Happy Spring! I think the warm weather is finally here to stay – although, I’ve said that several times recently and we keep having cold snaps. I’ve really enjoyed seeing spring flowers and new growth on trees this year.

We’ve been busy planning for the Southeastern Museums Council conference, which will be held in Northwest Arkansas, October 24-26, 2022. Right now, we’re expecting to get back to our usual conference events: the business luncheon, the registrars’ respite, and a behind-the-scenes collections tour. I can’t wait! If you have suggestions for a respite or tour location, please let me know.

SEMC registration should be opening in a few weeks, which means that we’ll be accepting applications for travel scholarships soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for an announcement. Already in 2022, we awarded a $750 travel scholarship to Kali Mason to attend AAM’s Boston conference, May 19-22.

Lastly, please consider running for one of our open board positions later this year. We’ll need people to fill three positions – secretary, development chair, and communications chair. If you’re interested or have questions, please contact me or Nominations Committee chair Christy Sinksen. Amy Beisel has served as secretary since 2017, and has recently stepped down from the position. We appreciate her years of support and service to SERA and to our profession!

Corinne
Greetings SERA Members,

There is not a lot to report on from my position since our last newsletter. The main battle has been getting our account at Chase switched over to our new officers after the recent elections. We have updated our corporate registration with the State of Kentucky and it should (knock on wood) be smooth sailing to finish the transition now.

Thank you to the 20 members who have renewed in the past several months! As a reminder, SERA’s memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. So, if you have not renewed since the 2021 SEMC Conference (which is true for 47 of you), your membership is now technically expired. Please take this opportunity to renew for 2022 if you have not already. You must be a member in good-standing to qualify for SERA’s upcoming conference scholarship opportunities.

As of April 25, 2022, SERA has 109 active members, down from 115 (-5.2%) this time last year.

As of April 25, 2022, the current balance in the Chase checking account is $10,746.24. The current balance in the PayPal account is $1,690.09. The combined total on-hand is $12,436.33, down $179.30 (-1.4%) from the $12,615.63 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA’s fiscal activity for February 10, 2022 to April 25, 2022 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

**SERA Income/Expenses: February 10, 2022 – April 25, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>PayPal fees</td>
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<td>SurveyMonkey</td>
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### Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Pamela Bransford</td>
<td>Registrar, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabra Gossett</td>
<td>Registrar, Berman Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paula Haymon</td>
<td>Collections Manager/Registrar, Wiregrass Museum of Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Elizabeth Kelly</td>
<td>Associate Registrar, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Diane Karlson</td>
<td>Registrar, William J. Clinton Presidential Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Laura Dello Russo*</td>
<td>Registrar, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney</td>
<td>Executive Director, Matheson History Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amberly Meli*</td>
<td>Senior Registrar, Museum of Florida History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deb Van Horn</td>
<td>Curator, Walt Disney Imagineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Leah Craig</td>
<td>Registrar/Collections Manager, National Corvette Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Monkia Cantin</td>
<td>The Historic New Orleans Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Jane Hohensee</td>
<td>Registrar, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation</td>
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### New* / Renewing Members

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Ghabrial</td>
<td>Collections Manager, The Historic New Orleans Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelley Hines</td>
<td>The Historic New Orleans Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maclyn Hickey</td>
<td>The Historic New Orleans Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Misty Taylor-Pride*</td>
<td>Collections and Exhibitions Manager, Hilliard Art Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Ainsley Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kali Mason</td>
<td>Curator of Collections, City of Raleigh - Historic Resources and Museum Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Hohensee</td>
<td>Registrar, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As chair and with the support of the board, I’m recommending three changes to the SERA Bylaws. The current Bylaws can be viewed here. The Bylaws were last changed in 2011. We voted on these changes last fall, but did not have a 60% ballot return rate. Please consider these changes and participate in voting.

The first proposed change is to Article III: Membership. Several years ago, SERA added two membership categories—Student and Institutional—but the Bylaws were not updated to reflect this.

The Bylaws currently state that SERA’s only membership levels are Individual and Associate. I recommend that we update the Bylaws to reflect the membership structure under which we’re currently operating. See the current and proposed wording here.

