

Society of Ohio Archivists Council Meeting

August 11, 2026

10-11 am (EST)

Attendees: Kristen Newby, Sophia McGuire, Darrell Blevins, Michelle Ganz, Jim DaMico, Emily Rebmann, Katie Gable, Kris Kallies, Amber Bales, Rachel Sykes, Adam Wanter, Julia Teran, Betsey Hedler, Shelby Beatty (minutes)

1. Welcome

- a. President Kristen Newby calls the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. Minutes

- a. Vote for approval: July 14, 2026 meeting minutes
 - i. Newby calls to approve the 7/14/2026 meeting minutes. Treasurer Sophia McGuire motions, JEDAI Co-Chair Kris Kallies seconds, motion carries.

3. Reports

a. Officers

i. Treasurer

- 1. McGuire – We currently have \$24,157.15 in our checking account. \$200 in the cash box. Silent auction revenue cleared and we have our second quarter membership income from OHC cleared. I sent a \$700 check to Betsey for our two-year OHC agreement. I also reached out to Michelle Sweetser about the conference revenue that SOA will receive.

b. Committees

i. Advocacy & Outreach

- 1. Emily Rebmann – We're moving forward with JEDAI collaboration for blog posts. We've received the first draft of the Archive's Month poster for next month's unveiling.

ii. Educational Programming

- 1. Adam – Our first full meeting will be later this month. We will discuss the theme for our next annual conference. We're looking to be in Columbus again. Looking at feasibility for a two-day conference.
- 2. Betsey Hedler – Five SOA sessions at the Fall OLHA meeting. SOA members can register at member rate.
- 3. Vice President Michelle Ganz – Did we announce that SOA members can go to OLHA conference at member rate?
 - a. Hedler – If we promote the conference, we should point that out. It's in the OLHA promotion material.
 - b. Katie Gable – We can share on the list serv.
- 4. Ganz – Can we send students to you, Adam, if they want to help with conference planning?
 - a. Wanter - Yes

- iii. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI)
 - 1. Kallies – Madeline has built the new webpage for the toolkits. We have one person interested in doing a blog post.
 - a. Newby – Is the new page on the public site or sandbox?
 - i. Kallies – Sandbox
 - b. Ganz – What do you need from us to get this done?
 - i. Kallies – Once Maddie has time, she'll finish it up.
 - iv. Marketing & Communications
 - 1. Gable – Posted about the upcoming coffee chat. Two Instagram takeovers in July, one for in August, and one for September. October, November, and December are still available.
 - a. Amber Bales – OHC agreement was finalized in July. Can we post about it now?
 - i. Newby – It's signed and active, so yes.
 - v. Membership & Awards
 - 1. Rachel Sykes – 147 members. We're meeting August 20 to review annual goals and budget.
 - vi. Nominating
 - 1. Newby – See report. Jennifer is going to put a call out to the list serv to find another member.
 - c. Newsletter
 - i. Newby – Fall Ohio Archivist issue is in the works. We're still looking for someone to take over the newsletter.
 - d. Representatives
 - i. OHRAB
 - 1. McGuire – Met on July 31. We worked on strategic plan to be voted on in October for 2027-2029. We drafted a statement regarding the NARA closures.
 - a. Council At-Large Member Jim DaMico – Are we connecting with congress people to reach out and express our support for NARA sites? What resources do we have?
 - i. McGuire – I brought this up at OHRAB. It's an ongoing conversation and worthwhile for SOA to discuss, too.
 - ii. Ganz – We may benefit from talking to SAA. Some NARA sites are closing due to low service rates, which were ordered during the Obama administration.
 - iii. Newby – We should continue this discussion. Advocacy & Outreach, can we schedule a time to discuss?
 - 1. Rebmann - Yes
 - e. Task Forces
 - i. Mentorship Task Force

