We will have a full report of various Archives month activities as part of November blog post.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Martin

New York State Caucus Representative

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Steering Committee Meeting, 16 October 2014 Report of the New Jersey Caucus

The Caucus met on July 29th at the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Topics of discussion were a Hidden Collections Initiative based on the one in Pennsylvania (Jack McCarthy of the PA project made a presentation), MARAC New Jersey in 2017, reinstating the Institutional Service Award, and the CAPES commemoration at the Baltimore Business Meeting. 18 members were in attendance.

The MARAC New Jersey Caucus Institutional Award will be reinstated in 2015. The award had been presented from 1997-2008 to a New Jersey organization that had furthered the cause of archives and history in the state. The committee consists of the three most recent Caucus chairs, L. Dale Patterson (chair), Jeffrey V. Moy, and Caryn Radick, along with myself as ex-officio. The committee is currently revising the criteria.

The 19th annual Archives & History Day was held on October 11th at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters. 64 organizations were represented, including the Caucus. This year's theme was "The Civil War: New Jersey in Focus" with a special presentation on music during the war. A workshop on best practices for public history and library internships and a lecture on New Jersey Civil War photographers were held on October 8th.

The Caucus page on the MARAC website is being updated.

Seven new members were welcomed to the Caucus. With the patient assistance of Tammy Hoffman, several existing members were able to sign up for the e-list.

As Caucus chair, I am an ex-officio board member of the Advocates for New Jersey History, and attended their September 9th meeting via conference call. The Advocates build awareness of public history activities in the state, as well as advocate for public support.

Caucus Archival Preservation Evaluation Service (CAPES):

The CAPES 25th Anniversary Recognition Committee, Karl Niederer, Fred Pachman, Elsalyn Palmisano, Gary Saretsky, and I, met during the Collections Care Conference at Monmouth University on July 30th to discuss the presentation at the Baltimore business meeting and the Saturday program session.

An article about the 25th anniversary of CAPES, written by Fred Pachman and Elsalyn Palmisano, was published in the New Jersey Library Association's History & Preservation section newsletter, "The Chronicle." Another article appeared in the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey's August newsletter.

The grant application for the continuation of the CAPES program was submitted to the New Jersey Historical Commission on August 22nd.

After a panel at the New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference in June, the Caucus has been in discussion with members of the New Jersey Association of Museums to add a component of artifact evaluation to either the existing CAPES program, or to create a separate CAPES-like program through NJAM. Several members of NJAM and the Caucus met on October 9th at the Monmouth County Historical Association to discuss these possibilities.

Upcoming:

The New Jersey History Forum will be November 21-22 at Kean University. The annual forum is presented by the New Jersey Historical Commission, in partnership with the New Jersey State Archives, New Jersey State Museum, and Kean University, and with partial funding from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. CAPES will be receiving an award during the forum for their 25 years of service.

The New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance will have business meetings and presentations at Rutgers on October 21st and December 2nd.

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey will have a meeting on November 1st hosted by the North Jersey American Revolution Round Table at the Museum at Morristown National Historical Park.

The Advocates for New Jersey History will meet on November 12th.

Submitted by
Laura M. Poll
12 October 2014

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Pennsylvania Caucus Report Steering Committee Meeting Baltimore, MD October 16, 2014

New Members

In July and August, four new members joined the Pennsylvania Caucus and in September, 10 new members joined, for a total of 14 new members since the July report. All of the new September members are registered for the Baltimore meeting. There are now 239 members with Pennsylvania as their primary Caucus.

Caucus Communication

We've resolved the issues with inability to subscribe to e-lists that was mentioned at the July Steering Committee Meeting. Prompting my investigation into these issues was the realization that several other Caucus members and I had not received Caucus messages for a few years and that only 71 Caucus members (only one-fourth of the total 280 PA Caucus members at the time) were subscribed to the e-list.

Tammy Hoffman and Laura Poll and I met after the July Steering Committee meeting and later talked by e-mail about this. Tammy investigated the issue and, as it turned out, it was not simply an issue of members not subscribing, but that many members did not have the ability to subscribe. Tammy fixed this, and I sent instructions for subscribing to the e-list, with screen shots, to Caucus members. However, Laura and I also noticed that we were still not receiving messages from each other's Caucuses, of which each of us are secondary members. Tammy discovered that we did not have the ability to add the second caucus e-lists and she fixed this as well.

Our efforts have just about doubled e-list subscribers from 71 to 140, but a relatively large portion of the membership is still not subscribed. I've continued to post employment notices and non-MARAC activities to the e-list, but am sending all MARAC and PA Caucus-related messages to the full e-mail list, as I do not want Caucus members to miss these. I will send the instructions and screen shots to members again, but we may want to consider having e-list subscription as an automatic default, as other organizations to which I belong have.

I've set up a MARAC Pennsylvania Caucus Facebook group and a MARAC Pennsylvania Caucus Facebook page. The group is largely for MARAC members, while the page is for everyone who has an interest in the Caucus and Pennsylvania archives and history—more or less a “Friends of the Caucus.” Both have had a fair number of posts, mostly of news and events.