The second proposed change is to Article VI: Committee Chairs and State Representatives. Currently, SERA board members have the option of being reimbursed for the cost of attending the Business Meeting held at the SEMC conference each year. This is usually $25-35 per person. Chairs of committees, such as the Nominating Committee and Scholarship Committee, are expected to present reports at the meeting but are not eligible for reimbursement. To recognize their work and promote equity within SERA, I recommend that we update the Bylaws to make committee chairs and the state representative coordinator eligible for reimbursement for the cost of attending the Business Meeting. See the current and proposed wording here.

The third proposed change occurs in five places throughout the Bylaws and is simply updating the names of the American Alliance of Museums and the Collections Stewardship Professional Network of AAM. See the current and proposed wording here.

A Bylaws change requires approval of two-thirds of the membership, so your consideration of these changes is important and appreciated. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Corinne Midgett

Process for amending the SERA Bylaws:

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS
Section 1. Amendment of Bylaws shall be by written or electronic ballot (10/11), provided that at least sixty percent of the ballots are returned, and that the proposed amendment is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall distribute individual written or electronic ballots (10/11) and proposed amendments to the voting membership at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting. Ballots must be returned to the Secretary, postmarked no later than ten days prior to the annual meeting, unless a specific return date is clearly stated on the ballot. Votes shall be tallied by the Secretary and verified by the Chair, and results shall be announced at the annual business meeting.
Alabama
Haley Aaron
Registrar
Alabama Department of Archives and History
From February 15 to April 15, the Alabama Department of Archives and History hosted the temporary exhibit “Changing the Course: Art by the Currently and Formerly Incarcerated.” The exhibit was presented in partnership with five state agencies: the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, the Alabama Department of Corrections, the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, and Ingram State Technical College. The exhibit included painting, drawings, sculptures, and other artworks by more than a dozen artists. Six organizations contributed artwork on loan.

Pamela Bransford
Registrar
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Completed on March 12, 2020, the day before the whole country shut down for COVID, Dougherty’s sculptures typically have a two-to-three-year lifespan and then they are off to the chipper. Sarah Elizabeth and Curator Jennifer Jankauskas are still working through the 400 hours of comp time they gained stripping the leaves off of sticks because the large volunteer crew gathered for the installation had to be let go due to the pandemic.

Sabra Gossett
Registrar
Berman Museum
Congratulations to Sabra and her husband Mike who welcomed Charlene Hazel “Charlie” Gossett on February 11, 2022! After spending February and March on maternity leave, Sabra is now back at work and reports that the Berman is in the process of installing hands-on sections in each of the galleries, thanks to a grant from the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Some of the cool hands-on pieces include a telegraph key, tablets to write Asian characters, pieces to build your own castle, and a spy code decoder.
Museum staff is in the final weeks of installing exhibits on the second floor of the historic Shiloh Meeting Hall. Built in 1871, it was originally home to three churches and the Springdale Masonic Lodge. Over many years since it was home to the Woman’s Civic Club, used for a boy’s club, and finally, home to Springdale Odd Fellow Lodge. Exhibits will describe the activities of these various groups within the building over the years. The Odd Fellows had the building for over 70 years and left behind much material. When Shiloh Museum was given the building in 2005 they cataloged many objects and created a manuscript collection from records found in the building. In 2022, they are still working through records that span from 1890s-1990s.

Jennifer Kick
Rogers Historical Museum
Besides working on the Civil War exhibit and Creative Minds exhibits mentioned in Rachel Smith’s news, Jennifer Kick has been begun cataloging a collection of items that came from O.L. Gregory’s apple cider vinegar factory in Rogers in preparation for another future exhibit. Also in the very near future is the annual Family Day for which Kick will need to create a hands-on exhibit of teaching collection items.

Rachel Smith
Assistant Director/Curator of Collections
Rogers Historical Museum

The Rogers Historical Museum currently has a special exhibit "Creative Minds in the Ozarks" which features works by various artists, including painters, woodworkers, and craftsmen. Many of the works on exhibit honor the beauty of the Ozarks and celebrate traditional crafts. There are wood miniatures, folk marquetry furniture pieces, hooked rugs, and various handcrafts made by local home demonstration clubs. The exhibit is a fun mix of folk art and history.

