

MRC *Courier*

The Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee

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Winter 2012

BE PREPARED!!

▪ *Submitted by Louise Pfotenhauer* ▪

I realized the other day that September was National Preparedness Month. How timely I thought as I listened to a segment about it on Wisconsin Public Radio on my way to work. Timely because our Brown County Federation of History Museums (BCFHM) held a workshop on disaster response just the week before, the main message of which was how important it is to be prepared.

BCFHM consists of eight organizations in the Green Bay area: the Green Bay Area Research Center, De Pere Historical Society, Heritage Hill State Park, Neville Public Museum, Brown County Historical Society, the Green Bay & De Pere Antiquarian Society, National Railroad Museum and Oneida Nation Museum. Representatives from



Above: Maggie and Jessica work to organize "recovered" objects
Left: Recovering textiles



each of the organizations, as well as a representative from the Pulaski Historical Society and the Cofrin Library at University of Wisconsin—Green Bay attended the disaster response workshop presented by Elisa Redman, Director of Preservation Services at the Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) located in Minneapolis. Funding for the workshop was provided by a grant from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and the event was graciously hosted by the National Railroad Museum.

Good preparation and trained staff can maximize the

number of lives and artifacts saved – in that order. With that as a premise, the workshop mixed classroom time, teaching us how to prioritize the steps taken during the first crucial forty eight hours after a disaster, and hands-on training in conducting a long term salvage operation.

The hands-on training was held outside at the National Railroad Museum where objects donated to MACC specifically for training purposes were immersed in wading pools filled with water and allowed to sit overnight. The next day we split up into groups, devised a mythical scenario for our disaster, prioritized our response and started salvaging. Selection priorities were based first on the historical significance of the objects and then on their material composition. The process is methodical according to object conservators; some materials fair better than others when they are wet and water is the single most common element in a disaster.



Jean, Deb, Maggie and Jessica—Learning, laughing and enjoying a “disaster”

training will be cross-training at each of the member institutions.

The ultimate goal of these disaster related events is to have a coordinated, professional plan in place at each of our institutions for handling a disaster and to have a significant quantity of trained personnel who would be able to lend expertise should a disaster strike an institution. We are all short staffed these days, so no single institution has enough personnel to handle a disaster alone. By coming together as a group, we can ensure the safety of our visitors and staff and the continued security of our shared heritage. And it does not end there – we will definitely share what we have learned with other regional historical organizations and help them be prepared as well.

It seems wrong to say that we had fun; disasters are very serious business after all. But since it was only a mock disaster, I guess it is OK. We really did have fun; learning together, laughing at our mistakes and rewarding each other for our accomplishments. I am glad to know that there are trained professionals among my BCFHM colleagues who will help out if needed and I am glad to know that September is National Preparedness Month.



More of the recovered objects

As a group, this was our second disaster related workshop. In March, I presented the first part of a three-part training plan – all parts covered by the same generous grant. This one day session on writing an emergency response plan covered what should be included in a plan, how to assess a disaster and how to choose a response team. The final phase for BCFHM disaster

FROM THE CHAIR

▪ *Submitted by Rachel Vargas* ▪

It is a New Year! And now that everyone is back at their desks after the holidays, we have a lot to look forward to in the Registrar's world.

As I'm sure most of you know, AAM (formerly American Association of Museums, now the American Alliance of Museums) went through rebranding last year and we should have more news shortly as to how that is going to affect our parent group, The Registrars Committee of AAM. Please remember that both AAM and the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) have websites with links to the national and regional Registrar's Committees, along with many useful links pertaining to various projects we are always working on: collections management policies, doorstep donations and deaccessioning, to name a few recent topics. AAM also has a constant stream of webinars available for those of you who can't always get to the regional or national meetings.

We are starting a membership drive, headed up by Craig Hadley, and we hope that you will renew your dues (so modestly priced!) and encourage other registrars and collections managers that you are in contact with to do the same. Last year, a contest was run to see which state representative could increase their state membership roster by the largest percentage and the winner was Lana Newhart-Kellen from Indiana who increased their membership by 450%. Kudos!!

We have had a few changes with the state representatives, and I hope by the next issue that we will be able to report that we have a full slate! Jennifer Kovarik, from the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah has stepped down and Teri Van Dorston, at the Veterans Memorial Commission, Cedar Rapids (T.VanDorston@cedar-rapids.org) will be taking her place at the Iowa representative. We are also pleased to announce that Anna Cannizzo, Curator of Collections at the Denison Museum, will be taking on state rep duties for Ohio. Craig Hadley has also created an application for a MRC Student Position, which should make room for a new voice and widen our membership by including students working in the field of collection management.

Annual Meetings are coming up and now is the time to apply to your directors for funding! The 2013 AAM Annual Meeting & Museum Expo will be held in Baltimore from May 19–22. The 2013 AMM Conference will be held July 14–17, 2013 Madison, Wisconsin. Ann Sinfield, our former chair, is pulling together session for the Madison meetings. Please be on the lookout for information coming soon regarding applying for the travel stipends available for attendance at both of the conferences.

For those of you on Facebook, don't forget that the MRC has a group listing. Join, add to the conversation and post some fun pictures!

SPEAKING OF CONFERENCES... IT IS NOT TOO LATE!!!

