The Ohio Archivist

Spring 2007, Volume 38 Number 1

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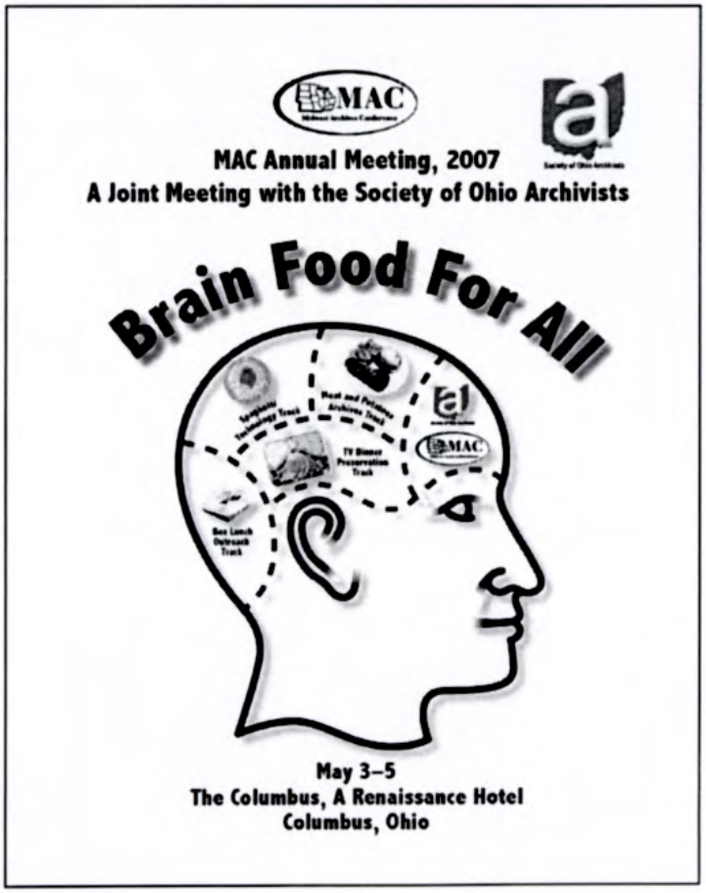
Special Election Edition!

This is a special edition of *The Ohio Archivist* featuring the information you will need in order to cast your vote in this year's SOA elections. The SOA business meeting and elections will be held at the upcoming joint conference of MAC and SOA in Columbus, Ohio. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Another edition of *The Ohio Archivist* will be published later in the summer containing session reports and a conference recap.

I hope to see you all in Columbus!

--Beth A. Kattelman, editor



Proposed Revision to the Society of Ohio Archivists Constitution and Bylaws

Insert as a second paragraph under Item 11 (regarding meetings of Council):

Special deliberations of Council between official Council meetings may be held by electronic means (such as e-mail or other Internet communication systems) to vote upon a particular issue brought before Council for a decision. These deliberations are subject to the following:

- A majority of the Council members shall have access to the appropriate electronic media, as verified by their response to a call for any particular deliberation. This majority shall constitute the quorum for the deliberation and, once established, shall be present until the deliberation is adjourned.
- The technology used for the electronic deliberations shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all deliberation transactions either continuously or intermittently throughout the specified time of the deliberation.
- The affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum shall be the minimum vote requirement for the adoption of any motion.
- The secretary will ensure that any special deliberations of Council are reflected in the next minutes.

