

## Vice President's Column

By Benn Joseph, Northwestern University

I am something of a procrastinator whenever it comes to writing projects—this is why I had such a hard time working exclusively from home early on during COVID. I'm very good at finding things around the house to fix or clean! So, even though I still work from home one day a week, certain writing projects like this column are something I need to do "on-site," so to speak, lest I find myself suddenly cleaning the kitchen or trying to fix a leaky faucet. Not that there isn't plenty to fix at the office, what with all the various projects and initiatives we're juggling (and I'm sure that goes for anyone reading this too).

As is tradition for the fall *MAC Newsletter*, I'd like to point out that I write these columns several months in advance of their publication. Right now, it's late July, and, as I enjoy the inferno that is outside, I also wonder how much more pleasant things might be in October, when the roar of the dehumidifiers in our stacks slowly subsides during their annual migration back to various winter locations for an extended hibernation period.

At press time, our Fall Symposium is not yet history, but I'd like to thank Jackie Shalberg and Bethany Fiechter as new record holders for the longest-standing cochair of any MAC Symposium ever. Hopefully, three years is a record that will stand for a long time to come. They have done outstanding work in putting together the Fall Symposium at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, which I attended (or planned to attend anyway—did it actually happen?). Presenters Carey (Beam) Champion, Carrie Schwier, and Carol Street served up a highly anticipated (for years!) program on outreach, which has refueled attendees for the foreseeable future. Council met remotely over two days rather than in person during this time, which cut down on costs for the meeting itself, as well as on travel costs (and emissions!) for Council members. A back-of-the-napkin calculation says nearly one ton of carbon emissions may have been saved by this decision; not bad! But please don't ask how I came up with this number. Council meetings on Zoom may continue to be a thing for fall meetings going forward, although in-person meetings during the spring meeting will still also be a thing.

### 2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

We have a theme! The Program Committee has selected the theme "Dig Deep," which harnesses Chicago's association with deep-dish pizza to invite professional self-reflection and promote layered discussion. This theme may even offer some inspiration for the opening reception's victuals. Local Arrangements cochairs Pam Hackbart-Dean and Michael Bullington are digging into the deep-dish district to slice up some surprises for us. The Program Committee, cochaired by Kyna Herzinger and Matt Gorzalski, has put out the call for proposals, and I imagine by now has received some pretty good ones. Did *you* submit a proposal? The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, April 12–15. This is a great hotel with a fantastic location just one block from the world's largest Starbucks. Oh, and there's some shopping nearby too. Did I mention stopping at the world's largest Culver's on the way to Madison for the 2022 Annual Meeting? I hope to continue this trend in 2024.

### 2023 Fall Symposium, Louisville, Kentucky

Many more updates on the 2023 Fall Symposium will come but, at the time of writing, let it be known that cochair Danielle Spalenka is formulating an excellent program, to be hosted at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky.

### 2024 Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa

Of course, 2024 is still a way off, but, at this point, we can rest easy knowing the LAC is reprising its role with Rosalie Gartner and Hope Bibens as cochairs! As they've done this all before (for 2020) it should be smooth sailing. Depending on how you're counting at home, Rosalie and Hope may give Jackie and Bethany a run for their money as the longest-serving cochairs in history.

Are you interested in hosting a Fall Symposium or making a case to bring the Annual Meeting to your town? Send me a message!