

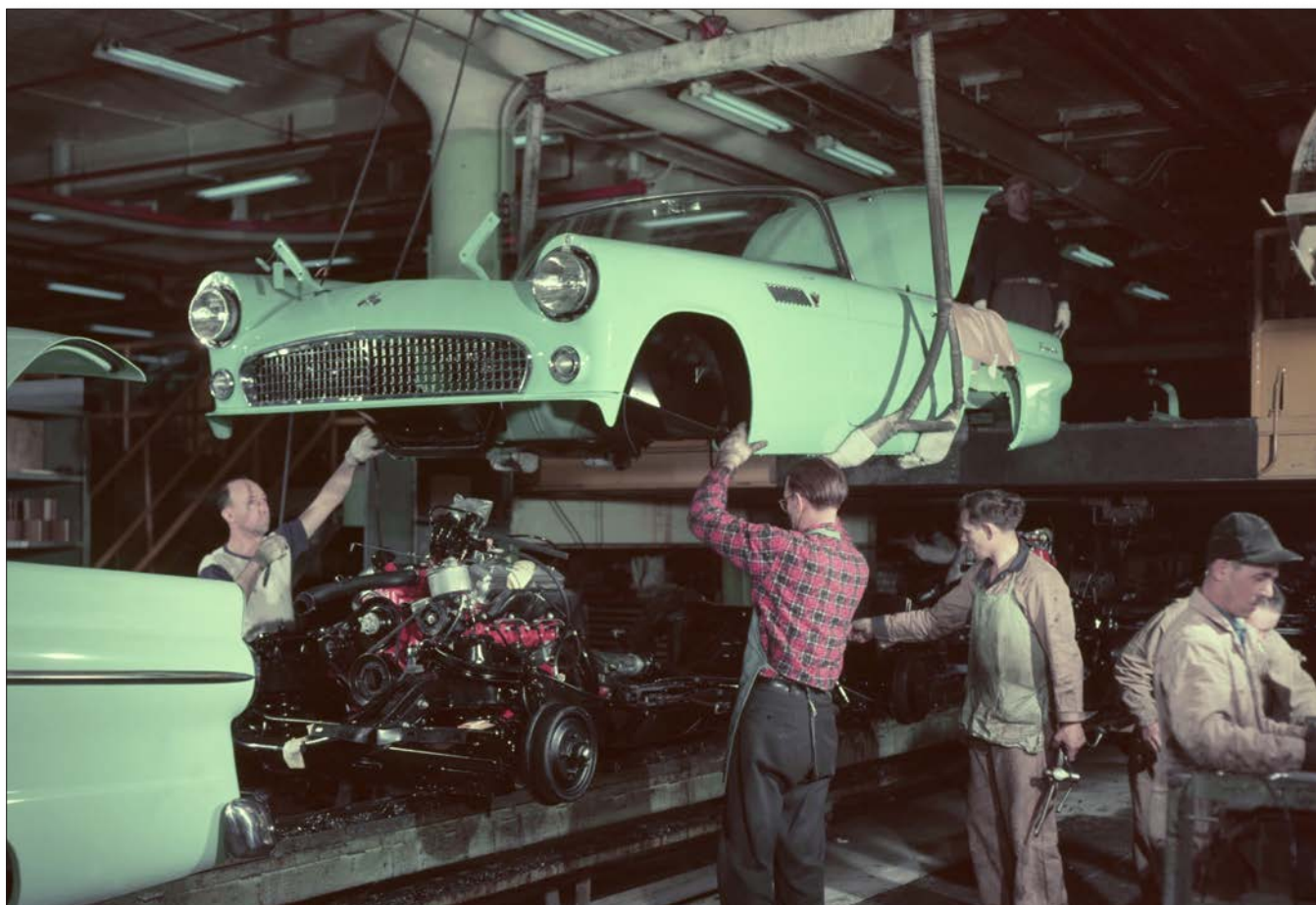
*Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!*

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April 2019

## MAC's 2019 Annual Meeting Detroit, Michigan, April 3–6, 2019 “Innovation, Transformation, Resurgence”



*Ford Motor Company*

As you read this, we are gearing up for MAC's 2019 Annual Meeting in Detroit. We hope you are able to join us in America's Comeback City. Look for a full recap in the July issue of the *MAC Newsletter*.

### In This Issue...

President's Page .....	2
MAC News .....	3
News from the Midwest .....	7

Archival Resources on the Web.....	11
Electronic Currents .....	14
Mixed Media .....	17

Preservation Essentials .....	20
Up-and-Comers.....	28
People and Posts .....	31
MAC Contacts.....	33



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January 2019

Where does the time go?

The question is a cliché, yet as time passes I seem to ask that of myself more and more. It's particularly true as I write this, my last column, as your president. The July newsletter column will be a transcript of my "State of MAC" address at our Annual Members' Meeting in Detroit.

So I will share some thoughts with you all as I take stock of the last two years.