Signed:

Gillian Hill
Stephen Paschen
Judith Cobb
Beth Kattelman
Erik Mayer

Slate of Candidates – 2007

President

Angela O'Neal
Digital Projects Manager
Ohio Historical Society

Vice President

Vic Fleischer
University Archivist and Head,
Archives & Special Collections
Youngtown State University

Secretary

Gillian Hill
Records and Information Manager / Archivist
Greene County

Council
(2 seats to fill)

Ron Davidson
Archives Librarian
Sandusky Library

Lynda Kachurek
Archivist
Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University

Katy L. W. Klettlinger
Assistant Curator
Peninsula Library and Historical Society

Tom Neel
Library Director
Ohio Genealogical Society

Questions and Answers

Candidate for President: Angela O'Neal

Angela O'Neal, Digital Projects Manager, Ohio Historical Society. Degrees: BA, Kent State University, MA, Miami University. Member: Society of Ohio Archivists (Program Co-Chair 2005, Program Chair 2006, Vice-President 2005-2007), Midwest Archives Conference (Program Co-Chair2007), SAA, Museum Computer Network. Published articles in Ohio History, MAC Newsletter, Library Hi-Tech, and the St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture

As an organization, one of SOA's priorities is to increase funding and visibility for Ohio's archives. How would you, as SOA President, continue and improve upon these efforts to ensure Ohio's archives have the funding they need to continue to preserve and make available Ohio's historical materials?

Advocacy, partnerships and increased visibility are the key components to increasing funding for Ohio's archives. Advocacy is critical to expanding investment in archival institutions throughout the state. Statehood Day, an annual history advocacy event held on March 1, demonstrates the power of organized advocacy efforts on behalf of history in Ohio. When archives join together with historic preservation groups, archaeology organizations, genealogical and historical societies, we send a strong message to our legislature: History Works. As SOA President, I will continue to work toward the initiatives of Statehood Day 2007, which included creating a matching grant program for cultural heritage institutions and raising the profile of the State Archives of Ohio. As SOA President, I will also work to continue the Society's support for Statehood Day and increase participation among the SOA membership.

Advocacy on the national level is critical as well. As the budgets of federal grant agencies such as the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) continue to be threatened regularly, it is more important than ever that SOA advocate for federal funding for archival projects. As an organization, SOA should continue to coordinate with other state and national groups to be proactive on current legislation effecting archives. Partnerships are essential to increasing visibility and funding for Ohio's archival institutions. SOA's recent partnerships with the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) and the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC) have provided critical training opportunities for archives staff throughout the state.

As archivists, we also need to continue to promote our collections and educate legislators, resource allocators, and the public on the importance of archives. Over the next several years, the Civil War Sesquicentennial will provide a unique opportunity to promote Ohio's archival institutions. Over 346,000 Ohio soldiers and sailors served in the war, affecting every community in the state. Nearly every archives has a Civil War collection that illustrates the local community's commitment and sacrifice. The Sesquicentennial is an opportunity to highlight our collections and build partnerships within the public and private sectors.

Society of Ohio Archivists celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2008. With your support, I will work to make the organization even stronger by expanding our advocacy efforts, building partnerships and publicizing the importance of Ohio's archives.

Angela O'Neal

Candidate for Vice President: Vic Fleischer

Vic Fleischer: University Archivist and Head, Archives & Special Collections, Youngstown State University, 2004-Present. Formerly University Archivist / Special Collections Librarian, YSU, 2000-2004; Special Collections Manager, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, 1998-2000. Degrees: BA and MA in History, MLS, Kent State University. Member: SOA (Council and Website / Public Information Committee Chair, 2005-Present), Ohio Museums Association (Board Member, 2005-Present), SAA, Mahoning Cultural Collaborative, Mahoning Valley Collecting Institutions Roundtable.

Question: In what areas would you, as SOA Vice President, encourage collaboration within the state and across states? How would collaboration strengthen those areas?

As SOA Vice President I will encourage collaboration within the state and across states in the following areas: advocacy, education, funding, legislation and electronic records. These are currently the most important issues in our profession, especially in the State of Ohio. Only through collaboration should we attempt to tackle such monumental tasks, for as the saying goes, "alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Advocacy receives attention lately due to the fact that Ohio ranks dead last nationally in state support for the archiving of records. The results have been disastrous as the State

Archives lost valuable resources forcing them to cut positions and reading room hours. SOA and other groups support OHS by voicing our opinions on this very important topic and together we are making progress. Similarly, we joined forces to support recent legislation, including House Bill 9, and to oppose others, including Dann v. Taft. As an SOA council member I supported these initiatives and will continue to do so as your Vice President. By partnering with organizations such as OHS (particularly the State Archives), the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, and others, we will have a louder voice to persuade state officials to recognize the importance of historical documents. The result of these collaborative efforts will be increased awareness of and access to public records and additional funding for archival programs.