A great opportunity has presented itself for the AMM Conference in July. MRC has been offered the chance to propose additional sessions for the July conference in Madison. The proposals will need to be completely developed and submitted by the end of January. Possible topics include:

- preparing collections for construction
- managing digital images
- new developments in copyright
- visible storage

(asinfield@chazen.wisc.edu) if you are interested in developing any of these topics into sessions or if you have other ideas.

Ann is working on a session about selecting a collections management system. Jennifer Noffze (jenn@childrensmuseum.org) is developing a session on managing digital images and if anyone would like to join her, that would be great!

Please contact Ann Sinfield at the Chazen Museum of Art

FROM THE EDITOR

▪ *Submitted by Tamara Lange* ▪

Every year around this time, I go into what is commonly referred to at our house as routine frenzy—a strange combination of cleaning, organizing, purging, and general attempts to get into some sort of “normalcy.” I can give a thousand philosophical reasons why it might be. Perhaps the influence of the whole New Year’s Resolution? (Keep in mind, I am not a resolution person... but that is another philosophical discussion!) Maybe it is a result of the crazy schedule of November and December that often results in me not knowing what day of the week it is. Could it be an aftereffect of copious amounts of glitter - a major part of my life during our holiday exhibit, a collection manager (and custodians) nightmare and a reality of life well beyond the end of our *Holiday Memories* exhibit. Or is it just a natural transition, much like the process of having to remember to put 2013 on all the



A winter walk at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center — Routine walk in a change of venue

paperwork?

Whatever the case may be, it is a reminder for me that I both love routine and love change. There is a place in the world for both and even more so, in the life of a museum collection professional. So you might notice a little of both in this issue of the *Courier*. A few changes to layout, a new membership form and payment method, yet tons of interesting information and news from colleagues across the Midwest.

As we move into 2013, I hope each and every member of MRC will consider submitting just one tidbit of information over the course of the year. If it is something you regularly do, consider it part of the routine. If not, consider it a small change for the betterment of the world! Either way, it is a win-win situation!

In the mean time, best wishes for a wonderful 2013!

RENEW NOW FOR 2013!!

We are happy to report there is a streamlined the MRC membership process for 2013. Your MRC renewal can be done in a few simple steps:

1. You will receive the new electronic membership form from your State Representative. Simply fill out the fields in the PDF file and save the document. E-mail the completed form to Jennifer Noffze, MRC Treasurer, at: jenn@childrensmuseum.org
2. Pay your dues online with PayPal (if you do not have an account, it is free to sign up and takes only minutes). From PayPal’s home page, click on “Send Money” and type jenn@childrensmuseum.org in the recipient field. You can pay from a bank account or credit card and you will receive a receipt when the payment is processed.

We hope the new system will save everyone time, save trees and postage and simplify the membership process. Please feel free to share the membership form with colleagues via e-mail—it is our hope that the new system will make it even easier for us to recruit new members.

Finally, if you prefer mailing a check and completing a form by hand, you can still print the form (available at the end of the newsletter), make a check payable to MRC and mail it to the address noted on the membership form. If you have any questions at all about the new membership process, please feel free to contact Craig Hadley (craighadley@depauw.edu) or Jennifer Noffze (jenn@childrensmuseum.org).

PLANNING — A MACC WORKSHOP

▪ *Submitted by Cindy Opitz* ▪

We all have at least a vague notion of what our collection needs are and maybe even how we might theoretically go about addressing them. But how many of us actually have a formal preservation plan? In October 2011, the MRC generously sponsored my attendance at a Midwest Art Conservation Center workshop on Long-range Preservation Planning. The presenter was Elisa Redman, and she broke down the daunting task of preservation planning into manageable steps while sharing some excellent advice.

Ms. Redman reminded us that the writing process can take months or even a year to complete (I'm still working on ours!), but there are steps to take beforehand, including getting a mandate from upper-level administrators, building a cross-departmental support team that understands the importance of collections, gathering existing support documents (mission, strategic plan, goals, policies) and understanding federal funding for preservation projects. She also emphasized the need to conduct a General Preservation Needs Assessment Survey (such as the IMLS-funded

CAP grant) and have a long-range preservation plan in place before pursuing other types of grant-funded projects, such as storage upgrades, surveys of individual collections, treatment projects and building projects. The chances of getting funding for the latter significantly decrease if the first steps of a general assessment and long-range plan are not already done.

Participants worked through worksheets that helped us to think in terms of short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals, and to assess goals in terms of low-to-high feasibility and low-to-high impact. The workshop was really informative and a great experience. I am grateful for MRC's financial support of my attendance. I highly recommend the workshop to those who have the opportunity to attend one. For those unable to attend or who might want to take a look at various aspects of what the process involves, the workshop materials were partly based on Sherelyn Ogden's book *Preservation Planning: Guidelines for Writing a Long-Range Plan*—which the MACC presenter also highly recommended.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS— *LOCALLY GROWN, COMMUNITY CREATED*

Join fellow Midwesterners in a city surrounded by lakes for the 2013 AMM Annual Conference. *Locally Grown, Community Created* is scheduled for July 14-17, 2013 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin.

