

Dear MAC members,

I've always enjoyed looking back to the year I was born to see what the trends were, what was on the radio and in the news, and who else was born that year. So of course, I had to do the same for the year MAC was born, 1972. On the radio was Don McLean's "American Pie" (my teenage daughters now stream it), and HBO started (still paying for content). Most important, in Chicago a group of Midwest archivists met as an organization for the very first time. In a quirk of the calendar, our 50th spring conference this year will be the same days (May 5 and 6) as that very first meeting. I'm glad we expanded to a third day to give us extra time to celebrate!

In his 1993 *Archival Issues* (18:1) article about the history of MAC, Patrick Quinn wrote: "The central purpose of the Midwest Archives Conference is, and always has been, to confer, to get together, to exchange ideas and viewpoints and solutions to archival problems. Indeed the very name of the organization was deliberately chosen by the founders to convey this purpose." I sincerely hope that you will join us either in person in Madison or virtually as we follow in our founders' footsteps to meet, discuss, and even answer some questions.

That same *Archival Issues* includes an article by Mark Greene on access and restrictions. Although not the point of Greene's article, one of the ways we encourage access to MAC is by providing a scholarship to our Annual Meeting. The Mark A. Greene Award for First-Time Meeting Attendees covers registration fees for individuals attending their first MAC conference. To honor both Mark and our golden year, MAC is committed to fully fund this important award. Won't you join me in donating \$50 to celebrate MAC's 50th year?

A number of other Council initiatives related to our anniversary are in the works. While we honor the past, we will also be looking to MAC's future—who are we now and what do we want MAC to be? Please be sure to watch for an email announcement early this year with more details.

As president, I am daily reminded that MAC does not survive without its dedicated members, including members who volunteer their time and energy in leadership positions and on committees, as well as members who ask questions and encourage MAC to do more to advocate for others. Further into Quinn's article he notes, "Hundreds of others have served as members of these and other committees, have been participants in MAC program sessions or have otherwise contributed to the organization. To call MAC a membership-driven organization is to understate the obvious." I feel honored to work with so many amazing MAC members who are dedicated to the present and future of MAC.

If you have ideas for our celebration, or any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (chute.6@osu.edu) or phone (614-292-3271). I'm always up for a MAC conversation!

I look forward to hearing from you. See you in Madison!

Sincerely,



Tamar Chute

President, Midwest Archives Conference