As your Vice President, I will promote a united effort within Ohio and with other states for joint educational programs. I believe SOA has already formed a strong partnership with MAC, as evidenced by this conference, and I will work to maintain this. In addition, SOA Council has recently discussed the possibility of coordinating workshops with archival organizations in neighboring states. I have supported these partnerships as a council member and believe we should pursue this more fervently. The result will not only be the creation of strong relationships and unique networking opportunities, but also a savings of resources which can be utilized for other important issues. As part of our education agenda, we should work more closely with OHRAB, the Ohio Electronic Records Committee, and others to address the current challenges posed by electronic records. Once these issues are resolved we should offer workshops in collaboration with other groups to help archivists throughout the state and region properly address the preservation of these important historical resources.

In conclusion, I will work with the SOA President to advance current collaborations and establish new ones that will benefit our society and our membership. We will address the very important issues of advocacy, education, funding, legislation, and electronic records, but we must not undertake these monumental tasks alone. Through mutual endeavor we can achieve much more than through solitary effort, for as Winston Churchill once said, "If we are together nothing is impossible."

Vic Fleischer

Candidate for Secretary: Gillian Hill

Gillian Hill: Records and Information Manager / Archivist, Greene County. Degrees: BA and MA, Wright State University. Member: SOA (Council 1996-98, Secretary 2001-present), SAA, MAC, Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (Chair 1995-98), Society of Archivists (UK), West Sussex Archives Society (UK) (Treasurer 1983-91), ARMA International (Regional Coordinator 2003-present), Archives ISG Leader 1999-2001), ARMA Greater Dayton Chapter (Director 1994-95, 2005-present, Secretary 1995-97, Vice-President 1997-98, President 1998-99, Chair 1999-2000,), Records Management Society of Great Britain, SAA/ARMA Joint Committee (Vice Chair 2000-01, Chair 2001-2003).

Question: What skills would you bring to the SOA Council as secretary?

I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving SOA as Secretary on Council. I believe that I have demonstrated in my past years of service as Secretary that I possess the organization and communication skills required for this position.

The most important duty of the Secretary is to provide accurate, complete and timely minutes of Council meetings. This is both to assist Council with its duties, and to provide accountability to the membership as a whole. The minutes also provide a detailed history of the Society, documenting its goals and achievements over time. I have consistently prepared and distributed drafts of the minutes of Council meetings to Council members shortly after the meetings, and have arranged to have them posted in draft format on the SOA website, so that members can review Council's deliberations as soon as possible. After the following meeting of Council, when any amendments have been noted, I have had the draft copy replaced online with the final approved copy of the minutes.

I remain committed to the position of Secretary, because I firmly believe that sound recordkeeping in the present guarantees the permanent retention of records of enduring historical value for the future. As a member of this organization of archivists, I realize that we should take as much care of our Society's records as we do of the archival collections of the institutions for which we work.

I would be honored to continue to serve as Secretary of SOA, and ask for your support.

Gillian Hill

Candidate for Council: Ron Davidson

Ron Davidson: Archives Librarian, Sandusky Library. Degrees: B.A., Michigan State University; M.L.S., University at Buffalo; M.A., Kent State University. Member: SOA (Conference Program Committee, 2006), SAA, MAC, Academy of Certified Archivists, American Library Association, National Council on Public History, Lakeside Heritage Society (Board of Directors, 2003-present).

Question: An important part of SOA's mission is to provide education and training for those working in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Technology is playing an increasing role in archivists' work; technology also provides opportunities to modify the way SOA's training is conducted such as remote conferencing, hands-on technical training, etc. What role should SOA play in training archivists in these evolving areas? And if elected, how would you contribute to SOA's education and training activities?

