

Midwest Archives Conference Spring Council Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Scharer Room (3rd floor), Ohio (State University) Union

8am-12pm

Council Attendance (in person): April Anderson-Zorn, Greg Bailey, Cara Bertram, Rosalie Gartner, Marcella Huggard, Sasha Kim, Michelle Sweetser

Council Attendance (Zoom, later in the meeting): Mary Ellen Ducey, Carrie Schwier

Meeting called to order at 8:12am EST with introductions.

Officer Reports

President (Sweetser)

Discussion items included:

- I. Sweetser's solicitation for volunteers for various MAC roles. She was able to find open roles for many individuals who emailed her. **She still needs a volunteer coordinator and to further define roles, such as state representatives.**
- II. Sweetser also discussed with the Council the need for a Financial Task Force (FTF). The FTF would review current budgetary practices, allocations, and expenditures, and create a budget model that is easy to understand, methods to disseminate it to the membership, and is representative of MAC activities. Sweetser also hopes the FTF can identify opportunities to adjust the budget, including cost savings. Ducey advocated changing the Treasurer's reporting schedule from an annual basis to a fiscal-year basis. Switching to a fiscal-year reporting structure would align with the Spring meeting. Incoming Treasurer Pieczko agreed, as it would align with a June 1st deadline for closing out invoices. Ducey also advocated for posting the budget in the newsletter after the annual meeting. Ultimately, these reviews would clarify the many budget changes implemented over the years and bring the budget up to date.
- III. Sweetser opened the floor to discussion about creating and adopting an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy in aspects of MAC work. This came to Sweetser's attention when she noticed a MAC report that used AI to generate a summary of activity. At present, there are no guidelines or policies addressing AI in MAC work. Group discussion leaned toward the creation of AI policy regarding Archival Issues and the MAC newsletter. Huggard expressed concern about member information being fed into AI networks. Kim considered the use of AI in images and logos and wonders if a task force should be created. Bailey sees this as two conversations: one about using AI for content creation, and the other about training AI to be a work line tool. Given that, there might be two policies. Joseph (Benn) pointed to AI language increasingly found in job

descriptions. Webb (Derek) suggested that AI policy language would be useful for session content considerations. **Kim volunteered to create language for a task force charge by the next quarterly Council meeting.**

- IV. Sweetser discussed the changes to the MAC Position Statements page (<https://www.midwestarchives.org/mac-position-statements>) that includes updates on how individuals can request a review of a position statement by MAC Council members.

VOTE: Approve the creation of a Financial Task Force

Sweetser called for a motion. Kim made the motion, Bailey seconded. No discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Ducey not in attendance).

VOTE: Approve Adam Groves as Teller (second term)

Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Kim seconded. No discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Ducey not in attendance).

Vice President's Report (Gartner)

Discussion items included:

- I. Gartner's notes on the 2026 Spring Annual meeting:
 - a. Reviewed ongoing 2026 conference operations, including technology issues with one room and the work to get that cost refunded. A surprise music festival was happening the same weekend as the annual meeting, making it incredibly difficult for some MAC meeting attendees to book rooms. Gartner reported one MAC member paying \$400 a night for a room. Conference committee members worked to get room blocks or discounts for members at area hotels, but had difficulty in those efforts.
 - b. As we are tax-exempt, many charges at the Union were tax-exempt, saving MAC quite a bit of money in meeting costs.
 - c. The tours booked up quickly, though there was no charge for them this year. Gartner suggests charging next year (suggested \$10) to guarantee a member's attendance on the tour. She also notes that tour bookings were not included in the meeting registration confirmation emails, and they should be for next year. Fundraising was phenomenal this year, with many vendors and sponsors taking part in the meeting. Gartner suggests changing the newsletter content deadline for the July issue to earlier than May 1st to accommodate the annual meeting news.
- II. Local Area Committee 2026 Annual Meeting notes
Chute and McEldowney noted that, as of their report submission, the meeting was netting a profit for MAC. There is a discrepancy between LAC's and AMC's registration tallies, as the AMC list does not include discounted registrations. In addition, the Society of Ohio Archivists will get 5% of the profit. LAC and the

Vice President need to work with AMC next year to properly identify discounted registrations. LAC reports that as of this meeting, everything is running smoothly. They recommend LAC start with hotel accommodations earlier next year, so they don't run into the same trouble they did with the unknown music festival this year. There was a question to LAC about the labor involved now that MAC is looking to move away from the conference hotel model of annual meeting locations. LAC confirmed that it is more labor-intensive and that academic locations communicate differently than corporate locations. There were also questions about what AMC is responsible for handling, versus what the LAC is responsible for. With new AMC representatives, the hope is that communication will flow easily. Council also discussed using this meeting as a model for creating a manual to guide campus conference meetings.