This 2013 conference will feature outstanding sessions and speakers as well as exciting evening events and tours. Expect a special track of sessions focusing specifically on fundraising (in collaboration with the local chapter of the Asso-

ciation of Fundraising Professionals), along with programs for all types and sizes of museums. The Cha-



*Image courtesy of the
Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau*

zen Museum of Art will host a kick-off reception and there will be opportunities to see the the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the Madison Children's Museum, the Wisconsin History Museum, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Illinois

▪ Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer ▪

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

Exhibitions:

Of Gods and Glamour: The Mary and Michael Jaharis Galleries of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Art
Gallery reopening November 11, 2012

The past returns as over 550 works from 4,000 years of artistic achievement in the Mediterranean region come together in the beautiful new Mary and Michael Jaharis Galleries of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Art. With over 150 exceptional loans from private collections and public institutions around the world complementing the museum's own rich holdings, this inaugural display allows the Art Institute to present for the first time the origins and early development of Western art from the dawn of the third millennium B.C. to the time of the great Byzantine Empire.

First Division Museum at Cantigny, Wheaton

Events:

Open House

Saturday, February 16, 2013

On Saturday, February 16, the First Division Museum at Cantigny will host an open house from 10 am – 4 pm. Guests are invited to tour the collections department and see hundreds of artifacts rarely shown to the public. Unique documents will be on display in the McCormick Research Center. There will even be a

World War II-era dog tag machine in action. This family-friendly event will also feature guided tours and hands-on education activities for all ages.

Jane Addams-Hull House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago

Exhibitions:

Unfinished Business: 21st Century Home Economics
Now through November 2013

The opening of an interactive exhibition that demonstrates Jane Addams' legacy for domestic life and public health marked Jane Addams Day, December 10, 2012, at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Through public workshops, performances, conversations and hands-on activities, the exhibition describes the first-generation home economists of the early 20th century — equal rights advocates, chemists, public health advocates and labor reformers who sought to redefine domesticity. Their goals were healthy food for all, fair labor practices for domestic work, ethical consumerism and community child-care solutions.

Unfinished Business: 21st Century Home Economics consists of four sections: Food and Hunger, Domestic Labor, Child Care, and Craft and Conscientious Consumption. For more information on related events, visit the museum website at http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/hull_house.html

Iowa

▪ Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik ▪

News:

I am sorry to report that I need to give up my Iowa state rep position in MRC. My museum has undertaken an ambitious exhibition schedule the next couple of years with the possibility of adding traveling exhibitions to the list. Now I am curating and facilitating exhibitions in addition to all of my other collections duties. Exhibits are fun, but time consuming! Even though the state rep duties are minimal, I can never seem to make the time to set up the work-

shops and networking opportunities I would like and think would really benefit registrars and collections professionals in the state. I wish I could be more active in the organization, but wishing won't get the job done!

Good news, though! Teri Van Dorston, formerly the Iowa rep for MRC will be coming back on board! Her contact information is T.VanDorston@cedar-rapids.org.

I love MRC, especially the opportunities to network with colleagues in the region. Thanks for the chance to serve the organization!

Michigan

▪ Submitted by Robin Goodman ▪

Flint Institute of Arts, Flint

Exhibitions:

Explorations in Space

Now through September 1, 2013

FIA grounds & Hurand Sculpture Courtyard

For more than 30 years, Michael Dunbar has been creating monumental abstract sculptures of steel and bronze. The meticulously created works with their arcs, planes and beams, resemble giant gears and equipment with gleaming surfaces and precise attention to detail. The sculptures have the appearance of machines waiting to be set in motion. Six of these large works by Dunbar can be seen on the FIA grounds through the summer of 2013.

Additionally, an exhibition of 10 smaller sculptures by Dunbar were installed in the FIA Contemporary Gallery. These smaller works, created by Dunbar as studies for larger sculptures, were on display from November 11 to December 16, 2012.



Michael Dunbar,
American, born 1947.
Orbits of Isaac, bronze, 2011, 138 x 144 x 168 inches,
Courtesy of the artist.
Photo: Flint Institute of Arts.

Winfred Rembert: Amazing Grace

January 27, 2013 through March 17, 2013

Hodge Gallery

This exhibition features the work of Winfred Rembert, a self-taught artist who documents his life and the tumultuous moments of the American Civil Rights Movement. Using hand-tooled leather that is



Winfred Rembert
American, born 1945.
Cotton Field Rows, dye on carved and tooled leather, 2009,
38 x 30 inches.
Collection of Jan and Warren Adelson.

stretched, stained and etched Rembert constructs scenes from the rural Southern town where he was born and raised and animates them with characters working the fields, attending church meetings and hanging out in pool halls, jazz clubs and cafés. His woks are alive with figures and color and dense with pattern. Some are more somber, conveying the strife and grief of Rembert's own experiences of a near lynching and prison life.

Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Both Iowa and Ohio have new state representatives! Please join us in welcoming Teri Van Dorston and Anna Cannizzo! Be sure to send them all your news and events for the next *MRC Courier* issue!!

Mackinac State Historic Parks, Makinaw City News:

Progress on the South Southwest Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac is moving along with the wood roof currently being installed. The interior has been sealed so work on the theater and exhibit space will be the next priority.

One of the features integrated into the exhibit space is an original French fireplace. It was covered over by a sand dune and preserved until excavated in the 1960's. It is the only original above ground feature remaining of Fort Michilimackinac.



South Southwest Rowhouse, Colonial Michilimackinac



Original fireplace

In conjunction with the new row house opening this spring, Dr. Keith Widder, former park Curator of History, will be releasing a new book entitled *Beyond Pontiac's Shadow: Michilimackinac and the Anglo-Indian War of 1763*.

