

# 2021 Slate of Candidates

## Vice President / President-elect:

Amy Rohmiller

## Secretary:

Jen Johnson

## Council:

Jenifer Baker

Marsha Miles

Sasha Griffin

*The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2021. This year voting will take place virtually."*

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

- **What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?**
- **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

## Amy Rohmiller



*Associate University Archivist,  
University of Dayton*

I'm honored to be nominated for Vice President/President Elect of the Society of Ohio Archivists. SOA has been my professional home, and I would welcome the opportunity to use my experience and skills to lead SOA as it continues to work for archivists throughout Ohio.

Since the beginning of my career, I have been committed to giving back and serving the profession. I have been a member of SOA's Advocacy and Outreach Committee since 2018 and a member of Council since 2019. Serving on Council let me get to know SOA's current leadership and has given me an understanding of how SOA's governance works and the ways in which we can help our profession, and its members, and the history community as a whole. Working with the other members of the Advocacy and Outreach Committee, I have enjoyed getting to know SOA's membership and see the variety of repositories we serve.

Besides serving on SOA's leadership team, I have experience with other professional service organizations. In my work with the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Field Services Alliance (FSA), I edited a newsletter, created a strong web presence, and planned and executed conferences and other professional development opportunities. Serving on the FSA Committee in particular gave me valuable experience in learning to articulate not only the value of history, but also the value and relevance of service and professional organizations.

This past year was particularly challenging as we faced not only

COVID-19, but also a renewed focus on reckoning with our nation's history of racism. That said, this year has also filled me with pride in our organization as we pivoted to bring you an Annual Meeting with the same great content on a virtual platform and as we released our Statement on Racial Inequality and Black Lives Matter and formed our Task Force on Social Justice and Black Lives Matter.

As vice president/president elect, I would work to make sure the important work of this task force continues as we continue to identify ways to incorporate antiracist ideas and principles into our work as an organization and as archival practitioners. It is critically important that we continue our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I would like SOA to continue to advocate for the underrepresented and underserved voices in our communities. We should continue work to diversify our membership. We should continue to work to provide support to community archives and archivists, allowing them to be best custodians of their stories. Although I hope to get back to in-person conferences soon, this year has shown that we can deliver quality professional development virtually, and we should explore how to best do this going forward. We should continue to advocate for the value and relevance of all history and the historical record, especially in our current climate of overwhelming disinformation and belief in "fake news." We have made great beginnings and I want our momentum to continue to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Previous Positions:** *AmeriCorps Manager & Coordinator, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection, 2018; AmeriCorps Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2013-2018; Local History Program Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2012-2013; Education Assistant, Dayton History, 2011-2012; Ohio History Service Corps Member, Piqua Public Library, 2010-2011*

**Education:** *M.S.L.I.S., Syracuse University, 2017; M.A., Public History, Middle Tennessee State University, 2011; B.A., History, Case Western Reserve University, 2008*

**Professional Associations:** *Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2018-present; Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2018-present; SOA Advocacy and Outreach Committee, 2018-present; SOA Council, 2019-present; Society of American Archivists, 2019-present; American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), 2012-present; AASLH Annual Meeting program committee member, 2016 (Detroit); AASLH Field Services Alliance Committee Member, 2016-2018; Ohio Local History Alliance, 2012-present; Columbus Emerging Museum Professionals Board Member, 2013-2018*

## Secretary

### Jen Johnson



*Digitization Consultant and Ohio Digital Network Project Coordinator, State Library of Ohio*

The importance of keeping and maintaining good records is not new to anyone in the archives community, and the discussion and practice of how best to do that is one of the things that keeps us moving forward. As Secretary, I

will continue the work of Lily Birkhimer and Secretaries past, collaborate with SOA Leadership on next steps for the organization, and preserve the foundation of its work for leaders to come.

With over 10 years of involvement with special collections, I have learned and experienced many things and am always ready for more. From in-house database catalog management and disaster planning on a shoestring all the way up through statewide participation in national digital collections projects, the relationships with history and those who cherish it have remained constant.

As the State Library of Ohio's Digitization Consultant and Project Coordinator for Ohio's participation in the Digital Public Library of America, Ohio Digital Network, I've had the opportunity to build those relationships with libraries and archives of all building shapes and budget sizes throughout the state, and to learn so much about what makes each collection and its community unique. While most of my work now focuses on the digital collection platforms and usage of them by the public, I've seen everything from archives housed in cardboard boxes in a closet to state-of-the-art climate controlled multi-floor collections move from their static storage locations on to platforms where people across the world can appreciate them, and worked with the professionals managing them to get it done. While serving as Secretary for Ohio Library Council's Subject and Special Collections Division, I digitized the division's minutes and newsletters and updated the WordPress site previously used only as a blog to also host and share this content with the public. Management and stewardship of the division's documented history was a fulfilling experience that I hope to enjoy again in new roles.

