

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Corinne Midgett

Vice-Chair:

Jennifer Spence

Secretary:

Alyssa Magnone

Treasurer/Membership

Chair:

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

Development Chair:

Ainsley Powell

Communications

Chair:

Sabra Gossett

State Coordinator:

Deanna Taylor

Scholarship Chair:

Elizabeth Le

Nominations Chair:

Christy Sinksen

Notes from the Chair

Corinne Midgett

The year is off to a strong start with lots of work on our SEMC events already underway! I can't wait to share more with you as we get venues confirmed. I think Louisville will be an excellent conference with great attendance, so start making your plans to attend. Remember that SERA members can apply for travel scholarships to offset the cost.

Speaking of travel scholarships, we didn't receive any applications for our AAM scholarship this year. I know AAM is an expensive conference, so the travel scholarship doesn't make a huge dent, but you can always combine our \$750 with other scholarships and anything your employer will contribute. Keep this in mind as you plan for next year's budget!

One year ago, the 5th edition of Basic Condition Reporting: A Handbook was published. You can still purchase it from Rowman & Littlefield using our promo code RLFANDF30 for 30% off. We'd love to hear what you think about it and any suggestions you have for future editions. All proceeds from the book go toward supporting SERA's activities.

Corinne



TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

Greetings SERA Members,

We had a great year in 2022 and are beginning 2023 in a very strong position financially and with membership. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support!

As I'm sure many of you have heard, Amazon has discontinued their Smile program for nonprofit giving. While this is a serious loss for many organizations, SERA never saw much of an impact from the program. In 2022 we received a total of \$5. There may be a small, lump sum payment to close out the account and I will share an update if that happens in my next report.

In more optimistic news, I am delighted to share that 44 of our current members have already renewed for 2023!

As a reminder, SERA's memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. So, if you have not renewed since the 2022 SEMC Conference, your membership is now technically expired. We currently have 59 2022 members who have not yet renewed. You must be a member in good standing to qualify for SERA's upcoming conference scholarship opportunities (Please apply for these! I want to give you money!).

As of February 9, 2023, SERA has 103 active members, equal to this time last year.

As of February 9, 2023, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$12,911.01. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$1,752.82. The combined total on-hand is \$14,663.83, up \$1,583.35 (+12.1%) from the \$13,080.48 on-hand reported this time last year.

Below is our full statement of activity for 2022. We had a net profit for the year of \$1,596.01 after paying for conference and award expenditures. I have also included our year-to-date statement for 2023. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Activity
January - December 2022

	TOTAL
▼ Revenue	
▼ Donations	
Amazon Smile	5.00
Sponsorship	2,000.00
Total Donations	2,005.00
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	1,550.00
Institutional	600.00
Student	15.00
Total Membership	2,215.00
Royalties	562.79
Sales	75.00
Total Revenue	\$4,857.79
▼ Expenditures	
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	1,057.98
Office Supplies & Software	75.00
Other Business Expenses	17.05
PayPal Fees	137.76
Respite	729.60
▼ Scholarships	
AAM	750.00
ARC	175.00
Total Scholarships	925.00
Silosky Award	319.39
Total Expenditures	\$3,261.78
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,596.01
NET REVENUE	\$1,596.01

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Activity
January 1 - February 9, 2023

	TOTAL
▼ Revenue	
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	525.00
Institutional	225.00
Total Membership	800.00
Total Revenue	\$800.00
▼ Expenditures	
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	43.99
PayPal Fees	40.13
Total Expenditures	\$84.12
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$715.88
NET REVENUE	\$715.88

MEMBERSHIP**NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS**

Alabama**Sabra Gossett**

Collections Manager, Berman Museum

Arkansas**Amanda Cheatham**

Designer/Museum Registrar, Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

Jennifer Kick

Collections Manager, Rogers Historical Museum

Rachel Smith

Assistant Director/Curator of Collections, Rogers Historical Museum

Heather Marie Wells*

Digital Media Project Manager, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Florida**Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney**

Executive Director, Matheson History Museum

Elise V. LeCompte

Registrar & Coord. For Museum Health and Safety, Florida Museum of Natural History