Over the winter, two interns, Helen Craig and May Oyler, are helping with archival projects in the Petersen Center Library. One of the big projects they have just completed is the finalization of our research files project. The project started a number of years ago with the idea of putting research materials, articles and other information that the park has collected over the years into one useable filing system. Researchers now have a number of broad subjects to peruse and can also search by author.

The interns have also processed the backlog of books, slides, maps and blueprints. Starting in March, they will also be doing educational outreach where we

send costume interpreters out to Michigan schools to present on Mackinac history.



Helen and May—Hard at work

Do you have exhibitions, events, acquisitions, or other news to share? Please let your State Representative or Tamara know! See the listing of MRC Board Members and State Representatives for contact information.

Missouri

▪ Submitted by Lacy Bettcher ▪

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis

Exhibitions:

The Civil War in Missouri

Now through June 2, 2013

Extended due to popularity!

Missouri may best reflect the Civil War's rending of our nation. Prior to the Civil War, the state was bitterly divided between pro-slavery secessionists and those determined to preserve the Union. The Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott Case, and the Missouri-Kansas border conflicts exposed the simmering tensions. Claimed by both the Union and the Confederacy, two state governments grappled for control of Missouri. Today, Missouri and its role in the Civil War continue to generate controversy among historians, academics and Civil War enthusiasts. *The Civil War in Missouri* features compelling artifacts, imagery and interactive elements. Although the exhibition addresses issues with which our entire nation wrestled, topics that are distinctively Missourian take center stage.



Battle of Wilson's Creek. (Missouri, 10 August 1861.)
Chromolithograph by Kurz and Allison, 1893. Missouri History Museum.

This installation of American art on paper highlights the adeptness with which artists travel through time, visualize the impossible and conjure worlds never seen before. Two centuries of prints, drawings and watercolors will transport visitors into the realm of make-believe at its most vivid. For more information, visit <http://www.nelson-atkins.org/art/Exhibitions.cfm?id=156>

National Churchill Museum, Fulton
News:

The National Churchill Museum will be part of a \$61,000 Missouri State Archives Project. Secretary of State Robin Carnahan announced that the Missouri State Archives will make \$61,576 available for historical records preservation and access projects throughout the state. The funding, which is awarded to local institutions through a competitive grant process, is part of a \$70,000 grant awarded to the Missouri State Archives by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City
Exhibitions:

Run Wild! American Imagination on Paper

Now through May 12, 2013



Reynold Henry Weidenaar, American, 1915-1985.
Valley of Wrath, 1951. Mezzotint on paper. Gift of Robert M. White II in honor of his father, L. Mitchell White, F97-2/91.

Joseph Hirsch, American, 1910-1981.

National World War I Museum, Kansas City
Exhibitions:

World War I All-Stars: Sports & The Inter-Allied Games

Now through March 31, 2013

Explore the important role sports played in the lives of servicemen during the Great War and learn about one of the 20th Century's greatest international sporting events, the Inter-Allied Games of 1919.

Harmonies of the Homefront

Opens February 9, 2013

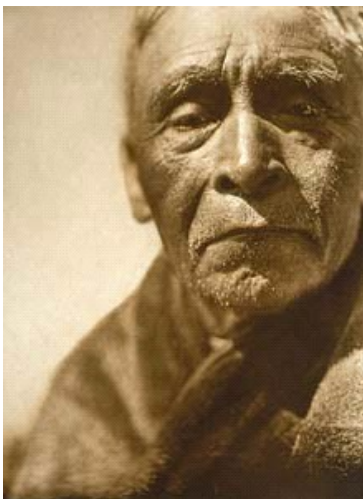
Explore how the music of the Great War era acted as a unifying force, supporting patriotic engagement with the war effort at home and rallying the troops abroad. Experience the era through musical artifacts including sheet music covers, lyrics, recordings, pictures of music-making and the sounds of the music itself.

Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis

Exhibitions:

Edward Curtis: Visions of Native America

Now through June 16, 2013



Edward S. Curtis,
American, 1868-1952.
Mitat-Wailaki, 1924; photogra-
vure; image: 15 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches.
Saint Louis Art Museum, Gift of
Stephen Bunyard 386:1996.

The work of famed photographer and amateur ethnologist Edward S. Curtis (1865-1952) has shaped the

world's image of Native Americans. This exhibition of eleven pictures provides a brief overview of Curtis' monumental endeavor to document tribes in the early part of the twentieth century, as forced relocation onto reservations diminished the ability to live in traditional ways. The photographs on display include representations of American Indians living in the Plains and Southwest, focusing on a range of subjects from vivid portraiture and atmospheric landscape to details of dress and the production of arts and crafts. For more details, visit <http://www.slam.org/exhibitions/visionsofnativeamerica.php>.

William E. Jones: "Killed"

February 8 – April 28, 2013

Curated by Tricia Y. Paik, assistant curator of modern and contemporary art, *William E. Jones: "Killed"* is part of the New Media Series at SLAM.

To create this 2009 video, *Killed*, Los Angeles based artist William E. Jones selected approximately one hundred photographs from the archives of the Farm Security Administration, the New Deal agency founded to aid American farmers during the Great Depression. The video's arresting title originates from a practice used by Roy E. Stryker, the government official who led and managed this documentary project for the FSA. When Stryker found a shot that did not measure up to his exacting standards, he punched a hole in the negative, destroying the photograph and classifying the image as "killed."

