

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

DC Caucus Report
Steering Committee Meeting
Boston, MA
March 19, 2015

Upcoming Friends of the DC Archives Meeting: The next FDCA meeting will be March 17. We will be discussing recent advocacy efforts to ensure the continuation of the current budget appropriation and DC Council support.

Friends of the DC Archives Meeting with Lauren Vaughan: On January 30, I met with Lauren Vaughan, Secretary of the District of Columbia, along with three other FDCA members to discuss the DC Archives and DC's commitment to a new DC Archives building.

Upcoming DC Caucus Happy Hour: The DC Caucus will be holding its next happy hour on April 8. It will be held in conjunction with the Society for History in the Federal Government.

Task Force on Updating MARAC's Constitution and Bylaws: Throughout the past two months, I have assisted with the process to update MARAC's Constitution and Bylaws. The task force has discussed draft versions of proposed changes and membership feedback about the changes as well. The task force is also writing a series of articles about several proposed changes that generated the most discussion from the membership.

Awards Committee Article: Throughout the month of March, I wrote an article explaining the rationale behind the Awards Committee as part of my involvement with the task force charged with updating MARAC's Constitution and Bylaws. This article will be published in the near future.

Distributed Information to Caucus Members: Distributed information to caucus members about FDCA activities, upcoming meetups, internship announcements, professional development opportunities, happy hours, and symposiums and other events.

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

Delaware Caucus Report
MARAC Steering Committee Meeting
Submitted by: Emily Cottle

Facebook page

The Delaware Caucus Facebook page is holding steady at 11 members.

New Members

One new member has been welcomed to the caucus since January.

Off conference get together

A survey was sent to members in an attempt to schedule a social gathering for March, but received limited affirmative responses. Plans are in the works to try again in April once the weather is better.

Maryland Caucus Report

MARAC Steering Committee Meeting – March 19, 2015
Submitted by: Vincent Novara

The Maryland Caucus gained four new members in January and February.

Plans for a spring event for the MD Caucus are underway involving the Maryland State Archive. Maria Day will host the event. Details are forthcoming.

Novara proposed to his caucus rep. peers a joint event of the DC, MD, and VA Caucuses in summer 2015. This would entail a visit to the Furnace Record Pressing facility in Northern Virginia. Furnace specializes in the manufacturing of historic album reissues by notable recording artists. The owner, an associate of Novara's, has agreed to provide a tour. A happy hour would follow. The DC and VA Caucus reps were receptive to the idea. More details to follow.

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Innovative Archives Award Nomination Form

The New Jersey Caucus's Innovative Archives Award, established in 1997, recognizes the contributions of New Jersey organizations that have furthered the cause of archives and history in the state. If you would like to nominate an organization (self-nominations are welcome), complete and send this nomination form and supporting documentation, **by April 15**, to the Caucus chair, Laura M. Poll, at laurampoll@gmail.com with the subject line *Caucus Award*. Nominations can also be sent via postal mail. Contact the chair at the above email for mailing instructions.

Name of Organization being nominated:

Contact Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Website:

Person making the nomination:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Please list and attach supporting documents, such as publications, by or about the nominee.

How does the nominee meet the criteria of the award? There is no word limit so use as much space as needed.

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Innovative Archives Award

The New Jersey Caucus presents the Innovative Archives Award to a New Jersey organization that has furthered the cause of archives and history in the state. To nominate an organization, complete and send the nomination form and supporting documentation, **by April 15**, to the Caucus chair, Laura M. Poll, at laurampoll@gmail.com with the subject line *Caucus Award*. Nominations can also be sent via regular post. Contact the chair at the above email for mailing instructions.

Criteria and Eligibility:

The Award, established in 1997, is given to an organization that has provided exemplary leadership or service to the archival community and residents of the state. The Award may also honor a local, county, or regional organization, and can be given either for long-term leadership or service, or for outstanding effort demonstrated in a given year.

Nominees may have developed innovative educational or outreach models utilizing archival sources, provided leadership during a time of emergency or crises, demonstrated new thinking into working solutions, exhibited creativity in increasing awareness of local history resources among New Jersey residents and visitors, or otherwise provided exemplary service to the archives and history communities.

Review Process and Acknowledgement:

The Award will consist of a certificate of appreciation, and special acknowledgment presented in October during Archives & History Day at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan. The winning organization will also be given complimentary table registration during the event.

The winner of the Award will be determined by an Award Committee that will make its recommendation to the Caucus chair. The Committee is comprised of the last three past Caucus chairs. This year's Committee is comprised of L. Dale Patterson (Committee chair), Jeffrey V. Moy, Caryn Radick, and current Caucus chair, Laura M. Poll (ex-officio).

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Spring Steering Committee Meeting, Boston

19 March 2015

Report of the New Jersey Caucus

The Caucus met on February 23rd at the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers-Newark. This was a rescheduled meeting from January that had been cancelled due to snow. The Caucus also had a joint meeting with the New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section on February 25th at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

The Caucus will have a joint meeting with the Pennsylvania Caucus on April 14th at the David Library of the American Revolution, and have a gathering at the Ukrainian Historical & Education Center on May 13th. Other gatherings are being planned at repositories around the state.

The Innovative Archives Award was approved by the Caucus at its February 23rd off-conference meeting. The criteria and nomination form are attached to this report. It will be presented during Archives & History Day in October to a New Jersey organization that has furthered the cause of archives and history in the state. The award, formerly known as the MARAC/NJ Caucus Institutional Award for Excellence, was first given out in 1997 with the last one presented in 2008.