Deborah Van Horn

Senior Curator, Disney Imagineering

Georgia**Amber Barnhardt**

Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

Aimee Brooks

Collections Manager, The Columbus Museum

Erica Hague

Collections Manager, Atlanta History Center

Tricia Miller

Head Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

Christy Sinksen

Associate Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

Kentucky**Laura Hendrickson**

Registrar & Collections Manager, The National Quilt Museum

Hannah Mahnken

Registrar, Kentucky Historical Society

North Carolina**Jordan Brother Cao**

Associate Registrar for Collections, North Carolina Museum of Art

Marian Inabinett

Curator of Collections, High Point Museum

Corinne Midgett

Registrar, High Point Museum

Ainsley Powell

Curator of Collections, City of Raleigh - Historic Resources and Museum Program

Linda Riddle

Collections Manager, Duke Lemur Center Museum of Natural History

South Carolina**Rebekah Cobb**

Registrar, Museum & Gallery at Bob Jones University

Chelsea Sigourney

Curator of Exhibits & Collections, South Carolina Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum

Tennessee**Michelle Lopez**

Collections Manager & Registrar, National Civil Rights Museum

West Virginia**John Spurlock**

Registrar/Assistant Curator, Huntington Museum of Art

New* / Renewing Institutional Members**Historic New Orleans Collection, LA**

Monica Cantin - Assistant Registrar

Susan Eberle - Assistant Registrar

Rachel Ford - Assistant Registrar

Jennifer Ghabrial - Head Registrar

Maclyn Hickey

Kelly Hines - Assistant Registrar

Collier County Museums, FL

Jennifer Guida, Curator of Collections

Elaina Gyure, Curator of Education

Thomas Lockyear, Museum Manager

Stephanie Long, Museum Manager

Lisa Marciano, Museum Manager

Rebecca Mazeroski, Museum Manager

Helen Midney, Museum Manager

MEMBERSHIP NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS

Culture & Heritage Museums Historical Center of York County, SC

Rylee Aquilanti

Jillian Bingham - Director of Collections

Carleigh Isbell - Archives Specialist

Jen LaMaster - Collections Specialist

Nancy Sambets - Director of Archives

New* / Renewing Associate Members**India Crawford**

Senior Director, Transport Consultants International

Jeanne Niccolls

Museum Collections Consultant

SERA NEWS

ALABAMA**Pamela Bransford***Registrar***Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

Pam Bransford and Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Registrar, are looking forward to the arrival of Emily Sears who will begin work in February as curatorial assistant. Emily has a BA in History and Anthropology from the University of North Dakota and a MA from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Pam and Sarah Elizabeth are eager to train Emily in Embark, creating numerous forms, condition reporting, shipping, and scheduling and keep her so busy she has little time for the curators. Emily's journey from Maddock, ND will take her from -10 to 70 degrees in a matter of two days.

Pam is also thrilled to announce the return of the loan of a men's ca. 1850s jacket once belonging to a Col. Wylie and abandoned since 1942. Pam's intern had tried to contact descendants whose addresses were unknown using Facebook messenger and finally one descendant checked his messages. The velvet jacket was in terrible shape but the lender's grandson was eager to receive it and signed and returned the receipt for the coat. Unfortunately, the descendant could not provide any clues about the identity of Col. Wylie.

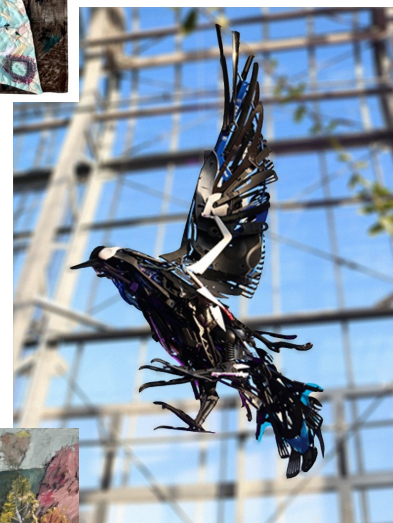


Sabra Gossett*Collections Manager***Berman Museum, Anniston Museums & Gardens**

Sabra Gossett reports that Berman Museum had its CAP (Collections Assessment for Preservation) site visit in January and eagerly awaits the coming report! Berman Museum is also partnering with a local performing arts center to display *Dragons*, an temporary exhibit displaying Asian dragon art and artifacts. Photos to come in Spring Newsletter!

