**Society of American Archivists**

**Name of Section: Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable (LAGAR)**

**Date of report: 7 October 2014**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

15 August 2014, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Marriot Wardman Park; [Salon] Washington 5; Washington, D.C.

**Officers:**

Marika Cifor, 2013-2015 , female self-identified co-chair.

Daniel DiLandro, 2014-2016, incoming male self-identified co-chair.

(Michael Oliveira, 2012-2014, out-going male self-identified co-chair).

**Steering Committee:**

Marika Cifor (Co-Chair) <[marikacifor@gmail.com](mailto:marikacifor@gmail.com))  
Daniel DiLandro (Co-Chair) <[dilanddm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:dilanddm@buffalostate.edu)>

Pamela Sue Hackbart-Dean (SAA Council Liaison) <phdean@lib.siu.edu>

James Cartwright <[jasfcartw@gmail.com](mailto:jasfcartw@gmail.com)>

Doris Malkmus <[djm51@psu.edu](mailto:djm51@psu.edu)>

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**Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 2014:**

Number of attendees: 49

The LAGAR annual meeting began at 4:09pm EDT, 15 August 2014, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

**Old Business:**

Michael Oliveira, out-going male self-identified co-chair welcomed the assembly and opened the LAGAR annual meeting at 4:09pm, introducing several business-related motions: Bylaws-oriented revisions comprised eliminating the Newsletter Committee (see LAGAR By-Laws, Art. 4; para. D2) and the need for electronic voting (see Art. 5; para. C). Both motions were approved by present membership; and the Steering Committee will continue to codify these amendments with SAA Council. In addition to electronic voting, it was also agreed to increase the use of the listserv for business-related communication.

The 2013 LAGAR meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

**New Business:**

Oliveira noted that SAA was looking at Affinity Groups and examining the structure of the various Sections and Roundtables. While there exists no threat to the continuation of LAGAR, some flattening of the committee structure may take place. It was discussed and decided that LAGAR ought to be pro-active in increasing collaborations with other like groups; and this initiative will begin with the LAGAR Steering Committee seeking input from the LAGAR membership.

Oliveira asked if we should continue LAGAR as an SAA-sponsored Roundtable. Jim Cartwright spoke eloquently in support of the importance of the continued existence and presence of our Roundtable, based on continuing SAA support, to the enthusiastic response of the assembly. A motion was presented to continue LAGAR, and it passed with unanimous support.

Several motions related to the internal structure of LAGAR followed:

1. A motion was presented to end the LAGAR blog. Marika Cifor clarified that this in no way meant the end of sharing germane information via our listserv, but that the blog itself need not be updated. The motion was passed.
2. The Queer History Social Media (see: http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/queer-history-social-media-project) project was examined. Over the years, LAGAR has encountered some difficulty in maintaining this initiative within Wikipedia. A motion was introduced to replace the approach of developing specific standards and authorities vis-à-vis individual wiki-pages with developing guidelines so that LAGAR members may edit and maintain pages according to Wikipedia’s standards. The motion passed. Additionally, there was discussion that a workshop on this new initiative and/or an “Editathon” may take place at SAA 2015.
3. The future for the Information for Community Archives (see: http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/information-for-community-archives) was examined. Links on this site are sometimes broken, and there was a need for constant revision and updating of the site, its links, and details. Further actions on this issue were tabled; Cifor and Cartwright will examine the structure of the site and the project.
4. The “Lavender Legacies” (<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide>) resource was similarly examined. Like other web-based initiatives, “Legacies” requires immense amounts of data to be collected and updated to the site. Oliveira noted that the American Library Association utilizes a (non-searchable) Google Map for LGBTQIA+ repositories, and will investigate how the ALA is utilizing this resource. It was made clear that the “Legacies” page is archived; and discuss ensued to verify that the information was available even in its archived form. It was suggested to link the archived data from the LAGAR website, noting that the information was current as of a particular date. A motion was introduced to collapse the pages and simplify the link. The motion passed.
5. Future discussions asked about outreach to institutions and individuals who cannot attend the annual meeting or who may be unable to fully embrace the principles of LAGAR. The Steering Committee will work to create an all-inclusive platform and Roundtable for all members and potential members.

The election of the new male self-identified co-chair ensued, with Dan DiLandro being elected with majority approval.

