

**Society of American
Archivists Council Meeting
October 31 – Nov 1, 2023
Hybrid Meeting (Chicago, IL)**

**Annual Report: Nominating Committee
(Prepared by Committee Chair Louis Jones, CA, PhD)**

Nominations Committee Members

The 2022-2023 Nominations Committee was comprised of:

Steven Curly
Louis Jones, Chair
Jessica Neal
Brittany Newberry and
Rachel Winston

Of the above, Louis Jones, Jessica Neal, and Brittany Newberry were elected to this position by the SAA membership. At the same time, Steven Curly and Rachel Winston served as members from the SAA Council.

Slate

The Society of American Archivists 2022-2023 Nominating Committee has completed its work, following the Council's approved procedures. From August to November 2022, the Committee reviewed community nominations, assembled a list of nominated candidates, aggregated the candidates' qualifications, assessed the potential candidates, conducted outreach to potential candidates to verify their willingness to serve, and developed candidate questions.

The following SAA members were presented as the 2023 final slate of candidates:

Vice President/President-Elect: Lori Lindberg, Tomaro Taylor

Council (3-year term): Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Michele Ganz, Alison Clemens, Conor Casey, Ryan S. Flahive, Alex H. Poole

Nominating Committee: Krystal Tribbett, Courtney Dean, Sarah Quigley, Jonathan Pringle, April Anderson-Zorn, Krista Oldham

Diversity Statement

The Diversity Statement was presented on the candidates' pages following the Biographical Statement. The following prompt was utilized for the Diversity Statement for all candidates:

A diversity statement reflects on how one's identity and experience contribute to diversity; demonstrates awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues and how to frame and approach them; and identifies specific DEI strategies relevant to the position they seek. It is highly recommended that the Diversity Statement incorporates answers, but are not limited, to the following questions:

- What is your own definition of diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- How have your own personal, academic, and professional experiences and expertise prepared you to advocate for inclusive, equitable practices?
- Are you aware of your own implicit biases? How have you come to this realization, and how do you continue to grow as an advocate for DEI?
- How do you reflect DEI in your work? How will you model a trauma-informed and inclusive practice and mentor others who will work with you?
- What are your specific plans and strategies that will use the position you are applying for to advance DEI within your immediate SAA unit, SAA as a whole, and beyond the organization?

Candidate Statements

The Committee developed the following questions for the Candidate Statements, which were presented last on the candidates' pages:

Vice President/President-Elect: One of [SAA's four strategic goals](#) is meeting members' needs. With the evolving state of the world, the archives profession, and efforts to bridge communities of practice, how do you envision meeting members' needs in this new "normal"?

Council: As you look at the [SAA Strategic Plan, Work Plan on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEIA\)](#), and the [A*CENSUS II report](#), how do you envision the future of SAA, keeping in mind some of the challenges and/or opportunities the Society should prepare for?

Nominating Committee: SAA depends on volunteers to lead the organization and guide activity in support of the strategic plan. Given the demands of our current social environment and need for work-life balance, what keeps you committed to SAA? Why should one volunteer?

Process for Selecting Candidates

With the help of SAA staff member Felicia Owens, the Nominating Committee called for candidate nominations. SAA members were asked to submit potential candidates for all open positions via Google Forms. The call for nominations was publicized via SAA's channels and through various email listservs, including section listservs and regional archives organizations listservs.

The nominating committee also utilized previous years' lists of potential candidates to identify individuals to contact for consideration and reached out to previous and current position incumbents to suggest individuals.

For the selection of candidates for all offices, the Nominating Committee considered the following factors: BIPOC representation, LGBTQIA+ identification, an assortment of factors, including geographic location, range of professional positions, demonstrated commitment to DEIA issues, and a history of professional leadership and service.

Many documents helped to orient and guide the Committee as to what questions we should – or shouldn't – ask and the people we should approach. Some of those documents include,

- [Responsibilities of SAA Elected Positions and Guidelines for Selection of Candidates](#)
- [The history of questions posed previously](#)
- [The SAA Strategic Plan](#)
- [The SAA Work Plan on DEIA](#)

The Committee also widely shared a [Nominations Form](#), which facilitated the Committee's work.

Members of the Nominating Committee made use of their networks to ask people directly and/or colleagues that they thought might know other colleagues who would serve SAA well in the leadership positions that were up for election in 2023. The Committee also strongly urged SAA members, through listservs and other means, to self-nominate themselves for leadership positions in which they expressed a desire to serve.

Collectively, the Committee reviewed and seriously considered the qualifications of numerous prospective candidates gleaned from the nominations, self-nominations and the individuals within their respective networks and, from there, developed a list of the people who would comprise the slate of nominees that members considered before voting.

Election Results

SAA staff administered the election online using the Survey & Ballot Systems online balloting service. There was a participation rate of 18.88 percent (of the 5,382 eligible voters, 1,016 cast a ballot). This rate was down from 2022's rate of 20.03.

Election results were announced via the SAA website and social media, *In the Loop*, and *Archival Outlook*. The results are as follows:

Vice President/President-Elect (2023-2024/2024-2025): Tomaro Taylor

Council (2023-2026): Alison Clemens, Michelle Ganz, Selena Ortega-Chiolero

2023-2024 Nominating Committee: Courtney Dean, Sarah Quigley, Krystal Tribbett (chair)

Recommendations Moving Forward

- One new effort we utilized to seek interest for the leadership positions up for election in 2023 was to host a conversation lounge about the expectations of candidates considering these offices and positions. Our conversation lounge took place during the 2022 SAA annual conference. Unfortunately, very few prospective candidates attended this event. That said, it can't hurt to pursue a similar effort in subsequent years.
- We sought to host a virtual town hall event for the candidates for Vice President/President-Elect in the weeks leading up to the election. Still, we started late in seeking a mutually agreeable date and time for the candidates. Had we arranged for this event, we would have asked members to submit questions for the candidates before the event via a Google Form. We recommend that subsequent iterations of the Nominating Committee pursue similar events.
- One final matter to consider is to request that subsequent Nominations Committees submit their reports to Council and, most importantly, to their successors by the end of each May. That way, those iterations of the Nominating Committee will benefit from lessons learned from their predecessors.