Members of the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) Advisory Committee have been meeting with members of the New Jersey Association of Museums to create an Artifact Assessment Program. It is based on CAPES and sponsored by NJAM. A grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission was awarded to begin a pilot program for 2015-2016.

Notification came in February that CAPES would receive a New Jersey Historical Commission grant of \$8,700 to manage the program for 2015. While awaiting the check, the CAPES coordinator is assigning CAPES consultants to grants pending from 2014. There are currently eight surveys in process with five more awaiting assignment.

March is New Jersey's turn on the MARAC blog, but nothing has yet to be posted since the blog has been busy with Boston information. New Jersey currently has 4 blogs ready for posting and will begin at the conclusion of the Spring meeting. I would recommend that in the future, the months in which the semi-annual meetings fall be allocated for the respective Local Arrangement and Program committees.

Two venues for MARAC workshops in New Jersey have been confirmed. Contact information was forwarded to the Education Committee.

Discussions have continued about MARAC Newark in Spring 2017, and hotel and meeting space details are being worked out.

The New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR) was officially created on February 17th of which the Caucus is an ex-officio member. NJCAR is a network of organizations, associations, agencies, and persons dedicated to safeguarding the cultural heritage of New Jersey, which includes historical, artistic, archival, library, and natural history resources, institutions, and collections. Its primary aim is to prevent and mitigate damage to and/or loss of cultural resources in the event of a disaster and to serve as a statewide information clearinghouse.

I have been working with the Somerset County Historical Society to assist with getting money to help with a disaster that occurred in January when 7,000 gallons of water flooded their museum. They will be applying for the MARAC Disaster Relief Funds.

The regional contents for New Jersey History Day were held on March 1st at Rutgers, March 7th at Kean, and will be held March 28th at Princeton. The state contest will be held at William Patterson on May 2nd. This year's theme is Leadership & Legacy in History.

I attended meetings of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, and Advocates for New Jersey History.

The Caucus' Facebook Group currently has 55 members. There are 123 members of the Caucus and 107 signed up for the Caucus listserv. Two new members were welcomed.

Submitted by
Laura M. Poll
13 March 2015

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Spring Steering Committee Meeting- March 2015

The New York Caucus added 7 new members since December. They have all been contacted and encouraged to become involved in MARAC and the caucus.

A new Facebook group for the caucus was started in January. Caucus members were notified via the list and so far there are 22 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Martin
New York Caucus Representative

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Spring Steering Committee Meeting- March 2015 Pennsylvania Caucus Report

The Caucus welcomed seven new members in January and February, for a total of 259 members.

The Pennsylvania Caucus Facebook page has 113 likes. The Pennsylvania Caucus Facebook Group has 93 members.

The number of subscribers to the Pennsylvania Caucus e-list through MemberClicks had risen over 100%, increasing from 70 in August (only 25% of the 281 Caucus members who were on MemberClicks at the time) to 141 (60% of the 232 Caucus members who were on MemberClicks in January). Over the past two months, it has dropped to 132 (53% of the 247 Caucus members who are on MemberClicks as of this week). We hope that this reflects dropped memberships and new members not yet subscribed, not that announcements to the list have driven people to unsubscribe. We will be sending around another reminder to subscribe with instructions. As not all members are on the e-list, we continue to use the e-list for non-MARAC events, workshops, and news but use the full e-mail distribution list for all MARAC Pennsylvania Caucus announcements.

Due to the weather and the Caucus Representative's schedule, no additional Caucus meetings or tours have been held since the January meeting in Baltimore. Upcoming events include:

1. Joint New Jersey-Pennsylvania Caucus meeting on April 14 at the David Library of the American Revolution.
2. Harrisburg event at the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Library of Pennsylvania, again being coordinated by the Caucus Rep and Iren Snively of the State Library, April or May.
3. Meeting and tour at LancasterHistory.org (Lancaster County Historical Society) in May.
4. Carlisle event with the Cumberland County Historical Society, Dickinson College, and the U.S. Army Heritage Center, probably in June. We have slacked off a bit on this and need to resume discussion with these institutions.
5. We are still looking for venues and need to set dates for Pittsburgh area and Northeastern PA later in the year and will talk with some representatives from likely institutions at MARAC and over the next few weeks. The Heinz History Center and the University of Pittsburgh are high on the list of desired locations for Pittsburgh. Under consideration for Northeast Pennsylvania are Lehigh University, Schuylkill County Historical Society, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

The Caucus Representative also represented Pennsylvania at several events with the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, including RootsTech in Salt Lake City and Family History Days at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Submitted by Valerie-Anne Lutz
March 13, 2015

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**Virginia Caucus Report
Steering Committee Meeting
Boston, MA
March 19, 2015**

GRAB

Since the last update, the Greater Richmond Archives Bunch (GRAB) continues to meet monthly, when the weather has cooperated that is.

New Members

Sent emails welcoming new members. I also sent an email to all members who had joined since I became caucus rep. I noticed that the total number of Virginia caucus members did not match the number signed up for the e-list. I realize that some members prefer not to be on the e-list, but I wanted to ensure that those who joined recently understood that they had to turn on e-mail delivery to receive communications from the list. I am happy to report that the number of e-list members has risen.

Virginia State Caucus meeting

Plans continue for our annual meeting. We are set to meet at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, VA. The tentative date of this meeting is April 24th. The meeting will include lightening talks from caucus members regarding project they are working on and a tour of the museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Turman Kidd
Virginia Caucus Representative

MARAC Spring 2015 Steering Committee
WV Caucus Report submitted by Nat DeBruin

No activity to report since the Winter Steering Committee meeting.