Marika Cifor introduced herself as the current female self-identified co-chair and asked, What is the future of LAGAR? Where do we want to go? Referencing the previous discussion about the “Lavender Legacies” as well as the structure of the ALA’s LGBT Roundtable, she solicited the assembly for thoughts. The membership will work this year to concretize the direction and initiatives of LAGAR for the future.

**Other Business:**

Cartwright asked after the progress of the resolution to honor Susan von Salis, one of the leading forces behind the development of the LAGAR Roundtable. The resolution was not received by all members, so Cartwright would resend it. (Secretary’s note: The resolution was resent, and Co-chair DiLandro is working with SAA Council to pass this resolution through SAA channels.)

**Speakers:**

The impressive array of LAGAR speakers began with Megan Springate, speaking on the National Park Service’s very recent initiative to include LGBTQIA+ sites on their registers. Through her graduate work, Springate identified several ways to increase and explore the diversity of the American heritage experience regarding “Q” individuals and sites. She noted that we must encourage NPS-affiliated areas to promote and research their GLBT-centric locales; increase the number of LGBTQIA+ properties in the National Register of Historical Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program; and the creation of guidelines to aid potential registrants. Springate specifically cited the NPS’ Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Heritage Initiative for information and helpful links at <http://www.nps.gov/heritageinitiatives/lgbthistory/>.

Drew Bourn, speaking on his work with the Department of the Interior, further noted the importance of the Landmark and Historic Places statuses. Ironically, he noted that some current owners of specific properties may not be amenable to local initiatives to promote the registration of these buildings or neighborhoods to NPS Q-themed databases. He highlighted the essentiality of increasing the number of and awareness regarding GLBTQIA-based historic venues on the Department of the Interior’s rolls, and expressed the government’s desire to highlight “queer” content in their public programming, building databases and other resources to codify and disseminate information on such sites. Bourn asked if we fellow archivists would circulate details on the NPS’ LBGT+ initiatives.

Carl Foote, independent web developer, followed, speaking on his experiences using the (free, open source) Omeka content management/publishing system for collection-based research. Foote described the searching, indexing, and links possible within Omeka, and explained the fluid formats and formatting as well as the functionality of controlled vocabularies and other features. He especially focused on his work with an Omeka-based site that detailed the 1973 New Orleans’ Upstairs Lounge fire (<http://exhibits.lgbtran.org/exhibits/show/upstairs-lounge-fire>). (Secretary’s note: The Upstairs Lounge Fire also figured prominently in our 2013 speaker’s chronicle of gay New Orleans.) Foote asked us to think about presentation and what we as educators want to focus attention on. This speaker emphasized that Omeka may be an excellent choice for smaller institutions with moderate to little internal expertise but some internal technical support.

The final speaker, Sarah Prager, detailed her creation of the “Quist” LGBTQ history mobile app (http://www.quistapp.com/). Already with more than 800 “moments” (as of the LAGAR meeting) in the “quistory” (that is, “Q” history) of world-wide events, Prager noted that the content is growing exponentially, often with crowd-sourced input. She noted that this app makes quistory more accessible for teaching purposes, but can also help LGBTQIA+ youths in environments where they may not receive access to Q histories or where they may simply feel unsafe. Indeed the name “Quist,” explained Prager, is a rather generic title – there is no mention of “queer” or “gay” -- that should attract no unwanted notice on students’ mobile devices…. This crowdfunded mobile app continues to expand; and LAGAR members were encouraged to submit GLBT+ “moments” for inclusion into this teaching tool.

The Q&A period followed, during which Prager reemphasized that Quist specifically avoided “self-identifying” terms for privacy issues. Further, the assembly learned that there exist National Park Service webinars to further explain their LBGT+ initiatives and, it was hoped, to focus on topics such as available grants, specific theme studies, owner consent, etc. Consultants must complete a programmed course, but the webinars are freely available to any interested individuals or applicants (<http://www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/webinars.htm>). Other facts came to light, such as how a simple majority of owners in historic areas must agree to apply and become a National Heritage Area; how gentrification can sometimes paradoxically and adversely affect community bias again registering; how protections as landmarks can trigger local ordinances; etc.

The Lesbian and Gay Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists adjourned its annual meeting at 5:32pm EDT, 15 August 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

[signed,]

Daniel DiLandro

College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

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