

2020 Slate of Candidates

VICE PRESIDENT /
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Sherri Goudy

The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2020.

TREASURER
Lisa Rickey

Candidates were asked to answer both questions in one 350-500-word essay.

COUNCIL
Melissa Dalton

- 1) *What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?*
- 2) *What are some of the most important themes/issues the SOA should address in the next 5-10 years?*

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS



VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT-ELECT

Sherri Goudy

Information Services Librarian, Dayton Metro Library; Independent Archivist/Researcher, Kettering Foundation, Upside TV Paris

I am honored to be nominated to run for Vice President/President Elect of the Society of Ohio Archivists this year. Thank you for your consideration and confidence in my

experience and skills, that I may bring the quality of leadership to this organization that it so deserves.

I have been a member of SOA for over 4 years now. In that time, I have served as a member of the Educational Programming Committee for the first 2 years, and since as a council member and liaison to the Marketing and Communications Committee (formerly known as PIC). Through this, I have helped to plan two annual meetings and assisted with maintaining the website and listserv content. I have also been active with the strategic planning for our organization. I have used this experience to get to know the current leadership and members of SOA and to get to the heart of what it is we can do for one another and the field.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the opportunity to work with organizations across the entire state of Ohio. From the smallest, all volunteer run historical society to large repositories, and everything in between, I have met and worked with the folks who run these sites. They want to do good work and connect with their communities, getting more people in the door and improving memberships too. Many of them do not know how easy it would be to connect and network with organizations such as SOA. I have also realized while working with community archives, that they too can benefit from membership and networking with SOA, while still maintaining their independence to preserve their personal and community records on their own.

I believe it is our responsibility to grow our membership beyond the professionals and recently graduated students who are looking for careers in the field. We must take on a more active role in recruiting students still in college and even younger ones

who have an interest in history. History Day students could be one pool of potential members. I also want to see the mentorship program grow so that the most experienced of our ranks can share in the fostering of a love for archives and our role in the community and beyond. Personally, when I began considering a career as an archivist, I had never heard of that profession before. But the more I learned about how I could incorporate all of my passions: history, community, and social justice advocacy, into one career, I was sold. I think we can offer that kind of mentorship and encouragement to future professionals by sharing our experiences and offering opportunities to work with our organization to find their own unique niche in our world.

Last, I want to make it clear that I believe it is our duty to advocate for the marginalized and underrepresented stories in our communities and throughout the state. As archivists, librarians, and preservers of history, we are in a unique and critical position to be the light in the darkness and the truth in a world plagued by "fake news." We must continue to be active in acknowledging the terrible legacies of inequality in this country. If we do not, it leaves individuals and communities who experienced these legacies wondering when their voices will be heard and when they will see themselves in history. A few years ago, we honored Lae'l Hughes-Watkins for her development and leadership of Project STAND, a collaborative effort to bring together academic and community archives to document student activism in historically marginalized communities. We have already taken the position that we support this kind of work, and I want to see us do more.

Thank you for your consideration, and the honor of being nominated. I look forward to continuing to serve SOA and being a part of making our organization stronger moving forward.

Previous Positions: *Researcher and Writer, Children's Historical Publishing; Local History Service Member, Ohio*

(continued on page 4)

History Service Corps, Ohio History Connection; Processing Archivist, Kettering Foundation; Processing Archivist, Wright State University

Education: *Master of Humanities, Wright State University, 2007; Certificate in Records Management and Archival Administration, Wright State University, 2007; Bachelor of Music/Music History and Literature, Wright State University, 2003*



TREASURER

Lisa Rickey

Archivist / Collections Manager, Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries

I am honored to have been nominated to serve as the next treasurer of SOA. I believe that my existing skills and previous experiences will enable me to

perform the duties of this office with efficiency and accuracy. I have been a full-time archivist for over 11 years, and for the past nearly 4 years, I have been a collections manager and processing co-manager for Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries.

Consequently, these responsibilities have provided me with ample opportunities to practice project management, including the considerations of cost, schedule, and quality; space management and locations tracking; as well as “people” and communication skills, with donors, co-workers, students, and volunteers, as we work together to accomplish various projects and goals.

I’ve always been drawn to detail-oriented activities. In my personal life, I have long been a finance and income tax nerd. In short, if you can estimate it, calculate it, put it into a spreadsheet, and make it into a chart or graph, I’m there.

In addition to my relevant skills and work experience, I also have prior experience serving as an officer or committee member in multiple professional archival associations. These positions have included: SOA Council (2012-2014), SOA Public Information Committee; SAA Host Committee (Cleveland, 2015); MAC Program Committee (Lexington, 2015); and Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR) Chair (2012-2015).

With regard to the question of important themes or issues that SOA should address in the next few years, one particular idea sprang to mind while thinking of the financial aspects of our profession: training opportunities. As the “big” national and regional conferences and training opportunities (workshops etc.) tend to occur in geographically far-away locations and therefore can be cost-prohibitive, one of the many important services provided by SOA is affordable, quality educational programming. But can we do more to help make opportunities available? Could SOA perhaps facilitate webinars or virtual conferences, whether by offering these ourselves or by subsidizing members’ costs to attend existing ones? Could we explore reciprocity partnerships

Professional Associations: *Society of Ohio Archivists, Member 2016-Present, Council Member, 2018-2020; Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2016-Present; Ohio Local History Alliance, 2016-2018, 2020-Present; Dayton Woman’s Club, 2018-Present; Auglaize County Historical Society, 2019-Present; Logan County History Center, 2019-Present; NAACP, Dayton Chapter 2019-Present*

with nearby archival organizations for reduced conference rates on both sides?