For more on the exhibit, visit <http://www.slam.org/exhibitions/nmswilliamejones.php>

Wisconsin

▪ Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena ▪

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison

Exhibitions:

Tandem Press: Twenty-five Years

Now through February 3, 2013

The UW-affiliated Tandem Press, an artistic laboratory where internationally recognized artists can experiment creatively, make edi-



tions of prints and interact with students, celebrates its 25-year anniversary with an exhibition at the Chazen highlighting the work of twelve artists.

German and Austrian Prints: 1890-1925

Now through March 3, 2013

This selection of works from the collection of a University of Wisconsin alumna surveys the breadth of German and Austrian printmaking at the beginning of

the 20th century, a period of experimentation and personal expression.

1934: A New Deal for Artists

February 16 to April 28, 2013

The Public Works of Art Project was the first federal program to support the arts. In 1934, the PWAP employed thousands of artists to paint regional, recognizable subjects, from portraits to cityscapes and street scenes to landscapes and rural life. This exhibition celebrates the 75th anniversary of the PWAP, presenting 56 vibrant paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's unparalleled collection.



Kenosha Public Museums, Kenosha

The Kenosha Public Museums, including the Kenosha Public Museum, Civil War Museum and Dinosaur Discovery Museum have a full schedule of temporary exhibits and exciting events in the coming months. Consider joining us for one or many!

Exhibitions—Kenosha Public Museum:

Sustainable Shelter: Dwelling Within the Forces of Nature

Now through March 3, 2013

Midwestern Treasures: Pickard China and its Contemporaries

Now through March 3, 2013

Peanuts.....Naturally

January 26 through April 28, 2013

Kenosha Unified School District Art Show

March 15 through April 21, 2013

Exhibitions—Civil War Museum:

Capturing the Past: The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco

Now through April 13, 2013

Lincoln: The Constitution and The Civil War

April 17 through May 31, 2013

Events—Dinosaur Discovery Museum:

Winter Lecture Series

Paleontology at the Burpee Museum

February 13, 2013

Life & Death in a Cretaceous Coastal Swamp

March 20, 2013

Darwin Day

February 10, 2013

Celebrating Women In Science

March 9, 2013

Need more information on any of these? Like us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information!

Racine Art Museum, Racine

Exhibitions:

Cutting Edge: RAM Explores Contemporary Glass Jewelry

Now through February 17, 2013

Cutting Edge: RAM Explores Contemporary Glass Jewelry focuses on artists who use glass for the creation of art jewelry. Open October 28, 2012 through February 17, 2013, the show highlights work by over 20 artists from around the world who utilize a variety of techniques, from glass blowing to casting to beadwork, in the creation of personal adornment.

The beginning of the American studio glass movement is most often traced back to 1962 when Harvey K. Littleton and Dominic Labino established two glass workshops at the Tole-



Melissa Schmidt,
Absolute Necklace, 2012

do Museum of Art that brought together artists, scientists, and experienced professional glass blowers. Littleton and Labino envisioned independent studios for glassblowing, a scenario that was not possible up to that point with the traditional technologies. These new workshops provided forums for information sharing across disciplines and launched glass programs at universities while simultaneously inspiring artists to experiment with the material. Littleton went on to establish a glass program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison while other early proponents worked to do the same at institutions across the country. These efforts secured a place in contemporary craft for this compelling and dynamic medium.

Information:

Painting Conservator

Hello Midwest museum staff!

I wanted to share with you a resource for painting conservation. Barry Bauman is a Conservator located in the Chicago area who offers complimentary conservation services to non-profit organizations. He has an experienced resume, which includes eleven years working at the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as founding the Chicago Conservation Center.

The Racine Art Museum has used his services multiple times and we are incredibly happy with the work he has performed. When I approached Barry about including this information in the MRC newsletter he responded, "When I decided to offer pro bono conservation services I wasn't trying to work on as many paintings as I could, but rather, to help as many institutions as possible. It was always the smaller institutions, with limited budgets for conservation that I wanted to help."

I am including a link to his website, which includes his contact information. <http://www.baumanconservation.com>

Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum, Sheboygan

Ever wondered how fuzzy moving animals, bags of "buffalo snow," pounds of glitter and food created from air clay become an exhibit? If so, you should have seen the *Holiday Memories* exhibition at the Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum. An annual tradition opening the day after Thanksgiving, *Holiday Memories* features festive decorations, family activities and a centerpiece exhibit starring historic animated pieces that were once in the H.C. Prange Department Store holiday window displays.

Enjoyed by over 5,000 visitors, 2012 marked the 11th Anniversary of the debut of Prange's animated figures at the Museum.



Holiday animation in a replica of Evergreen Park and a happy raccoon eating a "brat" - all part of Holiday Memories 2012

Annual Report of the Midwest Registrars Committee, 2012

Report of the Chair

▪ Submitted by Rachel Vargas ▪

Can you believe it? MRC will celebrate its 35th Anniversary this year!

Membership

Our members numbered 85 in 2011 and 106 in 2012. This year we are undertaking another membership drive to increase our numbers and are adding a Student Representative to the Board. We anticipate this might encourage emerging professionals in the museum collections field to become active members of our group, adding a new voice to our discussions and increasing our member roster.