**Rose Wood***Registrar***Birmingham Museum of Art**

Rose Wood is busy preparing for a site visit in April as part of reaccreditation. All extra effort is going toward looking good for this visit. The silver and glass deaccession project is finally coming to an end. Rose got Gallery Systems to design a custom donor proceeds report to save time with reconciliation.

**ARKANSAS****Amanda Cheatham***Registrar***Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College**

Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College opened its early spring exhibitions on Friday, February 3, 2023. On view now through March 17, 2023 are four exhibitions: "sustainABILITY", fiber artists from the US, Canada, and Australia, exploring solutions to improve sustainability; a lobby display of reclaimed plastic sculptures by Indiana artist Sayaka Ganz; "Land as a Living Room", Missouri artist Annie Helmericks-Louder's exhibition featuring 15 works in her Living Room series inspired by her relationship with the outdoors and the May Swenson poem, "Earth Your Dancing Place"; and the window gallery has reproductions of art work created by Ukrainian artist Olga Morozova and her students at the National University of Technology and Design in Kyiv, Ukraine.



Carolyn Reno*Collections Manager/Assistant Director***Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**

Reno and Loehndorf are working with guest curator, Samantha Sigmon, on the museum's next exhibit called Ozark Home, pulling three dimensional and paper artifacts under consideration for display. The exhibit will open in May and will be partnered with an art exhibit showing contemporary artwork interpreting the same theme. The museum recently acquired a hog scald tub from Carroll County, once used in the process of butchering hogs. It is on display in the Cooper Barn building on the museum grounds.

**Rachel Whitaker***Research Specialist***Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**

Emily Forcum, history major from the University of Arkansas is the intern for the Spring 2023 semester. She is currently working on metadata for the digitization department. Her primary task is adding descriptions of images in the Washington County Historical Society collection, which includes over 5000 images.

FLORIDA**Heather Culligan***Curator of Collections***Tampa Bay History Center**

Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections, reports that the Tampa Bay History Center is gearing up for a busy winter and spring. The award winning temporary exhibition, Cuban Pathways, is coming down after a year-long run and will now be offered as a traveling exhibition. The next temporary exhibition will be Etched Feathers: A History of the Printed Bird, opening March 4th. The exhibition features the work of artist John Costin, as well as antique prints of birds from his personal collection. Etched Feathers shares with visitors the process ornithologists and naturalists used to create stunning bird prints, and offers insight into John Costin's process for creating his contemporary bird etchings.

In addition, construction on the third floor galleries is set to begin in April. The new third floor will feature permanent exhibitions about Black history in the Tampa Bay area, Agriculture, and Transportation. While portions of the third floor will remain the same, this renovation is the first phase of a long-range plan to re-imagine the rest of the third floor and remaining floors in the museum in the coming years. Heather has been working closely with the exhibit designers and mount maker to prepare over 200 artifacts for display, and to develop a plan to remove objects currently on display on the third floor.

Meanwhile, two interns, Adrian and Lyndsey, from the University of South Florida are working with Heather to inventory a collection of architectural drawings donated in 2010. The collection contains hundreds of rolls, with each roll containing drawings from various buildings around Tampa. The dates of the drawings range from the 1920s to the 1970s...so far! Heather is hopeful that Adrian and Lyndsey can get through most, if not all, of the rolls by the end of the semester!

GEORGIA

Erica Hague

Collections Manager

Atlanta History Center

The Atlanta History Center has had a busy start to the new year! Using funds from the sale of transferrable development rights for our midtown campus we have been able to hire a part-time project registrar, Jen Glaze, and three GRAs from the University of West Georgia. They will be working on inventorying the museum collection and adding vital metadata and context to records in order to create web-ready records.

The second part of this project will be the photography of the materials in order to create digital surrogates of the museum objects that we can then upload onto our web portal. Our goal is 1,000 web-ready records, which will likely look like at least 5,000 items inventoried over the course of the year. Over the course of January, they have inventoried about 200 items during their training, and Jen has completed updated records for about 50 items. This will dramatically increase the number of materials that we have online and accessible from the museum collection.

This project is also increasing our knowledge of specific items, and expanding what we know about the people behind many of the items. This expanded research into the background of the items will feed into upcoming exhibit work in advance of our 100th anniversary year as an institution.