A second idea came after reviewing the recent SOA minutes. I was surprised to learn that we have so few student members (6, per Sept. 24, 2019, SOA Council minutes). The student membership fee is only \$5/year, and several Ohio institutions have archival training programs. Perhaps we could take measures to understand the reason(s) for our low student membership numbers, then use that information to explore new ways to attract student members.

I give all due respect to the hard work of the Council and the committees, and neither of the above ideas is intended as a criticism. But I look forward to the opportunity to help explore these ideas, if SOA Council sees fit to do so. And, if elected treasurer, I promise to maintain thorough and accurate financial records for our organization, and to provide Council with timely information as to the state of its finances.

Previous Positions: *Archivist for Digital Initiatives & Outreach, Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries (Dayton, Ohio), 2012-2016; Reference Librarian (Archives emphasis), Local History Room, Magazines & Special Collections, Dayton Metro Library (Dayton, Ohio), 2008-2012; Local History Associate, Greene County Room, Greene County Public Library (Xenia, Ohio), 2006-2008*

Education: *M.L.I.S., Wayne State University, 2011; M.A. History (Public History), Wright State University, 2008; B.S., Information Technology, DeVry University, 2006; B.A., History & Latin, Wright State University, 2005; Digital Archives Specialist certified, Society of American Archivists, 2015*

Professional Associations: *Miami Valley Archives Roundtable, 2008-Present, Chair, 2012-2015; RAAC representative, 2013-2015; Society of Ohio Archivists, 2007-Present, News editor, Ohio Archivist, 2012-2015, Council, 2012-2014, Public Information Committee, 2012-2015; Society of American Archivists, 2007-Present, Host Committee, Annual Conference (Cleveland), 2015; Midwest Archives Conference, 2012-2017, Program Committee, Annual Conference (Lexington), 2015.*

(continued on page 6)



COUNCIL

Melissa Dalton

Public Outreach Coordinator, Greene County Records Center & Archives

Since entering the public history field over a decade ago, I have sought out opportunities to expand my knowledge and understanding of archives, libraries, and museums.

I've worked (and volunteered) in museums and archives throughout the Dayton region, and have held a variety of positions. Each position has afforded me the opportunity to gain valuable experience, and learn to work with diverse populations and materials.

Something that was impressed upon me early in my career was the importance of maintaining memberships with professional organizations. Not only have I maintained memberships, but I have attended a wide range of professional meetings throughout my career, in the fields of anthropology, museums, and archives. I have presented at regional and national conferences, and in 2018, joined the SOA Advocacy and Outreach Committee, becoming a co-chair in 2019.

I believe my diverse experience in the fields of archaeology, history, and public history will allow me to bring a multifaceted perspective to SOA Council. It is through collaboration and cooperation of many disciplines that we expand our knowledge and understanding of different peoples, places, and cultures, and it is through this realization that we can better serve our communities.

With a strong membership base, SOA has the opportunity to expand outreach and engagement programs by working with schools, universities, libraries, and other cultural institutions in Ohio. I have a passion for working with the public and I believe that everyone, without prejudice, should have access to information. As the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Greene County Archives, I see the impact outreach has on local communities. School children, teachers, and the community at large all have an opportunity to learn about their collective history through the use of primary sources, allowing them to connect with the past in a unique and engaging manner. Additionally, community engagement and public outreach promote information literacy, which is an ever-increasing need in the current environment.

All people have the right to knowledge and information, and it is through institutions like libraries, archives, and museums, that these ideals are fulfilled. Our cultural institutions are the key to opening minds and empowering members of its community, and SOA is uniquely positioned to help fulfill those needs. We have members throughout Ohio, and I would like to see SOA take the lead in promoting and furthering outreach and community engagement opportunities.

By creating greater opportunities for outreach and engagement, we also are advocating for our field. The more engaged we are with our communities, the more support we garner. This not only helps the individual institution, but also provides further evidence that we can present to our members of Congress regarding the importance of archives and other cultural institutions.

Previous Positions: *Education Assistant, Carillon Park, Dayton History, 2015-2017; Fellow (Processing Archivist), History Office, Air Force Research Laboratory, 2012-2016; Intern/Museum Curator, Collections Division, National Museum of the United States Air Force, 2010-2011; Field Supervisor/Collections Consultant, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton Society of Natural History, 2007, 2009-2011*

Education: *M.S., Library and Information Science, Kent State University, in progress (projected completion – Spring/Summer 2021); M.A., History with a concentration in Public History, Wright State University, 2010; B.A., Anthropology, Ohio University, 2003*

Professional Associations: *Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2012-Present, Advocacy & Outreach Committee Member, 2018-Present, Co-Chair, 2019-Present; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2010-Present; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), 2018-Present; County Archivists & Records Managers Association (CARMA), 2018-Present; Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2010-Present; Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), 2009-2015; American Alliance of Museums (AAM), 2009-2017*