

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

Group Name: Annual Report (Prepared by:)

Year: 2024- 2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

Beaudry Allen	Chair
Erin Louthen	Immediate Past Chair
Gailyn Bopp	Co-Chair
Shoshana Traum	Secretary
Denise Gallo	Member-at-Large
Rhiannon Allen-Roberts	Member-at-Large
Trevor Alvord	Member-at-Large
Thomas McCullough	Newsletter

Council Liaison: 2024-2025 Michelle Ganz

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

This year, the Models and Resources Committee (MRC) had the following sessions have been presented:

- Introduction to Deaccessioning
- Introduction to ArchivesSpace
- Archival Description for Beginners (USA)
- Archival Description for Beginners (Canada)
- Email Preservation

Publishing annually *The Archival Spirit* newsletter.

Ongoing:

MRC have planned a webinar on Introduction to Digital Preservation and Two Tools.

New:

Special Elections for Chair position as Gailyn Bopp stepped down.

Create a new panel discussion event on Grant-writing/donor relations for religious organizations is on the agenda for 2025-2026.

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to **one** or more of the four main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

N/A

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

To date, 15 *Lunch and Learn* webinars have been approved by Academy of Certified Archivists for recertification credits.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Likewise 15 *Lunch and Learn* webinars and active event attendees has made the section and the sub-set of religious archives active in communication and networking with one another.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

Each Annual Meeting is an open forum to ask what membership wants. In addition, the section committee relies on the 2023-2024 survey of religious archivists to see where the section can continue to assist archives and archivists in religious settings.

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: 23

Link to meeting minutes: n/a

Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

- Review of the year
- Updates from MRC with events of the year
- Call for Newsletter submissions
- Updates from Members on their projects
 - o Decision on Ai tools for small organizations
- Open Forum on what has been happening with government changes and how the section can help it's members. Ideas proposed:

- more dialogue in events
- seek donor/development officers to give a talk

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

From an events standpoint, our section is very active with workshops, *Lunch and Learns*, etc. with great attendance. Though the section has great difficulty recruiting members for leadership positions. There is much engagement in the listserv and online events.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

- At the beginning of the year August 2024, the section committee was faced with a few vocal members who disavowed SAA's DEI work and the 2023 plenary speech. This was difficult to navigate how to address given the opaqueness of how SAA initially addressed the issue.
- Elections and special elections seem to be especially difficult to navigate as SAA leaders and liaison communications as well as the by-laws never quite matched with each other. The section committee often felt confused on who to talk to and what were next steps.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

- More transparency from Council and requirement Council liaisons attend the section meetings.
- More direct assistance with elections.

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?