The first is one of gratitude for the people who make MAC happen. In doing so, you have made my job much easier. Many thanks particularly to Erik Moore and Joshua Ranger, who have served as vice presidents during my term, to Jennie Thomas as secretary, and to Joel Thoreson and Colleen McFarland Rademaker as treasurer. Thank you also to the members of Council: those who have chaired or served on committees, ex officio, and the staff at AMC Source. All of you are keepers of the MAC flame.

Another thought is concern mixed with optimism. Much work remains to be done with respect to diversity in our profession and in MAC specifically. Results of the 2017 organization-wide survey show that our membership is 95 percent white, based upon a response rate of about 46 percent. This statistic compels those of us who are not POC to work more diligently toward inclusiveness and self-awareness in our conduct, both professional and personal, and to be open to criticism should we come up short or fail in some way. I note optimism in light of the continuing efforts of our Program and Education Committees to address diversity, a necessary component of MAC's overall strategy to support its members. Council is also preparing to adopt a code of conduct to address oppressive situations that cause stress, trauma, or other difficulties among our valued colleagues.

Along these lines, MAC's continuing efforts to welcome and mentor new members at its annual meetings via the Pals program benefit us all. My first MAC gathering—in Chicago in 2001—was a bit bewildering without this mentorship framework, frankly, and it is a pleasure to see this program attract more and more participation each year.

So that MAC can support its members, it must be financially viable. Beginning last October, new membership rates took effect, including a new, reduced rate category for students, and it was necessary for us to increase registration rates for this year's Annual Meeting (see the vice president's column in this issue). We hope these steps, along with others related to development, will help keep MAC financially steady.

This is a particularly challenging time for our profession. The recent partial shutdown of the

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Joshua Ranger, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Due to the overlapping dates of *MAC Newsletter* publication and the Annual Meeting, I like to imagine that you are, as you read this, on a flight, bus, or train heading for Detroit to attend the fantastic meeting we have planned for you. If you are attempting to read this while driving, please put it down and pull over immediately so that you can safely read it on the shoulder of the interstate or state highway you are traveling.

The Annual Meeting is very much on my mind because, as I am writing this column, we are finalizing many of the last few details. One very critical decision that we just made concerned the cost of registration. If you have been a long-time attendee of MAC's Annual Meeting, you probably noticed that the price of the meeting increased this year. Detroit's early registration was \$135 for members, \$165 for nonmembers, and \$65 for students. By comparison, the rates for last year's meeting in Chicago were \$100, \$130, and \$55 respectively. This is a significant increase, but not an insignificant decision that we took lightly. I want to use this space to explain a bit of the rationale behind the decision.

MAC produces an important journal for our profession and an informative newsletter for active members. We also use our collective influence to support our membership and mission. Our main *raison d'être*, though, is organizing in-person meetings where students, archivists, and allied professionals can come together to learn, network, and share ideas. Simply put: with no meetings, there is no MAC.

Conversely, our Speaker Bureau events, Fall Symposia, and Annual Meetings rely on MAC's financial health because with no MAC, there are no meetings. With that in mind, our business model has historically required that the Annual Meeting, which is the largest of these events, make a small profit to help sustain MAC's other activities. Many of you may know this already, but it is worth repeating from time to time.

To make a profit, the Local Arrangements, Program, and Education Committees must balance the attendee experience with a return for the organization holding in tension our commitment to keeping the meetings affordable to everyone. This is a difficult balancing act considering that

- Hotel and service costs continue to increase. Hosting a MAC meeting at a conference hotel STARTS at

\$45K–\$50K. This cost is largely split between the food and drink that we purchase (often as a trade-off for free meeting space) and the in-house A/V support. The alternatives to hotel-provided A/V are beyond our decentralized organization's ability to handle efficiently.

- We are proud and eager to show off our host communities, which includes hosting receptions at interesting places and tours that are frequently beyond an easy walk from the hotel. The costs for the MAC reception and the transportation (subsidized to keep tours affordable) may approach another \$15K–\$18K.
- MAC is a large region, requiring many of our attendees to fly to our Annual Meetings. This means that we cannot look to smaller, potentially more affordable communities that lack major airports to serve individual cost savings.

Of course, we also look to donors and the vendor community to help support our Annual Meetings. We typically raise over \$10,000 to help defray costs, and, although we are not taking our figurative foot off the gas pedal in these areas, the fund-raising we can do is limited. Meanwhile, we have control over the registration fees, which Council and the planning committees have kept comparatively very low over the years to make our content-rich meetings more attractive to attendees. This year, however, we are acknowledging that, to achieve balance, we must ensure that meetings do more than just cover their costs; they must, year in and year out, help support the organization and its mission.

### Upcoming Meetings

After Detroit, we will be quickly shifting our attention to the Fall Symposium in Fargo, North Dakota. Small shop archival work is a common experience in our profession, and I am so proud that MAC is acknowledging the unique needs of those who work in these roles with a retreat designed just for them. Look for a sneak peek elsewhere in these pages and a fuller view in the July issue.