One of the biggest strengths in the archives world is the ability to find and make the most of commonalities between diverse collection types and organizations. I believe that SOA can continue the path of its work to expand and increase diversity of its membership and community representation, and grow that practice to support even more emphasis on institutions and groups that remain underrepresented. SOA has a long tradition of quality programming and professional development opportunities, so this looks like deepening the well of experts on tried and true topics, but also continuing and increasing support for collection redescription practices and curation activities that come from a place of inclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SOA as secretary - I look forward to continuing this work with all of you no matter what the context.

**Previous Positions:** *Reference and Electronic Resource Librarian, State Library of Ohio, 2013-2017; Librarian, Ohioana Library Association, 2011-2013; Library Associate, Worthington Libraries, 2009-2011*

**Education:** *Graduate Certificate in Public Management, The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs, 2019; MLIS, Kent State University, 2009; BFA, Photography, The Ohio State University, 2005*

**Professional Associations:** *Society of Ohio Archivists, 2020-present; Digital Public Library of America Network Council, 2018-present; Ohio Library Council Subject and Special Collections Division, 2012-2015*

## Council

### Jenifer Baker



*Deputy Archivist, Warren County Records and Archives*

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review my candidate statement. I would be honored to be chosen for the SOA Council and to be given the chance to influence future discussions and issues within SOA. Prior to completing my M.A. in Public History from Wright State Uni-

versity, I worked for 10 years in Corporate & Retail Management. Though this experience does not relate directly to the archives side of this career, I learned many lessons I believe translate into the success I have had as an archivist. I come to the table with a background of working in the private and public sector that applies to the diverse types of archives that make up the members of SOA.

Since taking my position as the Deputy Archivist at Warren County Records Center and Archives I feel as if I have been on a fast track of discovering and developing my skills as an archivist.

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When I began my career in the Public Records field, I did not expect it to be so exciting and eye opening. I have learned so much about how the records that exist in counties all over the country help to tell the greater story of our nation. I absolutely love what I do, and I feel so honored to be able to say that outreach within the community and local schools is one of the most important parts of my job. This is where I could bring the most to the table when it comes to my skill set for SOA.

I have taken our outreach from infancy and developed it into thriving programs that have reached around 3,500 students and 1,000 community members. Outreach is one of the areas I am most passionate about. I feel that educating the community in what archivists do and what our mission as archivists is will be essential in the future of our profession. When I discuss what I do with peers outside the archival community I have found that many people do not know what our profession is and therefore cannot understand the importance of why we do it. In developing our education outreach program, I hope to plant the archival seed of knowledge in these young minds so they can grow and thrive with archives in their future, whether that be in their research or possibly spark an interest into an unknown career field. Therefore, this is one of the areas I would like to see SOA developing over the next 5-10 years. Other common themes and issues I believe SOA could address, or continue to address, are digital archives, developing processing practices that fast track the materials from accession to researcher, types of records accessible to the public, and professional networking across diverse archival positions.

**Previous Positions:** *Account Manager, Standard Register, 2013-2015; Assistant Manager, Golf Galaxy, 2006-2013*

**Education:** *B.A., History, Miami University, 2005; M.A., Public History, Wright State University, 2015*

**Professional Associations:** *Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2015-2021; Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2015-2021; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), 2016-2021; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2015-2019*

## Council

### Sasha Griffin



*University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Denison University*

I am honored to run for a Council position for the Society of Ohio Archivists. Since 2014, I have been the University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at Denison University in Granville. Over my 11-year career, I have been active in

many professional organizations and served in various leadership

positions. However, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Society of Ohio Archivists, because it has played a significant role in my career and I want to see its continued success.

In 2009, I was awarded one of SOA's student scholarships to attend the spring Annual Meeting.

While I was eager to learn, I had no idea what to expect; but this one opportunity ended up being the catalyst for my entire career. I made professional contacts, which turned into a practicum project, which turned into a contract position. The professional networking connections I made that day became my friends and colleagues who helped me find a job and an amazing mentor who encouraged me to become active with archival organizations. At the time, I had no idea that attending the SOA meeting would open so many doors. The encouragement, guidance, and perspective that I received turned out to be invaluable tools for a new graduate and young professional.