To better discover which activities and events that Caucus members would like, I've set up a PA Caucus SurveyMonkey account. Keeping in mind that not all members will be able to attend tours and events, I've also begun setting up a web page with a list of links to Pennsylvania repositories that have online exhibits and virtual tours, but need to talk with MARAC about how to best integrate this with the existing MARAC site and blog.

Tours and Caucus Events

We have had two tours so far. The first was in Harrisburg on September 22, where we toured the State Archives, had lunch together and talked over archival issues, and then toured the State Library of Pennsylvania. The second was in State College on October 9, where we toured and learned more about projects at Penn State's Arboretum, Special Collections Library, and Preservation and Digitization Lab, then attended a talk by Professor Justin Nordstrom, "Food Will Win the War: Conspicuous Conservation During WWI."

We plan to hold these tours and get-togethers every month or two. We hope to schedule and confirm future events with much more notice to members and will be sending a survey to determine when and where members would like to meet. Plans are being made for events in Lancaster and Carlisle and we will be contacting people in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas and Northeastern Pennsylvania about hosting events over the next year.

The goal is to provide opportunities for Pennsylvania Caucus members to meet between conferences, tour other Pennsylvania repositories, and perhaps most importantly provide opportunities for MARAC members who cannot attend one or more biannual meetings a free, in-state opportunity to participate in MARAC and meet with their colleagues. Several people have noted that it is difficult for them to obtain permission and/or funding to attend out-of-state events and conferences, so I hope to also add some workshops and/or presentations to the list of activities.

We also hope that these events might draw some archivists who are not currently MARAC members, perhaps from county or local historical societies, or other staff from these institutions. To do this more effectively than one-to-one invitations, I'm compiling a list of institutions and contact information so that I can send them information about the Pennsylvania Caucus in general and our planned tours and get-togethers in particular.

Regional Committees Discussion

Pennsylvania is, to state the obvious, a large state. With this in mind, we are considering forming committees for different regions within the state. Margaret Kidd mentioned that they have done this for Archives Month in Virginia, and I've heard that Virginia has hosted successful state caucus meetings. The first suggestion for a regional committee arose during a discussion with former members of the Central Pennsylvania Archivists group that was active several years ago. I've asked several Pennsylvania Caucus members in Central Pennsylvania for their thoughts and suggestions and will continue to work on this.

Goals for 2014 - 2015

Survey members to determine where and when they would like to meet and for what kinds of activities.

Continue to hold informal get-togethers, tours, and perhaps some workshops and presentations for Caucus members throughout the state

Contact archivists at county historical societies and archives who are not MARAC members and encourage joining MARAC and attending MARAC meetings and Caucus events.

Develop and add to web page with a list of links to Pennsylvania repositories that have online exhibits and virtual tours and encourage repositories to develop virtual tours.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie-Anne Lutz, Pennsylvania Caucus Representative

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Virginia Caucus Report Steering Committee Meeting Baltimore, MD October 16, 2014

GRAB

Since the last update, the Greater Richmond Archives Bunch (GRAB) has continued to meet monthly. In October, GRAB meets for the Unhappy Hour held by the Poe Museum. We are publicizing this event on the Virginia Archives Month Calendar as an opportunity to enjoy the Poe Museum and hang out with some archivists!

New Members

Sent emails welcoming new members and answered question about MARAC.

Roanoke Fall 2015

Planning has begun for the fall 2015 meeting in beautiful Roanoke, VA. Messages have been sent to the VA caucus to recruit members for the Local Arrangements Committee.

Virginia Archives Month: Archives are for Virginians!

Virginia Archives Month is in full swing. We had 26 institutions contribute images for our poster, a new record. Many were first time contributors. Our regional coordinators did a great job updating our archival repository list and adding new entries. We hope to build on this work in the coming year and perhaps persuade more people to join MARAC.

In addition to our poster and bookmark, there is the Virginia Archives Month [calendar](#) of events on the Library of Virginia site, the [Governor's proclamation](#) of Virginia Archives Month, and a [Flickr group](#) featuring all of the images submitted for the poster, including those that were not used.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Turman Kidd
Virginia Caucus Representative

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MARAC WV Caucus Report
Fall 2014, Baltimore, Maryland
Submitted by Nat DeBruin

We continue to try and get our ‘foot in the archival door’ for the smaller institutions and libraries in the state. To that end, we continue to be active in the West Virginia Library Association – specifically the Preservation Roundtable.

Lori Thompson (MARAC member at Marshall University) and Caitlin Walker (MARAC student member at Marshall) recently attended the Fall 2014 WVLA conference and submitted the following report:

The West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) Preservation Roundtable met at the 2014 Fall Conference on Oct. 9th. During that time members discussed the preservation needs of the public libraries and school libraries of the state. Some members indicated that they were in need of specific preservation education in the area of photograph digitization, small manuscript collection processing help, digitization tools and database storage for digitized collections. After speaking with the Digital Roundtable chair after the roundtable meetings it was discussed that a joint session could be developed for the Spring 2015 WVLA meeting addressing the digital preservation needs of the group. A possible joint workshop could be developed for the Fall 2015 WVLA conference as well.