III. Program Committee 2026 Annual Meeting notes

Jackson and Wanter reported that all presentation slots were filled and no session pop-ups were needed. Sched is working as expected. The Committee accepted 20 posters, and 3 dropped out, leaving a total of 17 in the hall. Wanter reported that he felt very welcome as a Society of Ohio Archivists member working with MAC and that the Program Committee's efforts worked out well. The Committee noted the difficulty of working across multiple time zones in hours-long meetings. However, they were successful in promoting an October call for sessions and making those selections in November. They had 38 total submissions and were able to run 4 concurrent sessions instead of the usual 3.

IV. 2026 Fall Symposium

Braun, Marks, and Jones reported current activities in preparation for the Fall Symposium. There is no facility cost, and they have sponsors for most of the coffee breaks, breakfast, and lunch. They plan to cap registration at 30 participants to keep the experience aligned with what they want to deliver. They are still working out the session schedule so that participants can make their schedules as they want. They want participants to 'walk away with tangible skills,' and leave with a project plan they can implement.

VOTE: Approve the registration rates for the Fall 2026 Symposium (Note that the rates are the same as 2024 and 2025)

Rates:

- Members - \$150
- Non-members - \$175
- Students - \$75

Sweetswer called for a motion. Bertram made a motion, Kim seconded. Discussion included the fee for members and if an adjustment should be made now or later.

Registrations should open by June 1st, but many folks may not be able to register until after July 1st and a new fiscal year. Suggested that this rate change be considered at the next Council meeting for implementation at the 2027 Fall Symposium. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved.

V. 2027 Spring Annual Meeting

A proposal was presented to MAC Council to hold the 2027 Spring Annual meeting at the University of Nebraska (Omaha). The last time MAC met in Omaha was ten years ago. There are two Marriott hotels and one Hilton Garden Inn hotel near the campus with shuttle options. It is an approximately 20-25 minute walk from the hotels to the campus. The campus dorms now also offer short term rentals over the summer. The discussion included ideas on holding the reception at the campus library (where they wouldn't charge a rental fee) or the new public library nearby. Some of the same tours offered ten years ago could happen again and include the new campus art museum. There were questions about transportation, of which was added to the LAC's to-do list. The LAC is already brainstorming themes. Discussion also included accessibility, parking, and how MAC can support child care options.

VOTE: Approve the 2027 Annual meeting location of Omaha, Nebraska (University of Nebraska, Omaha)

Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Bertram seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier and Bailey not in attendance).

VOTE: Approve Amy Schindler and Pete Brink as LAC co-chairs

Sweetser called for a motion. Gartner made a motion, Kim seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier and Bailey not in attendance).

VOTE: Approve the following LAC members: Lori Schwartz, Univ of Nebraska-Omaha; Claire (Du Laney) Dunker, Univ of Nebraska-Omaha; Mary Ellen Ducey; Larissa Krayer.

Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier and Bailey not in attendance).

- VI. Updates to the Symposium Planning Manual and Symposium Planning Timeline
Gartner updated the Symposium Planning Manual and the timeline. Questions arose about how far in advance MAC/VP should approach potential hosts for the Symposium. Gartner suggests about a year. Further discussion concluded that a vote to approve the changes can wait until the next Council meeting, when members have had a chance to read them.

Secretary's Report (Anderson-Zorn)

Discussion items included:

- I. Google Workspace

Anderson-Zorn briefly updated the ongoing work to identify old meeting minutes and transfer them to the new Workspace. She has also worked with the

- Webmaster to upload previous meeting minutes to the MAC website (bringing those meeting minute lists up-to-date).
- II. Official MAC email addresses
Anderson-Zorn is still working out the details on how to do the email switch in the new Workspace. She anticipates switching the newly elected and volunteer position emails to those new members in early June. She's still working out the instruction language and if she can get around not having to make additional transition email accounts. Anderson-Zorn has also identified Committee heads, publication heads, and other leadership positions for which she plans to create emails during the email switch period.

Treasurer's Report (Ducey)

Discussion items included:

- I. Ducey was very supportive of Sweetser's move to create the FTF. Ducey mentioned that it is very confusing because of the inconsistent reporting streams (some granular, some top-level), which make creating an easy-to-read budget difficult. An example was given of what AMC does for a report versus a membership report. Ducey also noted the difficulty in reporting for award investment accounts. **Anderson-Zorn will investigate whether Google Workspace video streaming is an option for the annual meeting, rather than paying for Zoom.** Discussion included costs for AMC services, what various budget areas represent, and how membership levels are charged under the new membership model. Ducey commented that the FTF needs to discuss a clearinghouse for how all budget information (including membership fees and meeting revenues) is returned to the Treasurer so they can produce accurate reports.