1. Newby – New business

4. New Business

a. 2026-2027 Budget

- i. McGuire – Link sent out via email. Our fiscal year ends in August. We can approve new budget in September. Is budgeting for Fall workshops and mixer still needed?
 1. Wanter – Move fall to spring workshop to accommodate conference speaker honorarium.
 - ii. McGuire – Conference estimate based on 2024-25 estimate.
 1. Wanter – We will have a better idea of venue costs later this month.
 - iii. McGuire – We budgeted more last year for awards due to additional scholarships. Can scale this back for next year. OPC scholarship ran out in 2025. Archives Month poster costs remain the same. OHC support services contract is \$0 since it's a two-year contract we just paid for. Other costs include strategic planning. New line items include supplies and unexpected expenses, like donations.
 1. Newby – We will want to add lunch to strategic planning for retreat.
 - iv. McGuire – Estimate \$1,500 for membership dues. We've been over \$4,000 in recent years and need to accurately reflect this. Nix the JEDAI panel and Fall 2026 workshop line? We will have a small surplus from 2025-2026.
- b. CJ Jacobs to serve second year on Nominating Committee
- i. Newby calls to approve CJ Jacobs. Ganz motions, Council At-Large Member Darell Blevins seconds, motion carries.

5. Old Business

a. Strategic Planning update

- i. Newby – Yesterday was first of two focus group meetings. Today is the second. We discussed mentorship task force survey results.

b. Mentorship Task Force update

- i. Ganz – Jennifer had some questions to discuss. What are our thoughts on results? Task force ideas? Where do we see this falling in SOA structure? Oversight? Membership & Awards? New committee? Should people be members of SOA to be mentees/mentors?
 1. Ganz – Mentors should be SOA members. Mentees shouldn't need to be in case it's cost prohibitive.
 2. Newby – Agreed. It provides accountability for mentors to be SOA members.
 3. Wanter – Lowers barrier and pitches SOA to newer/transitioning professionals.

4. Ganz – Experimental for the first 2 years, then transition into a more solid program. Welcoming and adaptable.
 5. Ganz – Membership & Awards, should this be a subcommittee, or is that too much?
 - a. Sykes – We meet next week and can discuss if it's in our committee scope.
 6. Ganz – If we decided it needs to be its own committee, is the process in the bylaws?
 - a. Newby – Yes.
 7. Sykes – A taskforce to start, committee to continue.
 - ii. Ganz – Survey results. Mixed results between mentor and mentees. Initially discussed group mentoring and transitioning into peer meetings. Report to task force that we will work with Membership & Awards to find a solution.
6. Announcements
 - a. Newby – For cyber security, know that no one in SOA is going to ask you for money via email. If you need training support outside your organization, let us know.
 - i. Hedler – Two factor authentication to come for website.
7. Upcoming Meetings - September 8, 2026, 10-11am
8. Newby adjourns the meeting at 10:57am.

SOA Treasurer's Report
8.10.2026

Previous Balance

\$23,081.40

Deposits

\$.20 – Interest

\$681.80 – Silent Auction Revenue, 2026 Conference

\$393.75 – 2nd Quarter Membership Dues, OHC

Expenses

None

Current Balance

Checking Account - \$24,157.15

Cash Box - \$200

Outstanding/Pending Items

-\$700 to OHC for 2-year agreement & supplies

-Conference revenue

Date:	August 11, 2026			
Committee:	Advocacy and Outreach			
Chair:	Emily Rebmann/Nina Herzog			
Members:	Connie Conner	Sarah Aisenbrey	Jacky Johnson	
	Collette McDonough	Ken Grossi	Dana Best-Mizsak	
	Natalie Fritz	Nina Herzog	Katrina Neff	Jim McKinnon
Mission/Summary:				
The mission of the Advocacy and Outreach Committee is to advocate for archives and archivists by responding to issues impacting the role of archives and archivists in society and to provide outreach programming throughout the state of Ohio relating to Statehood Day, Archives Month, and communicating news from local, state, and national archives-related outlets.				
<i>Mission statement updated in December 2024</i>				
Goals for the Year:				
• Create the Archives Month poster • Have an unveiling event for the poster • Generate content for the SOA Blog that relates to advocating for Ohio's archives and archivists • Collaborate with other SOA committees as needed				
Updates:				
• Draft 1 of the 2026 poster received; editing/review in progress • JEDAI collaboration (blog posts) • 2026 poster unveiling scheduled for September 17 (afternoon, time TBD) • Updated committee roster				
Upcoming:				
• Solicitation of additional blog posts • Unveiling planning—time, speakers, etc.				