MRC Annual Meeting

The AMM annual meeting was held in Indianapolis July 23-26, 2012 and the Midwest Registrars Committee held our annual meeting in conjunction with that. Lana Newhart Kellen, MRC's Indiana representative, coordinated an excellent slate of sessions dealing with such topics as copyright, accreditation, heavy metal testing, protecting your collections while allowing access, de-accessioning and emergency preparedness. Lana also organized the Might Rescue Crew to work for a day at the Museum of 20th Century Warfare (sponsored by Gaylord).

Amy McKune and Jennifer Noffze set up the always important evening social event at Claddagh Irish Pub (sponsored by Willis Fine Art, Jewelry and Specie) and the MRC Meeting Breakfast at Café Patachou (best breakfast EVER!), sponsored by Huntington T. Block.

There weren't many MRC members in attendance, and I hope more members will consider attending this important conference. Mark your calendars now for the 2013 meeting and a visit to Madison, Wisconsin—July 14-17.

Travel Stipends

Three travel stipends, sponsored in part by Terry

Dowd, Inc. and U.S. Art Company, helped MRC members attend the 2012 AMM Conference and MRC Annual Meeting. Tish Boyer, Elizabeth Frozena and Robin Goodman also submitted very interesting articles for the Fall 2012 issue of the *Courier*. Please be on the lookout for the notices regarding 2013's application process, and please apply!

MRC Courier Newsletter

Tamara Lange deserves a shout-out for the hard work that she puts into the *MRC Courier*, which is a wonderful benefit to our community. Please approach anyone on the MRC Board or your State Rep if you would like to contribute an article to the publication, which is published quarterly. Tamara is currently overseeing both the content and layout of the Newsletter. If anyone has a little extra time and wants to lend her a helping hand, I'm sure it would be much appreciated.

*** Side note from Tamara: I would love to have a "partner in crime" and I promise that I don't bite.*

Report of the Vice Chair/ Travel Stipends Coordinator

▪ Submitted by Devon Pyle-Vowles ▪

In Spring 2012, then MRC Vice Chair Karen O'Brien and the rest of the MRC Board sent out a call for applications for the MRC 2012 travel stipend to support attendance at the AMM 2012 annual meeting in Indianapolis. There were three recipients:

- The Terry Dowd, Inc. Annual Stipend was awarded to Tish Boyer, Collections Manager at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

- The MRC Annual Stipend was awarded to Elizabeth Frozena, Registrar at the Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wisconsin.
- The MRC Stipend, funded by US Art, was awarded to Robin Goodman, Registrar at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Congratulations again to the winners, and thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting these awards!

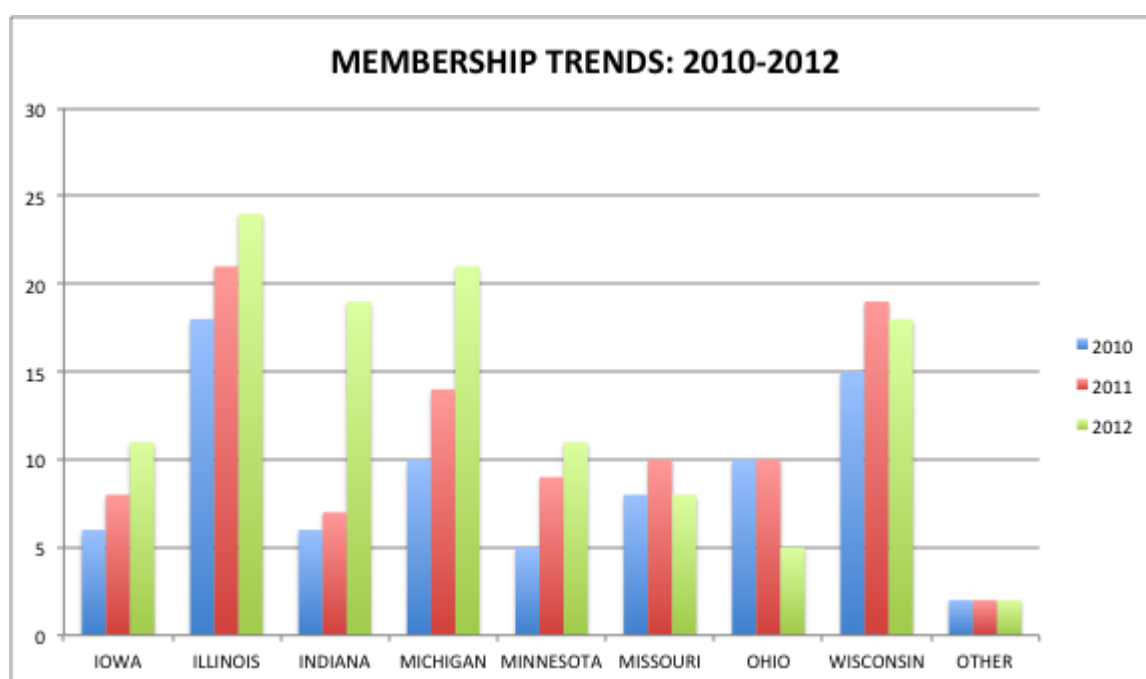
Report of the Secretary

▪ Submitted by Craig Hadley ▪

Following the Annual Membership drive, overall membership for the Midwest Registrars Committee was up over 2011 and 2010. Specific data on membership by state and a trend comparison for the last three years are shown.