Clearly, technology represents an increasingly important aspect in the archivist's function, both in performing the tasks of the job and in learning how to perform those tasks. The Society of Ohio Archivists can enhance the role of technology in its activities by expanding its use in education and information-sharing. (Some of the proposals discussed below are already undertaken by officers and members; I would like to stress the importance of these tasks, and ensure that a thorough policy is in effect.)

In education, for example, SOA should ensure that adequate opportunities for technology training are incorporated into its workshop offerings – both by supplementing existing classes and by offering new programs in emerging technologies. Whenever appropriate, workshop content should include instruction about technology that assists in performing the tasks at hand. (For example: organizational software for Arrangement and Description; digital records in Records Management; using internet-based tools for outreach in the Archives 202 class.) SOA should conduct a periodic review of workshop syllabi to ensure that we are keeping up with technological trends. Additionally, SOA should consider adding more technology-related workshops in its offerings – e.g., database management; website development for archives.

Perhaps more significantly, SOA should expand its use of technological tools to enhance the organization's connection to its members and to increase opportunities for learning among archivists. Obviously, many ideas have already been put into effect – the SOA listserv, blog, and online newsletter are a few examples. I believe that more can be achieved with these tools and other assets.

First, the SOA website could serve as a clearinghouse for training information, both in technology and in general archival issues. The website could include not only listings of programs offered by SOA, but also course syllabi, and provide the opportunity for online registration and the means to contact instructors. Also, the SOA website could provide links and information about training opportunities offered by other sources (e.g., SAA, MAC, local institutions, etc.).

Secondly, SOA could provide opportunities for remote education and training for those unable to travel. Many methods are possible for this type of training: online classes, offered via email and/or dedicated websites; current classes could be recorded onto DVD or CD and distributed to remote users; podcasts (of classes, conference sessions, and lectures) could be created for download by members; classes could be offered via video conferencing.

Finally, SOA and its members could make greater use of blogs and wikis for information exchange and collegiality (for example, repositories could share information about recent acquisitions, exhibits, and public programs, so that we may know more about each other).

Of course, new ideas must be planned, fully developed, and implemented. This is an important role for the SOA council. If elected to council, I will assume a responsibility in formulating and implementing plans for using technology in the service of SOA and its members. Working in cooperation with other interested members, I would assist in developing these new programs, and coordinate the work necessary to carry out these plans.

Ron Davidson

Candidate for Council: Lynda Kachurek

Lynda Kachurek: Archivist, Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University. Degrees: BA, Millikin University; MA, Purdue University; Certificate in Archives Administration, Wright State University. Member: SOA , SAA, MAC, Miami Valley Archives Roundtable, Oral History Association. Co-Advisor, SAA Student Chapter, WSU.

Question: An important part of SOA's mission is to provide education and training for those working in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Technology is playing an increasing role in archivists' work; technology also provides opportunities to modify the way SOA's training is conducted such as remote conferencing, hands-on technical training, etc. What role should SOA play in training archivists in these evolving areas? And if elected, how would you contribute to SOA's education and training activities?

For archivists as for many other professionals, technology provides a continuing challenge to the way our work is accomplished. Technology assists us in preserving original material in multiple formats while at the same time challenging us to preserve

that growing multitude of formats. It allows for greater exposure of our collections to a larger and world-wide audience of researchers while also prompting us into new and different ways of doing business with patrons both near and far away.

Technology also affects the ways we continue to learn and grow as archivists. New technologies require training in new skills and new methods, and with SOA's strong mission to provide education and training for members, it is an issue which is important to the organization's future. Current SOA resources include mentorship matching and internship listing as well as a listserv and blog; the website also offers general information for new and current members, including Archives Week information and the organizational newsletters and meeting minutes.