And, next spring we head to Des Moines, Iowa, and by spring, I mean it: we'll be meeting in May! We will convene in the Hawkeye State May 6–9, 2020, and my sources say that, by then, the snow and ice will be gone and the corn will be big-toe high.

**President's Page**

*(Continued from page 2)*

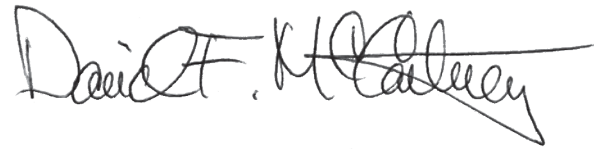
federal government adversely affected many of our colleagues, and many state and local budgets have also been subject to reduction. In the private sector, many corporations and nonprofits recognize the value of preserving their legacies, but too many still do not. Advocating for our field, not only in terms of budget considerations but also to promote the ethic of records preservation and access, is an ongoing task.

Indeed, our experiences connecting people with records inform us as we carry out that task of advocacy. Amy Moorman, curator of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting at Wartburg College, recently told me how she was able to locate and digitally reformat a decades-old recording of a radio personality shortly before Christmas so that his widow, in declining health, could hear his voice one more time.

And, just last week, an alumnus wrote to me after he read my latest campus history column in our alumni and friends magazine. In this particular installment, I recounted an antiwar protest that occurred on our campus on November 3, 1967. Petitions circulated among the protestors that day were signed in blood and sent to the university president's office, a collection we continue to maintain today. The alumnus, now in his seventies, recalled that event and wondered if we might have his petition. Indeed we do, and I emailed a digital copy to him. He felt as though a circle had been completed at last, he wrote.

Let's celebrate interactions like these and remember that the work that we do matters. That, in turn, helps us advocate for our profession and, ultimately, for ourselves.

Thank you all.



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## 2019 MAC Fall Symposium

*By Alexis Braun Marks, Archivist, Eastern Michigan University*

Do you often find yourself modifying conference, workshop, or webinar content to fit the needs of a small shop where you are the only one doing a little bit of everything? If you answered yes, then the 2019 MAC Fall Symposium has been customized specifically for you.

The first MAC-sponsored event to be held in North Dakota is also the first to focus on the needs of archivists who are the only or one of only a few professional archivists on staff. This two-day symposium will provide opportunities to network with colleagues who share your experiences; to engage in conversations about professional development, leadership, advocacy and development, and

project management; and to learn hands-on skills that focus on core archival practices in arrangement, description, preservation, and access.

We hope that you will pencil in a trip to Fargo, North Dakota, for the first weekend in October. There, you will be inspired by Dayna Del Val, CEO of The Arts Partnership, a local organization that supports and advocates on behalf of arts and cultural organizations; Kelly Meyer, life coach and career counselor, who will encourage and develop participants' networking skills and leadership outlooks; and the MAC community of solo archivists who will also lead sessions. Watch for more information in the coming months.

### Archival Non-Issues

*By Alexandra A. A. Orchard, CA, Archival Issues, editorial board chair*

I'm happy to report that the archival profession no longer has any issues. We archivists have solved everything and no longer need or desire to write about what is going on in our profession. Perhaps nothing is going on—certainly nothing related to digital, diversity, instruction, etc. Maybe we've all successfully graduated from archival therapy. Who's to say? At any rate, with nothing to write about anymore, *Archival Issues* is no longer accepting submissions. We are cancelled.

APRIL FOOLS!

Of course we're accepting submissions, and if this year's MAC program is any indication, we have plenty of professional discourse to engage with (hint, hint session participants). Per my usual quarterly plea, the Editorial Board is excitedly awaiting your submission dear reader. Won't you submit an article to us?

If you have any questions about article ideas, transitioning your presentation or poster into an article, or submissions, please feel free to contact me, Alexandra A. A. Orchard: alexandra@wayne.edu, *Archival Issues* Editorial Board Chair. As a reminder, we encourage contributions from both new and experienced authors (you!).

## Between-Meeting Council Actions

On December 14, 2018, Council unanimously approved the Des Moines Marriott as the conference hotel for the 2020 Annual Meeting to be held May 6–9, 2020.

On December 20, 2018, Council unanimously approved Shae Rafferty of Wayne State University as cochair of the Detroit Local Arrangements Committee, replacing Brian Wilson.

On January 3, 2019, Council unanimously approved Jamie Myler of the Ford Motor Company Archives and Lauren Lincoln-Chavez as second and third cochairs, Detroit Local Arrangements Committee, replacing Rebecca Bizonet.

On January 9, 2019, Council unanimously approved revised rates for the MAC Annual Meeting in Detroit as follows:

### Advance registration rates:

MAC Members \$135  
Nonmembers \$165  
Students \$65

### Postregistration rates:

MAC Members \$155  
Nonmembers \$185  
Students \$75

### One-day registration \$90

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