The next major exhibit will be "Civil War in Benton County: Untold Stories", focusing on a selection of personal stories of the civilian experience during the war. Most notably, the exhibit will display a fragment of a coverlet that was buried and survived the Battle of Pea Ridge, loaned to the museum from a private individual. The exhibit will open on May 7th, with a member preview for the Friends of the Rogers Historical Museum the night before. This will be the big exhibit of the year, and once that is open the museum will finally be able to begin a full inventory and get collections storage in good working order.
Georgia
Aimee Brooks
Collections Manager
Columbus Museum
At the Columbus Museum, with the help of ESPLOST funds through the museum’s partners in the Muscogee County School District, the collections storage area has been renovated. Aimee Brooks and Miles Kirkpatrick are now working to return the museum’s collections to the storage area. The collection is being installed on new painting racks and updated collapsible shelving. In addition to the new storage area, the collections managers will now have a dedicated workroom that can be used for cataloguing, research and exhibition prep. It’s a work in progress and will take some time to fully organize and finish but it’s exciting for all involved.

Christa McCay
Collections Manager
Marietta History Center
The Marietta History Center has been partnering with other area institutions in displaying temporary exhibitions. We had three exhibits from Kennesaw State University’s Museum of History and Holocaust Education. Recently, we have brought in Gateway To the South: Remembering the Dixie Highway from the Bandy Heritage Center at Dalton State College. These partnerships have proven a great way to work with other colleagues in the field and has provided us a chance to work together on programs. In the collections, Christa McCay, has been able get new HVAC units in the storage spaces and galleries. The MHC’s photography collection has been steadily growing with the acquisition of slides and photographs from programs and events from the Marietta Welcome Center. These images have provided great insight to Marietta’s growth in the last 30 years.

Erica Hague
Collections Manager
Atlanta History Center
Spring at Atlanta History Center is in full bloom! Our living collections have been growing steadily despite the late freezing temperatures, and the sheep are sheared and enjoying being relieved of their winter coats. This spring we welcome our first round of paid interns including one for collections! The Harvey Smith Collections Intern, Emily Curl, is a recent graduate of George Washington University's Certificate program and has been interning with the Olympics Collection earlier this school year. Her project for this internship is paid for and focused on the Harvey Smith collection of decorative arts items. Part of her work this summer will be inventorying and updating the records to be in line with current standards and getting the items ready for public access via our collections portal, MARTHA (Museum Artifacts Related to The History of Atlanta).

April saw the end of our installment of the SITES exhibit American Democracy, and the beginning of a new traveling exhibit from George W Bush Presidential Library, Out of Many, One. This exhibit is comprised of over 40 portraits made by President Bush of immigrants and is accompanied by information about the US immigration system. It will be up through July 4th when it’ll be sent to its next destination.
Tricia Miller
Head Registrar
Georgia Museum of Art

From the Georgia Museum of Art we share the bittersweet news that after over 30 years of service to the museum Annelies Mondi, deputy director, is retiring from GMOA. Throughout her 30+ years she held numerous positions from preparator to registrar to head registrar, eventually taking on the role of deputy director. Her experience, knowledge, and skill in museum collections management has been an immeasurable asset not only to the Georgia Museum of Art, but also to the state, the region, and nationally. She served as Chair of SERA in 2002-2004, Development Chair for SERA 2008-2009, and was named Museum Professional of the Year in 2009 by the Georgia Association of Museums. Although we will miss Annelies’ leadership, wise counsel, and sense of humor, we wish her many happy and relaxed days ahead as she embarks on her next chapter in life.

Kentucky

Chris Goodlett
Director of Curatorial & Educational Affairs
Kentucky Derby Museum

The Kentucky Derby Museum recently opened Phase II of its five-year exhibit renovation project, *This is the Kentucky Derby*! Encompassing the entire entry point to the Museum, this exhibition will introduce visitors to the reasons for the creation of the Kentucky Derby, how it became an international cultural and sporting event and what it means to the economies of the City of Louisville and Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Derby Museum also recently introduced a traveling component to its *Black Heritage in Racing* exhibit. Consisting of 11 free standing panels, the exhibit covers 200 years of history and is suitable to display in various facilities. Since its debut in February of 2022, the exhibit has been showcased in a local mall, a Kentucky Derby Festival event and a college fundraiser.
Laura Hendrickson  
Registrar/Collections Manager  
National Quilt Museum

The National Quilt Museum is currently participating in the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program. We’re thrilled to be going through the program, which will be essential to our plans for taking our museum to the next level of advancement and collections care in the coming years.