Date:	2026-08-11		
Committee:	Educational Programming Committee		
Chair:	Adam Wanter (2025-2027), MidPointe Library & Meghan Crawford (2026-2028), Capital University		
Council Liaison:	Michelle Ganz		
Members:	Betsy Hedler (OHC)	Jennifer Greening, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor	Riza Miklowski, Akron Summit County Library
	Stacy Chaney-Blankenship, Ohio Wesleyan	Matt Francis, Ohio Northern	CJ Jacobs, University of Akron
	Penelope Shumaker, State Library	Brian McConnell	
Mission/Summary:			
Plan the annual SOA spring annual conference and professional development workshops. Activities include choosing a conference theme, solicitation and selection of session presenters, selection of plenary speaker, publication and distribution of conference announcements, collecting conference evaluations, and planning professional development workshops of interest to members. Support for the Fall OHLA/SOA virtual conference.			
Goals for the Year:			
- Provide a SOA Track for the 2026 OLHA Annual Meeting - Coordinate and plan the SOA Spring Annual Conference - Evaluate Silent Auction and Sponsorship workflow - Other Goals as assigned			
Ongoing Issues and Challenges:			
- Transitioning from the Joint MAC-SOA - o Roster turnover - Hybrid / Virtual option? - How do we add more value to the conference? - o Exploring additional day w/ tours, workshops, & restaurant tours - Managing Silent Auction, Sponsors, and Scholarship funds - Filling the OLHA SOA Track			
Accomplished Goals:			
- Filled OLHA SOA Track 2026 - Roster recruited - first EPC Meeting will be August 18, 2026 - Selected Columbus metro area as host			

Date:	August 11, 2026	
Committee:	Society of Ohio Archivists Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI) Committee	
Co-Chairs:	Kris Kallies, (co-chair 2026-2027) Hannah Kemp-Severence, University of Akron (2023- , co-chair 2024-2025; 2025-2026; 2026-2028)	
Members:	Madeline Fix, (2020-)	Niel White, (2024-)
	Savannah Gould, Akron Summit County Public Library (2024-)	Grace Pierce (2026-)
	Melanie Mohler (2026-)	Naidi Valverde-Romero (2026 -)
	Sylvia Beck (2026-)	
Mission/Summary:		
The JEDAI Committee is responsible for identifying, promoting, developing, and educating on antiracist and social justice efforts, actions, and resources for SOA Council, Committees, and Membership.		
Goals:		
• Evaluate SOA internal processes and come up with plans for improvement. • Tool kit development – both original content and compilation of already available resources • Updated web presence/newsletter “featurette”		
Ongoing Issues and Challenges:		
• Wordpress/website: plugin for accessibility • Adding tool kit list to website • Collaboration with Advocacy committee re: blogs, etc.		
Accomplished Goals:		
• We have selected a committee member (Madeline Fix) to start building out the JEDAI webpage with toolkits and work on the accessibility plug-in • Submitted newsletter article re: tool kit initiative for upcoming newsletter issue • Met with Advocacy committee and have shared calendar for bog contributions		

Society of Ohio Archivists Committee Reports

Society of Ohio Archivists Committee Reports

Date:	August 11, 2026	
Committee:	Marketing and Communications	
Cochairs:	Amber Bales, Ohio State University (2022-, cochair 2025-2027); Katie Gable, College of Wooster (2024-, cochair 2026-2028)	
Members:	Janet Carleton, Ohio University (1999-) Julia Teran, Case Western Reserve University (2023-) Emily Gainer, Cummings Center for the History of Psychology (2020-, cochair 2024-2026)	<i>Open</i>

Mission/Summary:

The Marketing and Communications Committee is responsible for public relations and outreach for SOA through the process of generating content and maintaining the tools to communicate SOA information. Duties and responsibilities include updating the SOA website, maintaining social media accounts (Facebook, Flickr, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube), moderation of SOA Listserv, responding to SOA email inquiries, and documenting SOA events through photographs.

Goals for the Year (based on 2023-2026 Strategic Plan):

- Regularly update SOA's website and social media with relevant, timely, curated content: blog, DEI resources, internships page, passport, public information, etc.
- Evaluate and monitor marketing and communication channels making sure they give access to relevant information and resources.
- Raise awareness of SOA's public advocacy efforts by sharing news through all SOA media channels.
- Use SOA convening power to share resources from other entities doing the same work like MAC, Lyrasis, OhioNET, OhioDIG, OPC, ARMA, CARMA, CoSA, and others.

Ongoing Issues and Challenges:

- Deciding what social media platforms to join or devote less effort toward. Creating content for different social media platforms. Documenting annual meetings and other events through photographs.

