



Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Erik Moore, University of Minnesota

For many in MAC, the role of AMC Source, MAC's meeting and membership management service, is somewhat of a mystery. I'd like to lessen that mystery in my last column as vice president.

Gregory Brooks, Debbie Nolan, and the rest of the crew at AMC Source work closely with MAC leadership to ensure timely and seamless assistance during our membership renewal and meeting planning. For the latter, there simply would be no meetings without their services. Contract negotiations for hotel rooms, AV, and food and beverages are beyond the skill set of most archivists, and we should be quick to recognize the expertise that professional services offer. This has never been more evident than in our planning for Chicago.

Many of you will remember that our conference hotel was not the original venue. Shortly before Thanksgiving last year, MAC learned that the hotel we originally secured would be under major renovation and would not be able to host our meeting. To its credit, the hotel immediately identified alternative venues that would honor elements of our contract; however, the hotel believed this would be enough of a compensation for our burden. Our contract with the hotel stated otherwise. AMC Source went to the mat for MAC to make sure we received full restitution including a cash settlement to offset unanticipated expenses associated with the change in locations. No individual in MAC's leadership would have had the ability to hold the hotel accountable, but AMC Source did.

MAC's meetings are expensive, not because they are lavish, but because the service industry is multifaceted and complex. Likewise, MAC's finances are generally good, but cannot absorb a major blow such as a meeting cancellation would entail. AMC Source had MAC's interests in mind every step of the way. For their work, I am especially grateful.

Speaking of Chicago, my thanks to the Chicago Local Arrangements Committee headed by Andrea Bainbridge,

DePaul University; Andy Steadham, Rotary International; and Hathaway Hester, National Association of REALTORS®, along with the support of the Chicago Area Archivists. Thank you also to our cochairs of the Program Committee, Daria Labinsky, National Archives at St. Louis; and Eira Tansey, University of Cincinnati, and all the PC members for preparing a fantastic slate of sessions and speakers.

2018 Fall Symposium, Iowa City, Iowa, October 12 & 13

Join us in Iowa's first capital city and a UNESCO City of Literature for MAC's 2018 Fall Symposium. Our topic will focus on archival and special collections instruction, lesson planning, and metrics. Lindsay Moen, University of Iowa, is leading our Symposium Organizing Committee. More information about hotel options and registration rates will be available on the MAC website.

2019 Annual Meeting, Detroit, Michigan, dates to be determined

Last visited in 1975, Detroit is ready for MAC's return in 2019! Our Local Arrangements Committee cochairs, Rebecca Bizonet and Brian Wilson, are looking forward to serving as our hosts in the Motor City. The meeting location and dates will soon be available on the MAC website. Also, keep an eye out for an upcoming call for proposals to participate in the meeting program. In the meantime, start making a list of all the things you'll want to do in this iconic American city.

This column wraps up my 10 years of continuous service to MAC beginning in 2008 as website administrator, moving on to Nominating Committee then Council, and finishing as vice president. It has been an amazing and meaningful experience that has shaped me as a professional in ways I cannot enumerate. Thank you to all who have shared your experiences with me along the way and for putting your confidence in me.