New in 2012 and fully implemented in 2013 is a streamlined membership system that includes an electronic membership form in PDF format and the ability to submit dues payment via PayPal!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY STATE			
STATE	2012 MEMBERSHIP	2011 MEMBERSHIP	PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2011
IOWA	11	8	38%
ILLINOIS	24	21	14%
INDIANA	19	7	171%
MICHIGAN	21	14	50%
MINNESOTA	11	9	22%
MISSOURI	8	10	-20%
OHIO	5	10	-50%
WISCONSIN	18	19	-5%
OTHER	2	2	0%
TOTALS	119	100	19%



Report of the Treasurer

▪ Submitted by Jennifer Noffze ▪

Beginning Balance as of 12/31/2011: \$6,313.21

INCOME		
	Membership Dues/ Donations	\$ 949.41
	Gifts for Travel Stipends	\$1,500.00
	AMM 2012 Conference Sponsored Events	\$2,000.00
	Newsletter Sponsorships	\$ 700.00
	Total Income Deposited	\$5,149.41
EXPENSES		
	MRC Chair Expenses	\$ 523.74
	State Grants	\$ 500.00
	Travel Stipends	\$2,250.00
	MRC Annual Meeting at AMM 2012	\$1,481.28
	Reissued 2011 MACC Award**	\$ 235.00
	Office Expenses (Postage and check order)	\$ 58.57
	Total Expenses	\$5,048.59

Bank Balance as of 12/17/2012: \$6,414.03 (*Held at Indiana Members Credit Union, Indianapolis, IN*)

** There was a problem check in 2011 for the MACC Award to Cindy Opitz. Cancelled the original check and rewrote it in 2012 = \$235.00 is the difference in order to balance the books.

Report of Development

▪ Submitted by Ann Sinfield ▪

The Midwest Registrars Committee was the fortunate recipient of several sponsorships in 2012, including:

Courier sponsorship (\$250/ issue)

- Spring: Terry Dowd, Inc.
- Summer: ARTworks of Kansas City
- Fall: Masterpiece International

Travel stipend sponsorship

- Terry Dowd, Inc., \$750
- US Art, \$750

Mighty Rescue Crew supplies

- Gaylord, \$548.91

Annual meeting

- Huntington T. Block, \$1000, supporting the breakfast meeting
- Willis Fine Art and Specie, \$1000, supporting the evening cocktail hour

MRC also sponsored a number of events in 2012, including:

- Registrars' Roundtable on the AAM Accreditation process, June 25, 2012, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- FBI Art Crime Team session at the Association of Indiana Museums Annual Conference, September 23-24, 2012, Terre Haute, Indiana

Report of the Nominations Chair

▪ *Submitted by Cristin Waterbury* ▪

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as MRC Nominations Chair once again for the 2012 elections. We had a truly outstanding slate of candidates this year and I am pleased to report that voter turnout was 50%!

I hope those of you who voted found the Survey Monkey format to be user friendly. A huge thank you to Tamara Johnston for getting us set up with Survey Monkey. It was great to have an added layer of anonymity compared to email voting of the past and we did not have to count the ballots by hand for the first time ever! Tamara took care of all the Survey Monkey logistics for us and we are so grateful for her help.

The official results were as follows:

Chair:

Rachel Vargas, 47 votes
4 voters skipped the question

Vice Chair:

Devon Pyle-Vowles, 32 votes
Robin Goodman, 9 votes
Sebastian Encina, 8 votes

2 voters skipped the question

Secretary:

Craig Hadley, 29 votes
Jennifer Kovarik, 20 votes
2 voters skipped the question

Treasurer:

Jennifer Noftze, 49 votes
2 voters skipped the question

No write-in candidates were entered for any positions. Fifty-one (51) out of ninety-nine (99) eligible members voted.

Thank you again to all the candidates and to all the MRC members who exercised their right to vote.

Congratulations to Rachel, Devon, Craig, and Jennifer!

Annual Report from Illinois

▪ *Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer* ▪

2012 was an eventful year for museums in Illinois, as Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed March 22 Illinois Museums Day. This day also welcomed the release of \$15 million in Public Museum Capital Grants Program funds by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Applications were accepted between March and May, and we look forward to learning what institutions and projects will benefit from these funds.

In other news, new construction took place across the state during 2012, including:

- In DeKalb, the **Northern Illinois University Anthropology Museum** opened in the refurbished Cole Hall.
- In Mahomet, the **Museum of the Grand Prairie** (formerly the Early American Museum) spent the spring and summer building a new addition onto their facility, with dedicated classroom and collections storage spaces. The funding for the project was received through the 2010 State of Illi-

nois Public Museums Capital Grants program.

- In Chicago, both the **Museum of Broadcast Communications** and the **National Veteran's Art Museum** reopened in new locations.
- In Peoria, the newly-named **Peoria Riverfront Museum** opened, merging several local collections including the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences into one location.

