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President's Page

Amy Cooper Cary

Marquette University, amy.cary@marquette.edu

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Raynor Memorial Libraries

July 2014

Dear MAC Members,

Fresh from the MAC Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, I'm returning to work energized and engaged! Let me congratulate once more all the members of the Local Arrangements Committee (Audrey McKanna Coleman and Jennifer Audsley Moore, cochairs) and all the members of the Program Committee (Michelle Sweetser and Jeremy Brett, cochairs) for the work they did to make this meeting a rousing success!

I also want to thank our outgoing leaders who made such a difference this year. Vice President Menzi Behrnd-Klodt not only organized the meetings and chaired the Documentation Working Group, but did yeoman's service to help revise our contract with AMC. Daardi Sizemore provided excellent service as treasurer, and Janet Olson and Erik Nordberg were valued members of Council. Several members of Ex Officio Council are transitioning from their positions, including *Archival Issues (AI)* Chair Barbara Floyd, *MAC Newsletter* Editor Jennie Thomas (who will be joining Council this year), Public Information Officer (PIO) Adriana Cuervo, and Webmaster Stephanie Giordano. Committee chairs Lydia Lucas (Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Attendees), Helen Conger (Bowen Memorial Graduate Scholarship), and Josh Ranger (Nominating Committee) are also moving out of their positions. All deserve hearty thanks and recognition for their important contributions to MAC.

I'd also like to welcome incoming leadership: David McCartney (vice president), Joel Thoreson (treasurer), Jennie Thomas and Anne Thomason (Council), John Fleckner (*AI* Editorial Board chair), Paul Eisloeffel (newsletter editor), Daria Labinsky (PIO), Brad Houston (webmaster), Daardi Sizemore (Nominating Committee chair), Cheri Thies (Emeritus Scholarship chair), and Elizabeth Wilkinson (Bowen Scholarship chair). I look forward to working with all of you!

As is traditional, let me offer my State of MAC address, delivered at the Members' Meeting, in this issue of the newsletter.

State of MAC

During this first year of my presidency, MAC has been all about infrastructure. From the work of the Council, to the work of task forces, to the work of our committees, as a group we have been grappling with two realities: first, that we are an organization with ambitious goals for the opportunities we provide our members; second, that in many areas we have grown beyond the boundaries of a purely volunteer organization.

The good news, which you will read in the Treasurer's Report elsewhere in this newsletter, is that through streamlining some of our operations and improving our processes for meetings and publications, we have significantly decreased our deficit and improved the overall financial standing of MAC.

To continue to position ourselves to serve our members in the next three to five years, this year's work has focused on a few key areas. Most time consuming, yet most "invisible" to you, has been the work of adjusting our contract with AMC, which provides us with both meeting and administrative services. In the past six months, Council members Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, Michael Doylen, Daardi Sizemore, and I have worked with AMC to draft a contract that will mesh our service contracts, provide additional support to key areas of our organization (such as web management and meeting services), and clarify and redefine several key roles to improve communications.

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Raynor Memorial Libraries P.O. Box 3141 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-3141
Telephone (414) 288-7214 Fax (414) 288-7813 Web www.marquette.edu/libraries

We have already seen several improvements to our communications and publications this year: The Documentation Working Group has completed a review and revision of all leadership and committee manuals. MAC is now more completely documented than it ever has been, and the working group will continue to address the needs of MAC in the coming year. New manuals are being posted to the website even as I write this.

We implemented a new pricing structure for *Archival Issues*, instituting a subscription-only option in December 2013. Subscription pricing is of most benefit to our institutions, which will no longer need to purchase an institutional membership to obtain the journal. While this has significantly decreased our institutional memberships this year, it will save us money overall, as we will no longer provide printed newsletters to these institutional subscribers. We are also offering members the opportunity to “go green” and opt out of paper publications, instead subscribing online. This has also saved us money. The goal for the coming year is to continue to find ways to increase accessibility and market our publications.

The Online Publications Working Group continues to act on recommendations that it made at the fall Council meeting. As a result, we all are using Sched.org, which replaces our pocket program at this meeting. Early indications are that this is a valuable offering, and we will continue to test its viability in the coming year.

The *Archival Issues* Editorial Board adopted a new copyright agreement, which was revised to allow authors to contribute their articles to institutional repositories, personal or institutional websites, and noncommercial research or educational publications. This encourages the sharing of quality scholarship while giving authors incentive to submit their articles to *AI*. We continue to look for high-quality submissions, so please contact a member of the Editorial Board if you are interested.

The Speakers Bureau begins its two-year pilot project this year, after a solid two years of planning and preparation. Cochairs Tanya Zanish-Belcher and Ellen Swain and committee members have worked hard to institute a program designed to bring low- or no-cost educational workshops to archivists throughout the MAC region. Over the next year, the project will support four workshops and will develop a resource list of workshop speakers and topics. The first workshop, “Moving Images: An Introduction for Archivists,” was presented by Paul Eisloeffel, media archivist at the University of Nebraska. The free workshop was held at the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City in partnership

with the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board and State Archives on May 30. If you have questions about the Speakers Bureau or would like to be included as a speaker on its resource list, please contact Ellen Swain (eswain@illinois.edu) or Tanya Zanish-Belcher (zanisht@wfu.edu).

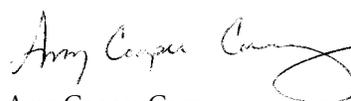
Finally, I want to mention that during the summer and fall of 2013, on behalf of MAC, I participated in the SAA effort to establish the Regional Archival Associations Consortium (www2.archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac), which provides a forum for collaboration between archival organizations at the regional, state, and local levels. As the consortium begins its work, I anticipate increased opportunities for MAC to partner with other organizations within this framework.

There are always ways members can assist, and I want to mention a couple of things in closing. First, we saw a very low submission rate for our MAC scholarship opportunities this year. These scholarships are tremendously important, as they fund opportunities for archives students and new professionals. You will see MAC e-mail announcements calling for submissions—please take it upon yourselves to share these widely!

I would also like to encourage you to share the value of MAC membership beyond these walls! MAC provides a membership that encompasses all archivists in the region, from first-year archives students and emerging professionals to retirees and emeritus members. MAC is your organization, and, as it grows, we maintain our commitment to offering high-quality educational and professional development and networking opportunities. So many of you have invested your time and talents in this organization, and I thank you for that. Though we use support services for some aspects of our work, MAC's vitality and capacity for growth come from its membership. As MAC's leadership works to set up a strong infrastructure for the growth of the organization, I encourage you all to share MAC's goals and participate in its future.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas that can benefit the organization, please feel free to contact me or any other Council member. I look forward to serving as your president in the coming year. And thank you all for your ongoing commitment to MAC.

My best wishes,



Amy Cooper Cary
President, Midwest Archives Conference