A vote to approve the 2026-2027 budget was tabled until the FTF can review the budget and a reporting model.

Liaison and Committee Chair Reports

Membership Committee (Kasarabada)

Kasarabada reported that there are 37 institutional memberships with zero institutional agency subscriptions. Questions why we have this category. Discussion about how members who joined on a one-year deal are monitored when renewing the following year for the regular membership. Who is reviewing those memberships to ensure they aren't resubscribing to the discounted membership (i.e., students who are no longer students)? This work is not done on the AMC side of the house.

Education Committee (Pieczko and Kraye)

Pieczko and Kraye discussed MACinars as a recruitment tool versus a membership benefit. They found that as a membership benefit, MACinars were a success. Discussion

included how to continue doing MACinars in its current format, MACinars as an education initiative (or maybe both). Pieczko and Krayner suggest that the Education Committee work more closely with the Membership Committee to use MACinars as a membership tool. They also suggest making a call to members who have done workshops and would be willing to do them as MACinars. **Kasarabada agreed that this is an important tool and will reach out to the Education Committee to explore options.**

VOTE: Approval of the following Education Committee members: Nolan Vallier, Colleen McFarland Rademaker, Deirdre Scaggs, Denise Rayman (second term), and Lauren White (second term).

Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

VOTE: Approval of Derek Webb as the Council Liaison to the Education Committee. Sweetser called for a motion. Kim made a motion, Huggard seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier not in attendance).

Ethics & Inclusion Committee (Holt-Werle)

In the discussion of the updated Code of Conduct, Huggard noted that there is no access to reports of harassment. How would anyone know if there isn't a report thread or a stated retention period for the reports in the Code of Conduct. Holt-Werle agreed and wanted input from Council on how to move forward. Suggestions for a space in Workspace; **Anderson-Zorn will get the Committee an email.** Overall, Council liked the updates to the Code of Conduct. They agreed that the current questions are minor and can wait for the next update. Council also agreed that violating health guidelines is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

VOTE: Approve the edits to the MAC Code of Conduct. Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Bertram seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier not in attendance).

VOTE: Approve Doreen Dixon as Committee Chair. Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Bertram seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier not in attendance).

VOTE: Approve Shannon Devlin for the Ethics & Inclusion Committee. Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Bertram seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Schwier not in attendance).

Nominating Committee (Joseph)

Joseph reported that several people interested in running later had second thoughts. He felt that his role became part counselor. Joseph discussed how a runner-up can win a seat if the winning candidate declines to accept (as happened last year). Council suggested the Committee consider an adjustment to the recruitment window.

Vendor Coordinators (Blackmore and Hauf-Belden)

They were successful this year in filling up the hall! Hollinger was set to attend but had to step out due to an unforeseen circumstance. The change to offering one or two staffing positions based on whether the organization is for-profit or non-profit went well. They also worked with the Development Coordinator (Jung) to cross-pollinate the roles. A few vendors did not communicate with them in time to include their logos in the program. Gartner praised Blackmore and Hauf-Belden for all their hard work.

VOTE: Approve Melody Hauf-Beldon and Casey Blackmore as co-chairs (second term). Sweetser called for a motion. Huggard made a motion, Bailey seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved (Ducey not in attendance).

Development Coordinator

VOTE: Approval of Virginia Jung as Development Coordinator (second term).

Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

Webmaster

VOTE: Approval of Shae Rafferty as Webmaster

Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

Bowen Scholarship

VOTE: Approval of Morgen MacIntosh Hodgetts as chair (second term); Kati Haskins and Jaycie Vos as committee members.

Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

Motley Scholarship

VOTE: Approval of Candace Pine as chair; Caitlin Klepper, Molly LaPorte, and Jennifer Donner as committee members.

Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

Greene Award

VOTE: Approval of Andrea Van Dyke as chair and Jo Otremba as committee member. Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

Presidents' Award / Distinguished Service Award

VOTE: Approval of Leslie McRoberts as member-at-large (second term). Held via electronic vote after the meeting. Sweetser called for a motion. Anderson-Zorn made a motion, Gartner seconded. There was no further discussion. Sweetser called for a vote, which was unanimously approved on May 21st, 2026.

No further old or new business.

The Council moved to adjourn at 12:00pm EST.

Respectfully submitted by
April Anderson-Zorn
Secretary