As a council member, I would love to advocate for ways that SOA can continue to support students and new professionals. Already, there are so many advantages for students to become part of SOA. I want to encourage the existing programs in place, like the Annual Meeting scholarships, while also trying to identify new ways to attract students and new graduates to the organization. Whether it's having small group mentoring opportunities or providing toolkits for archivists who want to sponsor a practicum or internship student, SOA can continue to support folks who may need just a little assistance in getting their career up and running.

In addition to advocating for students and new professionals, I'd also like to serve as a representative of the group of archivists who are also primary caregivers. Alexis Braun Marks, along with several colleagues including our own fellow SOA member Michelle Sweetser, recently published "The Cost of Care and the Impact on the Archives Profession" in the *Journal of Western Archives* (volume 10, issue 1). Their work highlights how caregiving responsibilities directly influence professional development opportunities in our field. As our entire world has shifted towards remote work and continuing education, I would love to see SOA better support professional education and development for those who may not be able to participate in organizational work in the traditional sense.

I would love the opportunity to be a council member for SOA and use my experiences and professional interests to further our organization's growth and mission.

**Previous positions:** *Denison University (Granville, Ohio), University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, 2014-present; Luther College (Decorah, Iowa), Interim College Archivist, 2014; Digital Archivist, 2012-2014; Project Cataloging Archivist, 2010-2012*

**Education:** *M.L.I.S., Kent State University, 2009; B.A., Capital University, 2007*

**Professional associations:** *Society of Ohio Archivists, 2015-present; Midwest Archives Conference, 2010-present; MAC*

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2015 Program Committee; MAC Newsletter Task Force, 2012-2013; Society of American Archivists, 2010-present; SAA Diversity Committee, 2014-2017; SAA Chair/Vice-Chair Collection Management Tools roundtable, 2012-2014; Archives Leadership Institute, Program Coordinator, 2012-2014; Archives Leadership Institute 2016 cohort; Archon Users Collaborative, Team leader, 2016-2018

## Council

# Marsha Miles



*Head, Collections and Digital Initiatives, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University*

When I was invited to run for SOA office, I was honored. I am a new member of SOA and joined the Awards Committee to get to know the SOA community and the projects they are pursuing. Like most of my colleagues, I wear many

hats. I oversee the Collections and Resource Management unit of the Michael Schwartz Library which includes acquisitions, cataloging, collection management, digital initiatives, donations, electronic resources, government documents, knowledge-bases, serials, systems and the Department of Special Collections. I contribute to the creation and maintenance of the Michael Schwartz Library's digital initiatives including the Cleveland Memory Project and EngagedScholarship@CSU and coordinate the integration of metadata creation, use, and practices throughout the library. In addition, I serve the research and instruction needs of faculty, undergraduates, and graduates as the subject liaison for the Department of Art and Design.

My first professional experience out of graduate school was working as a Digital Projects Assistant for Oberlin College

Archives and Special Collections. While I continue using the skills learned from that position, I am always looking for ways to refresh my skills and knowledge in this area. Most recently, I was the co-project coordinator for our General Photograph Collection Conservation project funded through a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio.

Our work to preserve and share history is vitally important. SOA has an opportunity to support this work and has recently formed the Social Justice and Black Lives Matter Task Force. This is especially important as we evaluate the ways our collections have been curated and grown, how they are presented and accessible to the community, and how we can include all voices. I would be honored to serve on SOA Council.

**Previous Positions:** *Digital Initiatives Librarian, Cleveland State University, November 2012-February 2018; Visual Resources Curator and Digital Services Associate, The College of Wooster, January 2011-November 2012; Digital Projects Assistant, Oberlin College Library Archives and Special Collections, January 2009-December 2010; Interlibrary Loan Assistant, Interlibrary Loan, Kent State University Library, June 2007-December 2008; Archives Intern June F. Mohler Fashion Library Kent, Ohio, June 2008-August 2008*

**Education:** *Certificate in Leadership Excellence, Cleveland State University, 2019; Master of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, 2008; Bachelor of Science in Photo-Illustration, Kent State University, 2004*

**Professional Associations:** *Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) member, 2020-present; Academic Library Association of Ohio member, 2010-present; American Library Association, 2016-present; Association of College & Research Libraries member, 2018-present; Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), 2013-present; ARLIS Ohio Valley Chapter member, 2013-present; ARLIS Ohio Valley Web Editor, 2016-present; Visual Resources Association (VRA) member, 2011-2014; VRA Great Lakes Regional Chapter member, 2011-2014*