Christa McCay

Collections Manager

Marietta History Center, City of Marietta

Christa McCay started 2023, by being awarded the Georgia Museum Professional of the Year from the Georgia Association of Museums. She received her award at the GAM annual conference held in January. After the conference it was back at it with cataloging and the arrival of a long-awaited collection. The

Marietta History Center received a collection of documents, photographs and one dress belonging to Marietta native, Alice McLellan Birney. Mrs. Birney was a co-founder of the National Congress of Mothers, that later became known as the Parents-Teachers Association, PTA. This collection had been "lost" for years but resurfaced in a local children's museum. The collection has been transferred to the MHC for better preservation, exhibition, and research.

KENTUCKY

Sandy Staebell

Registrar/Collections Curator

The Kentucky Museum

Sandy Staebell, Registrar/Collections Curator, the Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, is deep into planning for the 2023 Abound Credit Union Celebration of the Arts exhibit. More than 200 Kentucky artists who are 18 years old or older living within a 65 mile radius of Bowling Green have entered this year's show. The art drop-off on Friday, February 17th from 9 am to 4 pm promises to be busy. This semester, the Kentucky Museum added the Introduction to Public History class to its roster of faculty requests for close study access to museum artifact collections. Working from a list of seventy objects, twenty-one students each selected an artifact to research and draft exhibit labels.



NORTH CAROLINA**Corinne Midgett***Registrar***High Point Museum**

The High Point Museum welcomed a spring intern, Devon Conder, in January. Devon is working with Corinne Midgett and Marian Inabinett to improve military history timelines on the museum's website. Devon will add more information and images of High Pointers and local events to help put wars and military conflicts in context for the museum's online users.

Speaking of interns, the museum is accepting applications through February 28 for its paid summer internship. This year's intern will continue work on the Highland Mill Village project by conducting oral history interviews and creating a walking tour of the Highland neighborhood. The internship is open to current undergraduate and graduate students and has a \$2,000 stipend. Find the application [here](#).

The museum's newest exhibit highlights 2021's Adopt-an-Artifact project: a 1953 soap box derby car built by Henry Clyde Williams, Jr., and sponsored by the High Point chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters. The project posed a challenge for the conservator. The sides of the car were made of pressboard, which had been eaten through by termites in several areas, leaving only a layer of firetruck-grade paint. Mesh cloth and a filler were used to consolidate the pressboard. Rounding out the exhibit are derby helmets, lots of photographs of racers with their cars, and interviews with Henry Williams and Harrison "Bud" Lyons, the first African American child to win the High Point derby.

**SOUTH CAROLINA****Uschi Jeffcoat***Curator of Education & Community Engagement***Florence County Museum**

The Florence County Museum is pleased to present two signature exhibitions about General Francis Marion in conjunction with South Carolina's recognition of the American Revolutionary War Sestercentennial. **LEGEND: Francis Marion in the Pee Dee** will open

February 14 in the museum's Special Exhibits Gallery. The exhibition focuses on important 19th century American artworks depicting Marion and his militia during the Revolutionary War, and how these artworks contributed to the legend that surrounded Marion in the early decades of American Independence. Artworks will include the famous painting *Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal*, by South Carolina artist John Blake White, on loan to the exhibition from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Also on loan to the exhibit is *Marion Crossing the Pedee*, by American painter William T. Ranney. This is the largest of Francis Marion history paintings created during the 19th century, and is on loan from the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas. "These paintings are the two greatest contributions to the Marion legend in American art," says museum curator Stephen Motte, "but they are not alone. The exhibition contains work from other significant artists who were interpreting the Marion story. What is unique about all of them together is that they are firmly set in the Pee Dee, linking the Marion legend directly to us." One of the most intriguing items on loan to the exhibition is a recently re-discovered painting from the private collection of the Oakland Club in Pineville, SC, just minutes away from Marion's final resting place in Berkeley County. "The representation of Marion and the symbolism are completely unique," says Motte. "In this part of the state we have become so familiar with Marion that we tend to think of him as a local hero, but when you look at the historical, literary, and artistic record it becomes obvious that from the 1820s to the 1880s, Marion was much larger on the cultural stage. He was a national icon because of his military activities here," Motte says. "Although paintings are a significant part of the exhibition, it is not just about art," Motte adds. The exhibition also incorporates artifacts recently recovered from archaeological sites associated with Marion's local military activities in the Pee Dee. These artifacts were recovered during archaeology conducted in the early

2000s by Francis Marion University's Trail Commission. This exhibition will be the first time these artifacts have been publicly exhibited. Francis Marion University's James Rogers Library is also contributing some significant documents to the exhibition, including Marion's original officer's commission papers.

