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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings Update

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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings Update

Mark Shelstad, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

Attendees of the 2011 Annual Meeting in Saint Paul were treated to a great mix of sessions, workshops, and tours. I would like to thank the Program Committee, cochaired by Lynn Smith and Alison Stankrauff, for the outstanding sessions and student poster session. The Local Arrangements Committee, cochaired by Anne Kenne and Karen Spilman, also did a great job of organizing the hotel activities, receptions, and tours. If you were torn between two sessions at the meeting, be sure to check out the MAC Web site (<http://www.midwestarchives.org>) for links to all of the social media coverage, session slides, and recaps.

Sioux City, Iowa, October 20–21, 2011

Focusing on the challenges of preserving magnetic media, the 2011 symposium will feature two experts on managing your analog tape collections. George Blood of Safe Sound Archive will speak on the technological issues associated with this medium, including digitization and reformatting. Elizabeth Clemens from Wayne State University will present on selection, description, basic preservation, copyright, and working with donors and vendors. The symposium also includes a case study by Jeff Stein of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting, who will discuss the challenges of a small shop with large collections and specific preservation strategies they have employed. The opening reception on Wednesday night showcases the new Sioux City Public Museum, and a walking tour of downtown Sioux City is offered after Thursday's sessions.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012

Great meetings depend on great session proposals—be sure to share your ideas with the Program Committee this summer. The committee, cochaired by Elizabeth Myers and Rachel Vagts, will be glad to work with you to put the finishing touches on any session ideas. Nancy Richard, Portia Vescio, and the rest of the Local Arrangements Committee are working on events to help celebrate MAC's 40th anniversary at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids. Just across the Grand River, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum will host the reception.

Cincinnati, Ohio, October 18–20, 2012

MAC is returning to Cincinnati for the first time since 1988. The focus of this symposium will be working with K–12 and undergraduate students to educate them about primary sources. The symposium will seek to provide training by presenting ideas for implementing literacy standards for

primary sources, providing opportunities for dialogue about best practices, and sharing resources to encourage archival literacy.

Future Meetings

At the spring meeting, Council approved Indianapolis, Indiana as the site of the 2013 Annual Meeting. The Local Arrangements and Program Committees are being assembled, and the hotel and reception sites are being selected. In a first for MAC, the membership will be polled this summer on potential topics for the 2013 symposium. As always, if you would like to bring MAC to your neighborhood, or have ideas for a symposium topic, feel free to contact me at mark.shelstad@utsa.edu.

Meeting Services Request for Proposal

MAC counts on meeting income as a source of general operating revenue. Toward that end, MAC has contracted with an outside firm since 2007 to help negotiate hotel contracts. Given the increasing cost and complexity of hotel, food and beverage, and audio-visual contracts and general meeting logistics, MAC will be issuing a request for proposal for meeting services this summer. A professional meeting company will provide consistency and buying power to help keep meeting rates as low as possible, a MAC hallmark. A task force of current and former MAC officers, Council members, and Local Arrangement Committees will be reviewing proposals and making a recommendation to Council later this year.



Upcoming MAC Meeting Sites and Dates

Fall Symposium, 2011

Sioux City, Iowa

October 20–21, 2011

Annual Meeting, 2012

Grand Rapids, Michigan

April 19–21, 2012

Fall Symposium, 2012

Cincinnati, Ohio

October 18–20, 2012

Annual Meeting, 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana

Spring 2013