Accomplished Goals:

- Performed WordPress maintenance & communicated with super admin Phil Sager as needed.
- Performed website content refresh and review
 - Posted 2 blog announcements since the last Council meeting.
 - Last 30 days: 2679 page views.
- Managed [SOA Listserv](#).
 - 410 members (-1, +5)
 - Approved requests to join. Posted news and announcements of general interest. Blocked spam.
- Managed Facebook [Page](#).
 - 337 followers (+9)
- Managed [Instagram](#) account
 - 897 followers (+27, -1). 5,347 views in the last 30 days.

- Instagram takeovers: June - September have scheduled takeovers. One takeover in August. Will promote in September to try and get takeovers for the remainder of the year
- Posted coffee chat promotion
- SOA Annual Meeting content will be posted ahead of fall newsletter to reignite interest/promote upcoming issue
- Managed [LinkedIn Page](#)
 - 309 followers (+35). Job postings and coffee chat promotion. Regular posting of content.
- Managed [YouTube](#) account
 - 44 videos total. 33 subscribers. No new videos will be added from the 2026 Annual Meeting due to it being in-person only. Is there other SOA content that could be posted this year?

Society of Ohio Archivists Committee Reports

Date:	8/11/2026		
Committee:	Membership & Awards Committee		
Chairs:	Julia Teran, co-chair 2025-2027; Rachel Sykes, co-chair 2026-2028		
Council Liaison:			
Members:	Devhra Bennett-Jones	Mark Bloom	Helen Conger
	Savannah Moss	Cate Putirskis	Stephanie Shreffler
	Rhonda Wiseman		
Mission/Summary:			
The Membership & Awards Committee supports and recognizes the work of SOA members. Responsibilities include the general recruitment of new members, leading the annual membership drive, soliciting and reviewing award applications for the SOA Merit Award and meeting scholarships, supporting Ohio History Day including the issuing of SOA History Day awards, special projects in support of membership goals, and responding to general membership inquiries.			
Goals for the Year (2026-2027):			
- Select winners of the Merit, Student/New Professional, JEDAI, and History Day Awards - Membership Drive 2026-27 - write and distribute the membership renewal letter. Communicate with OHC for distributing email blast for membership renewal notifications.			
Ongoing Issues and Challenges:			
- New and Renewing 2026 SOA Memberships - Current: As of 8/6/2026 membership roster: 147 memberships - Breakdown: - Individual: 116 - Student: 18 - Bridge: 5 - Patron: 3 - Sponsor: 3 - Lifetime: 2 - Compare to: 2025: 159 (Society of Ohio Archivists Council Minutes, August 19, 2025) 2024: 155 (Society of Ohio Archivists Council Minutes, June 20, 2024) 2023: 142 (Society of Ohio Archivists Council Minutes, March 28, 2023) 2022: 153 (Society of Ohio Archivists Council Minutes May 20, 2022) 2021: 166 (Society of Ohio Archivists Council Minutes June 28, 2021) - Reviewing draft of annual goals and budget request for council at our M&A meeting on August 20			

Society of Ohio Archivists Committee Reports

Date:	August 11, 2026		
Committee:	Nominating Committee		
Chair:	Jennifer Long Morehart, Past President		
Members:	Cj Jacobs (pending Council approval)	TBD	

Mission/Summary:

The Nominating Committee annually prepares and submits a slate of candidates for vacant elected positions. The committee is made up of one Council member (Past President) and two additional SOA members appointed by the SOA Council.

Goals for the Year:

- Confirm/find 2026-2027 Nominating Committee members
- Coordinate a Coffee Chat providing information for potential candidates
- Submit a slate of candidates
- Help with election processes as needed

Ongoing Issues and Challenges:

The Nominating Committee will be sending out a call for a volunteer to serve as the final member of the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee.

Accomplished Goals:

Thank you to Cj Jacobs for being willing to serve on the Nominating Committee for a second year.