Alyssa Magnone

Collections Manager

Aiken County Historical Museum

January is the slowest time for visitation at the Aiken County Historical Museum. So, for the past several years, we have gotten permission to close the museum for the first two weeks of the year. This has allowed staff to work on larger projects (mostly) uninterrupted, and has also allowed a team of volunteers the chance to deep clean the museum. One of the projects this year was to clean out the attic! The museum is housed in a 1930s mansion and the attic has been an area that is full of legacy issues. Much like attics in residential dwellings, this space was used to store anything and everything, including (unfortunately) quite a number of accessioned objects. We cleaned out old exhibit panels, pedestals, stanchions, creepy mannequins, musty boxes...you name it, it was up there. By the end of the project, we had filled two large dumpsters! Once the space



was clear, I completed a full inventory of the attic, which had not been done before, and I have since started trying to piece together what we would like to keep (and store properly) and what can be deaccessioned. There are definitely some collection legacy issues/ mysteries to solve as I complete this task, but we are excited for the progress we've made so far. Eventually, we would love to have the funds to finish the attic so we can use it as a clean storage space for our extra pedestals, holiday décor, and other miscellany. I don't have a good before and after picture of the attic space itself because it was hard to photograph, but here's a picture of the first dumpster! Happy New Year, everyone!

TENNESSEE

Elizabeth Le

Registrar

Hunter Museum of American Art

The Hunter Museum recently relocated a large sculpture in its collection - "Journey" by Wayne Trapp - from a busy downtown spot to



Sculpture Fields, a 33 acre public park in Chattanooga populated with sculptures from all over the world. Registrar, Elizabeth Le, reports that she and the Curatorial team deinstalled their winter exhibition right after the new year and opened two exhibits, one composed of works by Beauford Delaney and the other by Nellie Mae Rowe, and now are

starting a big rotation in their contemporary galleries. The Hunter welcomes John Reed, the new preparator, to the Curatorial team.



VIRGINIA

Cathy DeSilvey

Registrar/Curator

VMI Museum System, Virginia Military Institute

The Virginia Military Institute System is working to promote the museum field to cadets. We have partnered with the English, Rhetoric, and Humanities Department to have a museum internship count as a three-credit Field Work Course. Cadet interns are composing text labels for many works of art on display in Preston Library, which museum staff hope to turn into a virtual exhibit. Our Cadet Curatorial Assistant Carlie Shaffer, VMI Class of 2023, is a history major and emerging museum professional. She has worked closely with staff to curate, design, and install three exhibits throughout her final year at VMI.



It has been a successful way to "change things up" and attract cadets to visit the VMI Museum and see what Carlie has curated.

Lauren Kraut

Sr. Collections Manager & Registrar

National Sporting Library & Museum

There are a few weeks left of "Identity & Restraint: Art of the Dog Collar" at the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM). Since before the dawn of history, we have forged a strong bond with dogs—from hunting companions to sporting breeds as well as faithful pets. The dog collar is a symbol of the evolving relationship between humans and canines. The variety of styles that has developed over time—among them intimidating spiked metal rings, utilitarian pieces, elaborately jeweled works of art, and leather finery—show how we tamed, bred, claimed, and came to love our dogs. Identity & Restraint: Art of the Dog Collar is an innovative traveling exhibition developed in partnership between the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) and The American Kennel Club (AKC) Museum of the Dog in New York, NY. This unique show will present an array of dog collars from the NSLM's collection. The largest publicly

held collection of its kind, 187 collars were generously donated in 2015 by Dr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Greenan. Fine art from The AKC Museum of the Dog and American Kennel Club Collections will help develop an understanding of the collar as both art and object and how its design changed in relation to different dog breeds and their uses. "Identify & Restraint" will travel to the Museum of the Dog, opening April 5, and then to Pebble Hill Plantation in Thomasville, GA.



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