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President's Page

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October 2012

Dear MACers,

As I write this letter, the summer is slowly coming to a close, and fall is just around the corner. Each year, I'm sure these "quiet" summer months will allow me to catch up on projects I've neglected during the year, and then I'm shocked when late August arrives. Oh well—it's good to be busy!

MAC has certainly been busy making good progress on upcoming meeting plans and initiatives as outlined in the 2012 State of MAC report (printed in the July newsletter). Marketing and on-line publication task forces are working on new promotional materials and investigating ways to more effectively communicate with members. The Speakers Bureau pilot project is well underway, with a call for proposals and plans to hold events before the next MAC Annual Meeting. The Speakers Bureau initiative is a means for MAC to push out its educational offerings to members and others who may not be able to travel to our Annual Meeting and Symposium. The Education Committee is working closely with state and city archives groups in the MAC region to collaborate and identify ways MAC can help meet these needs. There is a great deal of cooperative potential in this area!

In fact, SAA is looking at this type of collaboration on a national level. At its 2012 meeting in San Diego, SAA held a "Summit of Regional Organizations and SAA Leaders" in which 16 regional presidents and representatives participated. Attendees discussed ways in which regionals across the country could work more closely together (and with SAA) on a number of fronts involving advocacy, education, and resource and information sharing. By the end of the afternoon, the group had prioritized several possible actions, including creating a formal committee of regionals at SAA; developing a group listserv and shared on-line space for information sharing; establishing SAA liaisons in each of the regional groups to enable communication between SAA and the organizations; and identifying tools and resources to foster coordinated advocacy efforts. I am hopeful that the Summit will result in future discussions and plans for collaboration.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming Symposium "Engaging with Students & Teachers: Integrating Primary Sources in K-16 Curricula!" Cochairs Anne Ryckbost and Lisa Sjoberg and their respective committees have put together a fantastic group of speakers and local offerings. And Cincinnati in the fall is gorgeous!

As always, if you have comments or questions about MAC activities, or would like to become more involved, please get in touch with me at eswain@illinois.edu or 217-333-7841.

Best,

Ellen D. Swain
President, Midwest Archives Conference