

Between Council Actions

On February 9, Council approved an additional \$800 in expenses for the MAC History Project budget, which will cover payroll, tax registration, and bookkeeping.

On February 28, Council approved the Fall 2022 Symposium proposal to host the event at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis in collaboration with the Society of Indiana Archivists, October 14–15, 2022. (Council meeting will be held October 13.)

On March 10, Council approved Kyna Herzinger (Presbyterian Historical Society) and Matt Gorzalski (SIU) as cochairs of the Program Committee for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

On April 1, Council approved a statement from the Social Response Committee to support the Society of Ohio Archivists' statement regarding Ohio HB327. The statement reads:

On January 10, 2022, the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) released a statement strongly opposing Ohio HB327. As SOA notes, this noxious bill, “infringes upon free speech and interferes with the teaching and research work of not just archivists, but librarians, teachers, professors, and workplace educators.” The bill is currently pending in Ohio’s House of Representatives’ State and Local Government Committee.

Midwest Archives Conference stands firmly behind SOA in opposing this legislation. MAC believes that the bill was drafted in bad faith and with underhanded political motives, and it carries the real risk of disastrous effects on civic education in Ohio. As the statement says, “All Ohioans deserve to see themselves reflected in the historical record. The silences in the archives that HB327 creates will change the way current and future generations understand and learn from the past.” Such silences make the future of a democratic society untenable. The bill purports to eliminate “divisive concepts” from being taught in Ohio schools, but in doing so it prevents a full and comprehensive understanding of history by Ohio schoolchildren. It demands a “both-sides” position be taught even where such a position is not factually warranted, such as the evils of American slavery. It erases the presence and achievements of racial and sexual minorities from the historical record. Finally, it threatens the careers and futures of Ohio schoolteachers, librarians, and other education professionals.

Ohio is not the only state considering these bills. This ahistorical, antidemocratic, and antitruth trend has spread across the Midwest, with 11 other states in the MAC region passing or debating similar legislation. The Midwest Archives Conference opposes these as well.

The Midwest Archives Conference is one of the nation’s largest regional professional associations for archivists, representing 13 states (including Ohio) and is comprised of more than 800 individual members.

On April 20, Council approved Jennifer Audsley-Moore to fill the Council position vacant due to Donica Swann’s resignation. The term will be for one year.