Also, NQM and Paducah are welcoming back the American Quilter’s Society “QuiltWeek” show/convention for the first time since the pandemic. Nearly 20,000 quilters will visit the town throughout the week for “all things quilt!” It’s a huge source of support and revenue for our museum, and we’re so glad it has returned.

Leah W. Craig  
Registrar/Collections Manager  
National Corvette Museum

The National Corvette Museum continues working on a File Reconciliation Project and estimate we are about 64% complete with an goal completion date of end of year 2023 (or earlier). We were also able to purchase a new locking, fire resistant file cabinet for the accession and loan files to match our other 5 cabinets. Sharon Kinser, Collections Cataloger, was promoted to Associate Registrar. Leah Craig, Registrar/Collections Manager was promoted to Manager of Collections and Education Programs.

Sandy Staebell  
Registrar/Collections Curator  
Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University

Sandy Staebell, Registrar/Collections Curator of the Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, assisted with efforts to help the African American Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, recover from damage caused by tornados that struck the community December 10-11 followed by an electrical fire in the building on December 22. The Kentucky Museum staff helped triage artifacts and then moved much of the collection to temporary storage at the Kentucky Museum until conservator Laura Moeller of Covington, Kentucky, completed a damage assessment. In April, she utilized artifacts from the collection while team teaching twelve close study sections of WKU students about the impacts of WWI and WWII on Americans at home and abroad.
This same month she finished the curation and installation of *Crazy Quilt Mania*, an exhibit exploring the history of crazy quilts in the United States. The exhibit includes twenty-three quilts from the Kentucky Museum collection as well as selected examples of other fancywork as well as artifacts and images borrowed from the WKU Special Collections Library. She also worked with Executive Director Tommy Hines of the Shaker Village at South Union in the filming of Shaker artifacts from her collection for use in six “*Furniture Fridays*” videos.

**Louisiana**

Kevin Krantz and Dr. Jennifer Hargrave
Lafayette Science Center
LSM will expand open hours for the summer and we are updating some exhibits. In addition, two Masters students are using the collections for thesis projects.

**Misty Taylor-Pride**
*Collections and Exhibitions Manager*
Hilliard Art Museum - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Hilliard Art Museum recently had an early work by New Orleans artist, Ida Kohlmeyer, conserved. *Where Does Your Garden Grow*, 1957, was donated to the Hilliard by the Ida and Hugh Kohlmeyer Foundation with the
agreement the museum would seek conservation.

When the painting came to the Hilliard it exhibited severe condition issues. The canvas was pierced in two places. There were large areas of paint loss and cupping was occurring throughout much of the thick impasto.

The painting was taken to Baton Rouge Fine Art Conservator, Margaret Moreland. Moreland has been practicing for 34 years in the Baton Rouge area and performed extensive conservation work in the Ocean Springs area after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Her conservation process began with securing the painting, while framed, to a flat surface. She applied a solution of BEVA 371 to the surface of the painting. BEVA 371 is a resin-based adhesive which is applied heated. It helps relax paint which is cupping and stabilize flaking areas by adhering the paint to the canvas. Since an original photograph of *Where Does Your Garden Grow* was not accessible, Moreland studied Kohlmeyer’s mark making pattern and color combinations to best fill in the areas of missing paint. Moreland explained that color matching can take as long as the entire restoration process. There are different combination of pigments used to achieve that desired effect. For this, Moreland used Windsor - Newton Liquin Impasto and Maimeri Restoration Colors for in-painting, adding paint to an area of a canvas which is missing pigment. Liquid Impasto is a thickening and drying agent and when mixed with pigments can be used to build up thick areas of paint on a canvas. Moreland chose Maimeri Restoration Colors because it was specifically designed to be used in conservation and uses only the purest and the finest pigments.

To mend the two punctures to the canvas, Moreland turned the painting over. With the canvas stabilized from the BEVA 371, she then applied a light adhesive and a strip of archival fabric to the back of the canvas. The fabric acts as a permanent band-aid. Now the front of the canvas must be treated. The area around a puncture is usually missing paint. A gesso was then applied to the affected area, any excess is removed manually. Gesso is applied and once set, more in-painting occurs. The final stage in the conservation process is to apply a varnish to the front of the painting. Moreland chose Golden Satin Archival Varnish, a mineral spirit acrylic aerosol. It is 100% reversible and it creates a durable, protective film for the paint.
**MISSISSIPPI**
Kathleen Barnett
Director of Collections Management & Registration