Society of Ohio Archivists Committee Report			
Date:	August 11, 2026		
Committee:	<i>Ohio Archivist</i> Newsletter		
Editor:	Jessica Heys , Independent Archives Contractor, Kettering Foundation & Cincinnati Museum Center (News & Notes Asst Ed, Fall 2017-current; Interim Editor, Spring 2022; Editor-In-Chief, Fall 2022—Fall 2026)		
Asst Editors:	Jessica Heys , News & Notes (Fall 2017-)	Michelle Ganz , DEAI (Spring 2023-)	Emily Rinaman , Features (Fall 2025-)
Mission/Summary:			
The <i>Ohio Archivist</i> is the official newsletter of the Society of Ohio Archivists. Its primary mission is to serve as a conduit for information about SOA and its membership. The <i>Ohio Archivist</i> also publishes articles containing general information about the archival profession, especially as it relates to archivists located within Ohio and the Midwest. (Approved by Council on 2/12/2010.)			
Goals for the Year:			
• See if anyone else would like to take over the newsletter • I am continuing to do the News & Notes for now • Rethinking and expanding content topic areas • Pay more attention to readership tracking/statistics • Send out regular Guidelines reminders https://ohioarchivists.org/ohioarchivist/ohioarchivist_guidelines/			
Ongoing Issues and Challenges:			
• Involvement / inclusion • Improve as editor • Gain readership			
Accomplished Goals:			
• Fall 2026 issue in the works			

Mentorship Task Force Report
SOA Leadership Meeting
July 14, 2026

Mentorship Task Force: John Dewees, Natalie Fritz, Michelle Ganz, Savannah Gould, Jennifer Long Morehart, Kristen Newby, Katherine Nusbaum, Cate Putirskis

Mentorship Survey Summary

(For survey results, see the  Mentorship Survey (Responses) spreadsheet or [Mentorship Survey Response Charts & Comments](#))

- 38 responses
 - Majority from current SOA members
 - More responders willing to join SOA for mentorship access
 - Strong interest from both potential mentors and potential mentees
 - Majority in advanced career stage, but also includes student, early, and mid-career stages
- Early career responders' interests:
 - Out-of-state grad program, so in-state mentor would be helpful
 - Mentors in similar roles or institutions/organizations
 - Making connections
 - Support/advice
 - Specific topics:
 - Certified Archivist exam
 - Practical project timelines
 - Navigating relationships
- Mentorship preferences
 - Majority interested in 6-month relationship or longer
 - Strong interest in One-on-One, Group, and Peer Mentorship
 - Large majority interest in both in-person and virtual opportunities
- Additional requests
 - Assistance/system for matching people
 - Match mentors/mentees by geographic region, similar institutions, or similar experience
 - Flexibility needed
 - Provide guidance, framework, expectations, resources, and schedule
 - Provide in person visits to archives and hands-on skills
 - Reach out to/visit current graduate students and programs
 - Affirmation of interest in an SOA mentorship program

Mentorship Task Force Thoughts Moving Forward

- Observations
 - A variety of needs, preferences, and interests
 - A challenge to address everything, especially at the beginning
- Suggestions
 - Create sustainability by beginning with a group mentoring model
 - Advantages:
 - Opportunity to both mentor and receive mentorship
 - Eases pressure on both mentors and mentees
 - Sustainable even if individual participants need to miss occasional meetings
 - Some participants may not have specific questions, but can still learn from and contribute to the group
 - Opportunity to demonstrate/observe how to be an effective mentor, preparing potential mentors for future one-on-one mentorship models
 - Potential to evolve to one-on-one mentoring relationships
 - First 2 years may be an experimental stage—allow flexibility to adapt
 - Begin with initial model for 3 years to establish stability before expanding
 - Establish predictable, regularly scheduled program
 - Develop application process
 - Create cohorts, 2-3 mentors per cohort
 - Could create groups around a topic or identity
 - Allow for programming breaks to request feedback from participants
 - Require surveys
 - Analyze recurring themes and topics
 - Create environment in which those who have missed a meeting(s) are comfortable returning
- Additional ideas
 - Establish a mentoring event at SOA Annual Meeting
 - Develop relationships with graduate programs at Kent State, Wright State, etc.
 - Introduce people to regional roundtables
 - Share Mentorship Survey results with SOA members: newsletter, listserv, etc.
- Questions
 - Immediate:
 - What are SOA Leadership's thoughts about: the Mentorship Survey results, Task Force ideas, and future direction?
 - Future:
 - Where to locate the Mentorship Program in SOA structure? Who is responsible for oversight?
 - Suggestion: Create Mentorship Program Subcommittee of Membership & Awards Committee
 - Require SOA membership for mentorship program participation?