Society of American Archivists

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

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

21 August 2015, 4:00pm-5:30pm

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio

Officers:

Marika Cifor, 2013-2015, out-going female self-identified co-chair. Daniel DiLandro, 2014-2016, male self-identified co-chair.

(Lisa Callahan, 2015-2017, incoming female 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) Lisa Calahan (Co-Chair elect) [lisajcalahan@gmail.com](mailto:lisajcalahan@gmail.com)

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

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Michael Oliveria <[michaelc.oliveira@gmail.com>](mailto:michaelc.oliveira@gmail.com) Deborah Richards <[richards@mtholyoke.edu>](mailto:richards@mtholyoke.edu) Franklin Robinson <[RobinsonF@si.edu>](mailto:RobinsonF@si.edu)

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Bonita (Bonnie) Weddle ([blweddle@yahoo.com)](mailto:blweddle@yahoo.com)

Minutes of the Annual Meeting:

Number of attendees: 27

The LAGAR annual meeting began at 4:30pm EDT, 21 August 2014, at the LGBT Community

Center of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio

Old Business:

Marika Cifor, out-going female self-identified co-chair and Daniel Dilandro, male co-chair, welcomed the assembly and opened the LAGAR annual meeting at 4:30pm.

It was moved, and seconded, to approve the 2014 LAGAR meeting minutes with no revisions. Bonnie Weddle updated the assembly on LAGAR social media. She and Deborah Richards have

been active in maintaining the LAGAR Facebook page, posting, noting that what is posted is

simply for sharing and not an endorsement by LAGAR. She asked that folks “like” the page and contribute.

Marika and Daniel reported on the Diversity Committee, and stressed that getting our message out and working to have more of a presence on the committee is an on-going goal.

Bylaws: the amendment to the bylaws to allow electronic voting that was passed in 2014 was approved by SAA Council. The issue of the use/definition of more inclusive terminology was discussed at length and, coming to no conclusion, it was suggested that perhaps this discussion continue through the listserv so that more common ground can be found with regard to self- identification.

Website: The “Lavender Legacies” ([http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-](http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide) [roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide)](http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide) resource was again a topic of discussion. The update that took place a few years ago was a concerted amount of effort. The question as to the necessity of LL with ArchiveGrid and other resources was discussed. Johanna Russ has graciously offered to update the site, if material is sent to her, but otherwise the site will remain largely static.

The Queer History Social Media (see: <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-> archives-roundtable-lagar/queer-history-social-media-project) project was discussed. In 2014, 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 but there was no

discussion of this at this time. Additionally, there had been discussion that a workshop on this new

initiative and/or an “Editathon” may take place at SAA 2015, which did not take place.

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 discussed. Links on this site are broken and it will be taken down.

An initiative/idea to create a LGBTQIA publications’ on-line resource was discussed. It

was put to the assembled membership, “Do you want to do this?” and anyone that may be interested in taking this on should step forward. Questions about what to include -- on-line publications, archival collections, who has digitized what materials -- ensued since there would be some duplication across repositories but also a need to find out who has done what would aid in filling gaps for the potential researcher.

Resolution to honor Susan von Salis, one of the leading forces behind the development of the LAGAR Roundtable: The resolution was approved by Council with suggestions to revise the wording to include Salis’ contributions to the archival field. Dan is working on this.

New Business:

Marika Cifor spoke as the current out-going female self-identified co-chair and thanked both Dan and prior co-chair Michael Oliveria for their assistance and mentoring while she has been in office. Lisa Callahan, the new female identified co-chair was introduced. She had been elected in the first on-line LAGAR election; 62 respondents participated in the election.

SAA is still considering Affinity Groups and examining the structure of the various Sections and

Roundtables. This discussion continues SAA-wide.

Other Business:

Speakers:

The full slate of LAGAR speakers began with Ryan Zymler, Community Relations Coordinator of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio. He welcomed the assembly and gave a brief history of the Center and its mission. The Center is reported to be the third oldest LGBT center in the United States and has been located in the blossoming arts district since 2000. The Center serves the northern part of Ohio and served all ages. Recent initiatives and

projects include, Lakewood, an LGBT senior housing project and A Place for Me that is striving to address LGBT homelessness. The Center will be purchasing a permanent home soon.

The next speaker was Jakob VanLammeren from the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Jakob is the only professional archivist on staff. The archives and museum was founded in 1991

by Chuck Renslow who had opened The Gold Coast (leather bar in Chicago) in 1958. Ninety-five percent of the funding for the archives and museum comes from the leather community. A recent project with StoryCorps resulted in the collection of many oral histories about the Chicago leather community.

The third speaker was Margaret Burzysnki-Bays from the Western Reserve Historical Society. They are the oldest cultural institution in Cleveland, having been founded in 1867. They are a many-faceted organization and in 1991 began collecting LGBT community history. They are the holder of the Center’s historical records and actively pursue collecting from Cleveland’s LGBT community. They have an on-line catalogue and are on ArchiveGrid.

The final speaker, Sarah Prager, updated the assembly on “Quist” LGBTQ history mobile app [(http://www.quistapp.com/](http://www.quistapp.com/)). Nine hundred historical events are accessible through the free app, and 600+ mapped locations. They are partnering with the National Park Service through the NPS LGBT history initiative. The app has been embraced by the LGBT community, young and old, and has increased the appreciation and perceived need to preserve and locate LGBT history, sites and archives.

The Lesbian and Gay Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists adjourned its annual meeting at 6:15pm EDT, 21 August 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed virtually//

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., secretary pro-tem

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