**Mississippi Museum of Art**
The team at the Mississippi Museum of Art celebrated an exhibit opening in April! *A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* opened at the MMA on April 9. The exhibit explores the impact of the Great Migration on the social and cultural life of the United States from historical and personal perspectives. Co-organized with the Baltimore Museum of Art, the exhibition features newly commissioned works by 12 acclaimed Black artists across a variety of media. The exhibit will close in Mississippi on September 11. From there, it will travel to the BMA and four additional venues, with the tour coming to an end in early-2025.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
Robyn Adams
Registrar

**South Carolina State Museum**
The team at the South Carolina State Museum is hard at work on their second IMLS Museums for American grant, focusing on the housewares and military collections (oh the things that are stored together!) Our photographer has been working on publication-quality images of the weapons in the collection, and, as he is himself interested in weapons, has been working with our conservator on doing some basic weapons cleaning before photography. Our inventory assistants have been going through housewares, meanwhile, tackling what is turning out to be an extensive collection of medicinal and liquor bottles-400 and counting! And our data entry assistant has been working on records related to a well-catalogued tool collection that were never entered into the database. The inventory is finding many more items than originally thought to be in the rooms, so it has been wonderful to get this data into the database. Soon we hope to be turning to military uniforms and our silver collection, which are always a favorite of the curators and public.

**VIRGINIA**
Catherine DeSilvey
Registrar/Curator

**Virginia Military Institute**
The Military Women’s Memorial’s traveling exhibit *The Color of Freedom* opened in the Virginia Military Institute’s Preston Library on April 15, 2022. The exhibit is sponsored by the VMI Museum System, Preston Library, and VMI’s Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Color of Freedom honors the diverse American women who have served their country from the Revolutionary War to the present. QR codes allow visitors to hear oral histories and watch interviews. The VMI Museum supplemented the exhibit by adding a display of Women’s Army Corps’ artifacts, including those of World War II “code girl” Katherine Borman. The exhibit is on Post through May 17, 2022.
Lauren Kraut  
*Sr. Collections Manager & Registrar*  
National Sporting Library & Museum  
"A Decade Afield" opens at the National Sporting Library & Museum on June 3. It celebrates the Museum’s 10th anniversary and highlights the growth of the collections. The first floor galleries explore the Library’s early years before the establishment of the Museum, as well as the large generous donation that spurred the construction of a new building and the organization’s rebranding to formally include fine art. The second floor galleries are thematically laid out to represent elements of the NSLM’s mission: equestrian, angling, and field sports. For example, in the gallery titled “Tally Ho!”, paintings featuring fox hunts will be displayed, and in "Casting the Line" are paintings and sculptures of fly fishing and angling. The exhibition will remain open until September 18, 2022.

Frank Weston Benson (American, 1862-1951), Lower Camp Pool, 1928  
oil on canvas, 32 x 40 inches  
National Sporting Library & Museum, Gift from a Private Collection, 2020
JOBS UPDATE

2022 has had 361 jobs and 53 paid internships posted between the beginning of January and the end of April. However, I have noticed a trend in downward adjusted salaries for entry and mid level staff, which is something to be concerned about. Spring is usually budget season, and a great time to ask for that raise that you deserve!

2021 Salary Averages for Jobs Posted
(adjusted for Cost of Living)

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Low-Median-High</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate/Assistant Registrar</td>
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<td>Registrar/Collections Manager</td>
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2022 Salary Averages for JobsPosted
(adjusted for Cost of Living)

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<thead>
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<th>Position</th>
<th>Low-Median-High</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate/Assistant Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrar/Collections Manager</td>
<td>$40,586-$44,392-$48,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior/ Director</td>
<td>$63,334-$71,869-$79,404</td>
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Last fall I also began to capture static copies of job postings so that you can look at the duties. This was after a discussion about the wide range of duties for titles. These are shared on the comprehensive job list which has auto-calculated totals for each year under each tab. This is a great resource if you're looking for comparable salaries. If you'd like to contribute to salary transparency, NEMPN is gathering data here. You can see the data they've gathered here.

I have continued to track job postings on the SERA Jobs board, and have cross posted them one a week onto the SERA Facebook page. If you have a job opening at your institution (or a neighboring one) and you’d like them shared on the SERA job board, please forward them along!

SERA NEWS is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

Membership: Individual membership ($25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

Membership Contact:
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney