

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Tricia Miller

Vice-Chair:

Tre'Anna Stewart

Secretary:

Alyssa Magnone

Treasurer/Membership

Chair:

Miranda Helton

Development Chair:

Ainsley Powell

Communications Chair:

Sabra Gossett

State Coordinator:

Alex Campbell

Scholarship Chair:

Elizabeth Le

Nominations Chair:

Kimberly Terbush

Notes from the Chair

Tricia Miller

Dear SERA Members,

It was so wonderful to see all the SERA members who attended SEMC. Thank you for attending the SERA Business Luncheon, the Registrars' Respite, and the Behind-the-Scenes tour at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The Respite was very well attended and we shut down the venue playing darts, pool, and chatting. As always, the Behind-the-Scenes tour was super interesting and our hosts at the Department of Archives did an amazing job of pulling out fascinating objects for us to see. If you were on the tour, you will understand when I say "Help Re-Chickenize Devasted France."

At the Business Luncheon Alyssa Magnone, SERA's secretary, announced the results of our latest election for the SERA board officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. I am pleased to be returning for another two-year term as the Chair and also pleased to have Miranda Helton returning for a second term as Treasurer. Thanks to the membership for your vote of confidence in both of us. Jennifer Spence has stepped down as Vice Chair and we thank her for her dedicated service to SERA. We now welcome Tre'Anna Stewart as our new Vice Chair and I know I speak for the whole board when I say that we are so happy to have Tre'Anna with us and are looking forward to working with her over the next two years. The following SERA members remain in their board positions: Secretary Alyssa Magnone, Development Chair Ainsley Powell, Communications Chair Sabra Gossett, State Representative Coordinator Alex Campbell, Scholarship Chair Elizabeth Le, and Nominations Chair Kimberly Terbush. I look forward to working with this excellent group of SERA officers.

As we head into the holiday season and start thinking about New Year's resolutions, I encourage everyone to start thinking about session topics for the next SEMC conference. It's never too early! There were some fantastic sessions in Montgomery and I hope that SERA can support even more collections-based proposals for the upcoming conference in Winston-Salem, NC. If you have an idea and are not sure how to turn it into a session or how to find panel participants, feel free to reach out to me. SERA is here to help!

Happy Holidays,
Tricia Miller

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIRANDA HELTON

Greetings SERA Members,

2025 has been a steady year for SERA! While we have seen a 9.9% decrease in membership, we've welcomed 25 brand-new members. We have also seen consistent income from sales of Basic Condition Reporting and our sponsorships.

We were able to give two travel scholarships for SEMC this year and one scholarship for ARCS:

- Emerging Professional – Travis Pickett, LSU Museum of Art
- Seasoned Professional – Sabra Gossett, Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum
- ARCS Scholarship– Solana Rostick, Graduate Student at the University of Florida

Thank you to Willis Towers Watson and TCI for their continued support of SERA with donations of \$1000 each!

Memberships (As of November 12, 2025)

- 100 total 2025 SERA Members in Good Standing (-9.9% from 111 members before SEMC 2024
 - 2 Associate Members
 - 58 Individual Members
 - 39 Institutional Members from 11 Institutions
 - 1 Student Member
- 25 New Members in 2025
- 36 2024 Members have not renewed

As of November 12, 2025, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$8,243.07. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$2,948.35. The combined total on-hand is \$11,191.42, down \$2,107.35 (-15.85%) from the \$13,298.77 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's Year to Date fiscal activity as of November 12, 2025 is outlined below.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Miranda Helton, Treasurer/Membership Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIRANDA HELTON

Statement of Financial Position

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.
As of November 12, 2025

Account	⇅ Total
▼ Assets	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	8,243.07
PayPal Bank	2,948.35
Total for Bank Accounts	\$11,191.42
▼ Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
▼ Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total for Current Assets	\$11,191.42
Total for Assets	\$11,191.42
▼ Liabilities and Equity	
▼ Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	-
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	2,080.42
Net Income	-2,039.36
Total for Equity	\$11,191.42
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$11,191.42

Accrual basis | Wednesday, November 12, 2025 12:01 PM GMT-05:00

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIRANDA HELTON

Statement of Activity

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

January 1-November 12, 2025

Account	Total
▼ Income	
▼ Donations	
Sponsorship	2,000.00
Total for Donations	\$2,000.00
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	1,375.00
Institutional	750.00
Student	15.00
Total for Membership	\$2,190.00
Royalties	415.34
Total for Income	\$4,605.34
Gross Profit	\$4,605.34
▼ Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	15.00
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	393.99
Office Supplies & Software	196.01
Other Business Expenses	600.00
PayPal Fees	136.96
Reimbursable Expenses	91.35
Respite	2,511.39
▼ Scholarships	
ARC	900.00
SEMC	1,800.00
Total for Scholarships	\$2,700.00
Total for Expenses	\$6,644.70
Net Operating Income	-\$2,039.36
Net Other Income	-
Net Income	-\$2,039.36

Accrual basis | Wednesday, November 12, 2025 12:02 PM GMT-05:00

MEMBERSHIP

New* / Renewing Members

GA

Kevin Roland, Associate Registrar*

Georgia Museum of Art

NC

Catie Atkinson, Site Manager*

Orange County Historical Museum

Lauren Pacheco, Development Officer*

Greensboro Science Center

SC

Laura Jowdy, Senior Director of Legacy Programs*

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

New* / Renewing Institutional Members

New Orleans Museum of Art

Jennifer Ickes, Head Registrar*

Remember!
*SERA membership
runs on a January-
December calendar
year.*



ALABAMA

Pamela Bransford

Registrar

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Montgomery hosted the 2025 SEMC conference in October. Pam enjoyed several registrar-related sessions including Murphy's Law & Museums about emergency planning, To Be in the Collection or Not to Be in the Collection about how to document all the items sort of related to works in the permanent collection, and Arsenic, Oh My! Managing Controlled Substances in Museum Collections, a session conducted by our own SERA Alabama members, Haley Aaron and Ella Sykes. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts hosted 414 conference attendees for the October 20 evening event. It was fun to see so many fellow museum colleagues at the MMFA.

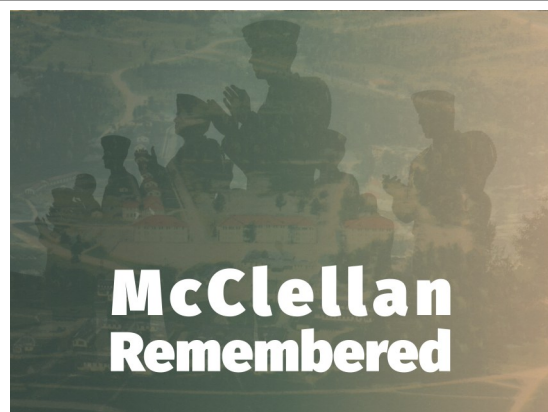
Pam is also celebrating the installation of two new steam boilers which held a 48% RH through the recent arctic blast.

Alex Campbell

Collections Manager

Anniston Museum and Gardens

The Berman Museum will be opening the "McClellan Remembered" gallery to the public on November 14th. Covering the history of Fort McClellan, which holds a special place in the hearts of those in the area and many veterans across the nation, "McClellan Remembered" explores this history through artifacts, uniforms, and archival footage.



Ella Sykes

Collections & Gallery Manager

Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences

This fall has seen the conclusion of several tedious but important projects at the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. Ella finished going through each of the individual 16,000 catalog records to make sure that language and fields were consistent, and also renumbered the entire collection, updating from a system where the first object was numbered "1" to a standard three-part numbering system. Both of these projects are already facilitating everything else that is done in the collection. She is so excited to have them finished!

A new exhibition opened entitled Health in the Time of Marcel Proust, which will be up through July 2026. It chronicles the dramatic changes in the health sciences during the lifetime of famed French novelist Marcel Proust.



Rose Wood

Chief Registrar

Birmingham Museum of Art

The Birmingham Museum of Art-organized exhibition, Hayward Oubre: Structural Integrity is opening at the New Orleans Museum of Art in January, marking the final venue. The BMA is hosting Monet to Matisse: French Moderns, 1850-1950, the Brooklyn Museum of Art's exhibition, from January 30, 2026 to May 24, 2026. The exhibition has been traveling for about a decade. Around 50 works will be added from the permanent collection, as well as a couple of significant Monet loans. This will be a paid exhibition. Starting mid-year, the BMA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary with two major exhibitions. Roll Call: 200 Years of Black Artists Working in America (September 26, 2026 - January 17, 2027) which will also include a publication, and an exhibition centered around Southern food that is part of the Art Bridges consortium.

Rose is also in the early stages of planning a significant inventory, which she hopes to start in 2027. The inventory is expected to take approximately three years.

FLORIDA

Heather Culligan

Registrar & Collections Manager

The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB) at Florida Southern College

It's been a busy fall at The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College! Heather Culligan, Registrar & Collections Manager, assisted with the installation of four exhibitions over the last few months. The new exhibitions feature

photography by Jerry Uelsmann, works by visual artist and photographer Stephen Althouse, a new collection of Florida Highwaymen paintings from the Woodsby Family Collection, and imaginative pieces from award-winning illustrator and multimedia artist Alex Lanier. In addition, the Curatorial Department is opening two exhibitions in the upcoming weeks: The Medici Dynasty: Renaissance in Florence from the Stibbert Museum, and Surreal Scenarios: The Art of Susanne Schuenke.

Beyond exhibitions, Culligan is teaching Managing Museum Collections at the College to sixteen students. The students have assisted with condition reporting, cataloging, and inventory, all while learning what it means to manage a collection in a museum. This course is one of two courses offered in the Art History & Museum Studies department at FSC that provides students with hands-on, real-life experience working in a museum.

Finally, with the recent TMS upgrade, Culligan has been working on cleaning up the existing data. From changing classifications to adding object names to connecting media files, there is a lot to do! But the end goal is to have a fully cataloged database and begin selecting works for the online component, which will hopefully be available next spring.

Sabra Gossett

Curator

Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

This Thanksgiving season I have a lot to be thankful for! First, a big thank you to SERA for allowing me to attend my first full SEMC! I'm hooked and I definitely want to try to make Winston-Salem next year.



Secondly, the government has reopened and I can go back to work! Over 40 days of vacation may sound appealing but the cabin fever is real!

SOUTH CAROLINA

Maggie Claytor

Associate Registrar

Gibbes Museum of Art

The fall has been all about exhibitions at the Gibbes Museum of Art. First Look: Recent Acquisitions to the Collection opened on September 19 in the side rotunda galleries. The exhibition pulls from the past two years of acquisitions featuring the work of Radcliffe Bailey, Mary Jackson, Tom Stanley, Susan Mesislas, and more. Our head preparator, David Petitpain, had to do some research and development to be able to install the Radcliffe Bailey work around the chair rails. As seen by the comment sheets located in each gallery our visitors are missing the dogs and cats that were in the galleries previously during the run of Our Pet Project which featured pieces in the Gibbes collection that depicted our furry little friends.

In our 3rd floor special exhibition galleries, Rembrandt: Masterpieces in Black & White Prints from the Rembrandt House Museum

opened on October 24. The exhibition, featuring etchings by Rembrandt and other artists such as James McNeill Whistler, is organized by American Federation of Arts and the Rembrandt House Museum, Amsterdam. There are magnifying glasses available at the entrance of the galleries for visitors to use to examine the details of the etchings in a much closer way which have been a huge hit.

Looking towards 2026, we are excited to host exhibitions featuring the work of 2 well-known artists located in SC Leo Twiggs and Mary Whyte. The retrospective Revelations! The Art of Leo Twiggs will open January 30, 2026, with an exhibition catalog including essays and a poem about Twiggs' work. Mary Whyte: Salt of the Earth will open on May 22, 2026, which will include twenty-nine works, along with site-specific drawings rendered directly on the museum walls spotlighting the diversity, fortitude, and spirit of the American people.

Photos by ©MCG Photography



Miranda Helton

Registrar

Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum

Miranda Helton is taking on a new role in January as Space Center Houston's first-ever Collections Manager. Space Center Houston was founded in Houston, TX in 1992 and serves as both a science museum and the official visitor center of NASA Johnson Space Center. Congrats Miranda!

TENNESSEE

Elizabeth Le

Collections Manager and Registrar

Hunter Museum of American Art

Elizabeth Le, Collections Manager and Registrar at the Hunter Museum, has been mentoring a University of Tennessee, Chattanooga student this fall semester through the university's Community Engagement Internship program. Donovan Scott, a junior Anthropology and Religious Studies major, has assisted with exhibition installation and deinstallation, accessioning, photography and polishing the museum's small silver collection.

He did such a fantastic job that our Associate Curator plans to install the silver in a display case in the Mansion in late November. The Hunter Museum received 54 photographs from the Brett Weston Archive, which is a

signification donation to augment the existing photography collection.

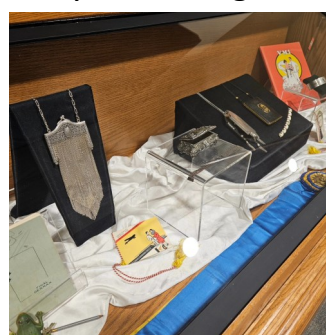
VIRGINIA

Cathy DeSilvey

Registrar/Curator

Virginia Military Institute Museum

It has been a busy semester for the VMI Museum! Object-based learning with LTC Osborne's WWI History class, taking a tobacco bag (a gift from the Yankton Sioux to their lawyer, Jennings Wise, VMI 1902) to the



Indigenous Art Night event, and finishing up the Dance Favors exhibit in the Archives Reading Room. Our Cadet Curatorial Assistant Moriah Delozier, VMI 2028, is

also engaged in ongoing chemistry research, testing the contents of our Civil War medical kit.



Jill K. Harris

Museum Registrar

Virginia Museum of Natural History

The Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation (VMNHF) has received a historic donation of over \$4.4 million in support of the foundation's endowment fund. The gift, provided by the late Frank W. Mariels, a long-time resident of Martinsville, is the largest donation ever received by the foundation and will provide greatly enhanced annual income directly supporting the Virginia Museum of Natural History's (VMNH) mission and strategic plan.

"The Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation has long emphasized the importance of growing its endowment fund in support of the museum's mission," said VMNHF Board President Tyler Carter. "With the museum's ambitious plans for the coming years, which include upgrades to the current exhibit galleries and the introduction of new visitor experiences, the ability to achieve its goals has been greatly enhanced through Mr. Mariels' immense generosity." With this gift, the museum will prioritize the establishment of the Young Explorers Center, which will be named in honor of Mr. Mariels. To be located within the museum's current footprint, the 1,700 square foot center will consist of immersive learning experiences, including hands-on STEM stations for children and families, special programming and resources supporting pre-K education initiatives, and flexible space for programming and events dedicated to young children and their families.

"The establishment of the Young Explorers Center is a top strategic priority of the museum and was recently identified as a

priority project by the museum's Board of Trustees in the museum's 2025-2030 strategic plan," said VMNH Executive Director Dr. Joe Keiper. "Because of Mr. Mariels' generosity and the foundation's support, we're now in position to ensure that the center comes to fruition in the near future."

The gift will also provide the museum with the necessary support to enhance its current exhibit galleries and to secure high-level traveling exhibits in an effort to further improve the visitor experience.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that exists to support the mission and programs of the Virginia Museum of Natural History. For more information about the foundation, visit www.vmnh.net/about/vmnh-foundation.



Didn't See Your News Here?

Make sure to connect with your State Representative so we receive your news! Calls for news go out every three months (Feb, May, August, and November)

Questions regarding your State Representative? Message State Coordinator Alex Campbell at acampbell@annistonl.gov.

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
Miranda Helton