In this age of budget cuts and declining resources, time and money are at even more a premium than ever before, and I believe this is one area where technology could assist in furthering the educational mission of SOA. The development of on-line workshops and remote conferencing would enable individuals who might otherwise not be able to attend to participate in a variety of training programs. Partnering with other organizations where possible—including other archival, historical or local organizations—could bring new collaborations for training and promotion of Ohio's archival materials. Training in support of new technological initiatives, such as the OhioLINK Digital Media Center and Digital Resource Commons and the work of EAD task force, would assist in hopefully greater participation and use of those resources, fulfilling not only SOA's commitment to training and education but also to its mission of making Ohio archival collections more useful and more available.

One of the joys of SOA membership is the coming together of Ohio archivists to talk and learn with each other, most especially at the annual conference. With the growing use of the SOA listserv and blog, those conversations are being continued and expanded. With the addition of new educational and training opportunities, especially web-based training options, the educational fellowship can be shared year-round as we learn with and from each other. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to those developments and others if elected to SOA Council. Thank you.

Lynda Kachurek

Candidate for Council: Katy L. W. Klettlinger

Katy L. W. Klettlinger: Assistant Curator, Peninsula Library and Historical Society Degrees: BS and MLIS, Kent State University. Member: SOA (KSU Student Chapter President, 2005-2006), SAA, OAHSM, OLC, & Valley Windows Association.

Question: An important part of SOA's mission is to provide education and training for those working in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Technology is playing an increasing role in archivists' work; technology also provides opportunities to modify the way SOA's training is conducted such as remote conferencing, hands-on technical training, etc. What role should SOA play in training archivists in these evolving areas? And if elected, how would you contribute to SOA's education and training activities?

Innovations in technology are increasing so quickly in archival settings it is becoming overwhelming for archivists, including myself who received my MLIS just last year! It is imperative to educate institutions throughout our state so we do not fall behind. Regional conferences focusing on a technology theme would be a beneficial tool for SOA to utilize. While our yearly state conference is highly valuable towards our advancement, regional conferences would insure that more members could attend and be provided with technology training through hands-on workshops, lectures, and panel discussions from qualified archivists from Ohio, as well as, out of state. Each region within Ohio would be able to plan their own technology conference to address the needs and concerns of archivists in their area. Also, creating regional technology liaisons in SOA would be very helpful in providing communication from each region and create cohesion in presenting state of the art technology programs regionally and on the state level.

As an archivist, I recognize that it is my duty to contribute my time and knowledge to our profession, as should we all. Being a recent graduate and new to the field, I am aware of the gaps in education for archivists in my generation. At the same time, I have also been educated about the latest technology innovations; especially issues arising from digitization of archival materials online and how new cataloging initiatives such as DACS and EAD are changing our finding aid formats and how other archival functions are being altered as a result. If elected, I can provide my input on the issues impacting the next generation of archivists and provide guidance towards how to implement training for new archival concepts that have risen in the past couple of years from the perspective of a former student and new archivist.

Katy L. W. Klettlinger

Candidate for Council: Tom Neel

Tom Neel: Library Director/ Ohio Genealogical Society, Mansfield, since 2003; Librarian 2001-2002; Office Manager 1985 to 2001. BA, Ohio Wesleyan University, History & Botany-Bacteriology, majors. MLIS, Kent State University, School of Library and Information Science. Various computer classes, Ohio State University and North Central State College. Currently: Vice-President, Huron Co Chapter OGS; Newsletter Editor, Ashland Co Chapter OGS; President, New London Area Historical Society; Vice President, New London Public Library Board of Trustees. Member: Association of Professional Genealogists and Great Lakes Chapter; Firelands Historical Society; SOA; ALA; OLC; Ohio Society of the War of 1812; Chair, Civil War Families of Huron County; Fellow, OGS; various lineage groups. Lecturer on genealogical and local history topics; author of several articles and books; grant writing for OGS capital campaign; supervise volunteers and interns processing OGS Library manuscripts.

Question: An important part of SOA's mission is to provide education and training for those working in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Technology is playing an increasing role in archivists' work; technology also provides opportunities to modify the way SOA's training is conducted such as remote conferencing, hands-on technical training, etc. What role should SOA play in training archivists in these evolving areas? And if elected, how would you contribute to SOA's education and training activities?

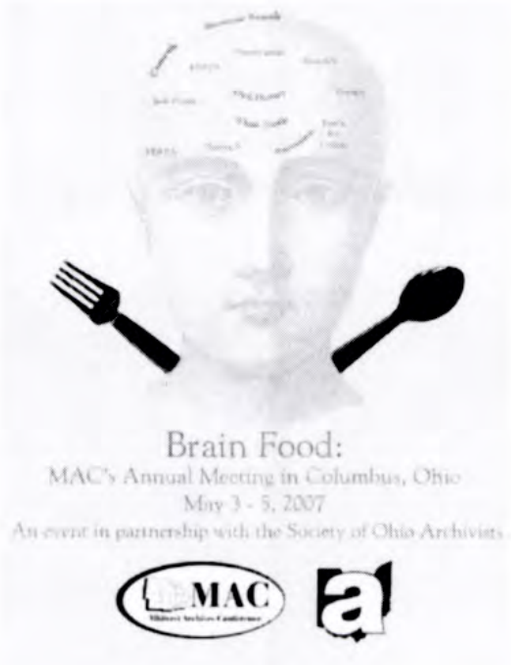
Technology does have value in Ohio's archives, but how much value is there in a picture of a dollar bill? We can see it and derive some facts from the minimal information provided. We can't feel it, spend it, invest it, turn it over, and few will stop by our building to study it further. We don't know who created it and how many times it has been transferred or bartered and for what?

Technology can provide access, an index to the full collection, relationships to similar holdings elsewhere, and guidance both as a reference tool and a vehicle for our instruction. It may be a substitute for the original, but by no means replaces it. You are speaking to someone who worked under a grant for a year indexing a local newspaper, only to learn that this library project is still on 5.25" floppies with a dead Apple IIe.

Technology is here and many are meeting it too fast. Archivists should put best practices online, create models to follow, and be proactive in our teaching. Technology is a tool, not necessarily a means to an end, and we should be employing it as a tool. Ohio has countless historical societies, genealogical organizations, public libraries, museums, universities, and commercial entities, all with manuscript information that should be preserved, in paper and electronic form, for the good of the institution and for public study. How many different groups are represented at SOA workshops each year? How many submit bibliographic information, finding aids, indices, and images to networked online databases? Do we have anything as successful as the A2A in Britain?

It should be our purpose to select best practices, to steer groups to certain models, to provide advice in seeking funding sources, to encourage preservation of the original, to develop a plan to network information resources, to spread the word about archives, and then be there to lend guidance. We list our SOA programs on our website but no free online reference is offered outside the newsletter. Technology makes this aspect of our work a breeze. "To exchange information, to coordinate activities, and to improve professional competence" --- this may be accomplished best by using the computer as a tool. To get the best value out of that dollar bill, our mission as purveyors of archival excellence should be at the forefront through the use of technology.

Tom Neel



SOA Council

Council Officers

President
2005-2007
Jane Wildermuth
Archivist
Wright State University
Paul Laurence Dunbar Library

Secretary
2005-2007
Gillian Marsham Hill
Greene County Records Center and Archives

Vice President
2005-2007
Angela O'Neal
Digital Projects Manager
Ohio Historical Society

Treasurer
2006-2008
Stephen Paschen
Senior Archives Associate
The University of Akron

Council Members

2005-2007
S. Victor Fleischer
Head, Archives & Special Collections,
Youngstown State University

2006-2008
Erik Mayer
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

Editor, *The Ohio Archivist*
Dr. Beth Kattelman
Associate Curator
The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute
The Ohio State University

2006-2008
Judy Cobb
Product Manager, Museums and Archives
OCLC Digital Collection Services
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

2005-2007
Gwen Mayer
Acting Archivist
Hudson Library & Historical Society