

Archives Management Roundtable  
August 12, 2009  
Annual Meeting

Co-Chair Daria D'Arienzo called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. She introduced Ann Jenks the SAA Program Committee liaison to the roundtable, who spoke about program proposals for 2010. Next year's conference will be a joint conference with the Council of State Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators in Washington, DC Aug 10-15<sup>th</sup>. There is no program theme because three associations are involved. The committee is looking for proposals pertinent to all types archivists because this is a joint meeting. Please be sure to use the new proposal form found on the SAA website. The deadline for proposals is Sept 24, 2008. Roundtable can endorse 2 proposals by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

SAA is also seeking proposals for pre-conference workshops. Email Solveg DeSutter

Meeting participants introduced themselves and the evening's program followed.

The program "Less with Less: Today's Reality," was a collaboration among the Lone Arrangers' Roundtable, the Women's Roundtable and our own. Daria introduced speakers Rosemary Pleva Flynn [Univ of North Dakota] and Caryn Radick [Rutgers Univ] who presented the program. (Note: speaker's remarks and notes from the program will be posted on the AMRT website.)

In this current economic crisis, what can one do to survive? Citing Bruce Dearstyne's recent article "Facing the Economic Storm: Navigating RIM Programs thru Hard Times," as a very useful resource, Rosemary pointed out good basic leadership and managerial skills are needed in bad and good times. She discussed five strategies: steadfast leadership, letting your program's light shine, paying attention to people, using imaginative approaches, and capitalizing on new opportunities and your program's future. Caryn addressed the more personal issues, asking "What can we change? What do we have control over?" Look at the reality of your organization, not how it should be. Let people know when they are doing a good job; encourage people to take vacations to get a mental break. She mentioned the ALA booklet "Advocating in Tough Times" from their website and "Life Work Balance" from ACRL.

The business meeting continued with updates.

--Kate Rogge has agreed to serve another year as the Roundtable's web liaison. SAA will be updating the website shortly. The web liaison's report is attached.

--The Archives Management Roundtable and Records Management Roundtable's Joint Working Group on Diversity had a session proposal accepted to present their research from the last year. The Joint Working Group's report is attached.

-- Council Representative, Lee Miller, reported on Monday's Council meeting. Council voted to give roundtables flexibility in conducting their business. They may choose their leaders by their method of choice, for terms and a structure of their choosing [steering committee, or chairs or whatever works] whichever supports the ability of people to meet. Daria thanked Lee for his support of our Roundtable during his tenure since his term ends with this meeting. Daria welcomed and introduced Brenda Lawson as our new Liaison.

--Mott Linn [Clark Univ, MA] supervised elections. Daria and Lois were reelected for another year as co-chairs.

--Discussion ensued relative to members thoughts on what the Roundtable should do and possible program ideas for next year. Suggestions included:  
----Making Hard Choices- a discussion of strategies/issues to consider when you have to cut/change what you do, reduce, balance resources.  
----How to make a cultural shift – for example, the National Park Archives is changing its focus from museum to archival, their storage facility is consolidating or moving.  
----Appraisal/reappraisal and the issue of deaccessioning: a discussion of shifting collections management practices and practical steps on how to do this.  
----How do people judge archives using non-archival standards? Upper level administrators don't understand archives. A question of ethics for the individual vs the profession? In museums ethics exist for the institution.  
----How to do you make management decisions when times are good?

24 people attended the Roundtable.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Hamill, AMRT co-chair