Numerous museums in the state were the recipients of IMLS grants, including:

- **IMLS Conservation Project Support**
 - Adler Planetarium
 - Field Museum of Natural History
- **IMLS Museums for America**
 - Chicago Botanic Garden
 - DuPage Children's Museum
 - Field Museum of Natural History
 - Kohl Children's Museum
 - National Museum of Mexican Art
 - Museum of Contemporary Art
 - Oriental Institute Museum

- **IMLS Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums**
The Illinois State Museum Society will develop Virtual Illinois: A Roadside Guide. Utilizing the rich historic datasets of the Illinois State Museum,

this guide will consist of mobile and web applications that allow users to navigate historic landscapes in real time.

Annual report from Indiana

▪ *Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen* ▪

The year 2012 has passed, and as we say around my department as we start the New Year, "Let's do it again!" Suffice it to say, most of the news from Indiana in 2012 was positive, unlike 2011, which saw several museums lay-off staff or close completely.

So, for a recap of the year's best news!

From July 23 to 26 the **AMM Conference** was held in Indianapolis. Again, I would like to thank Willis Fine Art and Specie for sponsoring the MRC Tuesday evening event at the Claddagh and Huntington T. Block for sponsoring the MRC breakfast at Café Patachou. As we say here at CP, "*Huzzah! Huzzah!*" to both sponsors for their support!!!

And a big thank you from me to Amy McKune of the Eiteljorg Museum of the American Indian and Western Art and Jennifer Noffze of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis for planning and arranging the two above events. The food was delicious and the company most pleasant.

Another very special thanks to Gaylord for donating \$500 worth of archival materials to the Mighty Rescue Crew for rehousing uniforms at the Museum of 20th Century Warfare! Again, "*Huzzah! Huzzah!*"

2012 was also a year of "finding" fine art! Both the **Indiana State Museum** and the **Evansville Museum of Art and Science** discovered paintings in their collections that turned out to be exquisite finds. For the Indiana State Museum, a T.C. Steele painting was found hidden behind another Steele painting during conservation. A few months later the Evansville Museum of Art and Science discovered a misidentified piece of artwork by Pablo Picasso, entitled "Seated Woman with Red Hat."

I know there are other positive developments, but there are so many I will simply list a few:

The **Friends of Ernie Pyle** (Dana, IN) have taken full possession of the famed WWII's correspondent's

birthplace in Dana, Indiana from the State.

The Miami Indian **Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville Home** (Waynedale, IN) has been named a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

The **Red Skelton Museum and Education Center** (Vincennes, IN) received \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment to fund exhibit development.

The **North Manchester Center for History** (North Manchester, IN) and the **Tipton County Historical Society** (Tipton, IN) were both awarded Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grants.

Conner Prairie (Fishers, IN) received a \$2.3 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The funds will allow Conner Prairie to create and distribute an open-source model for integrating informal science experiences into exhibits and programs of historic sites and museums across the nation.

The Indiana Humanities Council announced grant awards to:

- The **Lanier Mansion Foundation** (Madison, IN) received \$1,655 for Lanier Days 2012.
- The **Lubeznik Center for the Arts**, (Michigan City, IN) received \$1,800 for *Light and Flow: 50th Anniversary of Contemporary Studio Glass*.
- The **Pulaski County Historical Society** (Winamac, IN) received \$2,000 to launch a junior historical society with an initial focus on Pulaski County's involvement in the Civil War.
- The **Northern Indiana Historical Society** (South Bend, IN) received \$2,000 for a play about Schuyler Colfax, Vice President under Ulysses S. Grant.

Annual Report from Iowa

▪ *Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik* ▪

An amazing amount of museum work continues to be done in Iowa! Did you know there are about 250 museums in Iowa? Caring for collections and their stories and sharing these things means Iowa MRC members and their colleagues have been extremely busy in 2012. I like to keep tabs on the Iowa museums community through social media and all of the work being done is truly amazing!

Rather than recap the news from the year, I would like take this opportunity to thank all of the Iowa MRC members for being wonderful advocates and ambassadors for their museums and the museum profession by sharing their time and expertise, formally and informally, with staff, interns, and visitors. Working behind-the-scenes, as many of us do, we do not always see the fruits of our labors or get

recognition for them. I was reminded of the importance of being generous with time and expertise when I called Tish Boyer, Collections Manager and Registrar at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, for a reference check for a student who was applying for an internship at my museum. Tish had provided a truly meaningful and real-world experience for this student, with a variety of tasks from mundane to interesting to frenetic, which made the student a top contender for the position. The student's experience at Tish's museum also helped the student affirm her decision to pursue a career in museums. Thank you Tish, and all MRC members, for reaffirming that even the routine tasks we do each day for our institutions and organizations have impact.

Annual Report from Michigan

▪ *Submitted by Robin Goodman* ▪

Membership

After a spring membership drive, Michigan MRC membership is 21 individuals strong.

Professional Development

For the past seven years, Registrars and Collections Managers from Michigan have been coming together to share problems, ideas and solutions to common conundrums. On June 24th, the roundtable discussed the AAM accreditation process, with particular emphasis on how it relates to collections. The program was a huge success with 29 collection professionals in attendance at the Cranbrook Museum of Art. Panelists included Barbara Heller, Director and Conservator, Special Projects of the Detroit Institute of Arts,

Roberta Frey Gilboe, Registrar of the Cranbrook Art Museum, and Nancy Bryk, Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University and an AAM peer reviewer. Following a lunch sponsored by the Midwest Registrars Committee, Roberta Frey Gilboe presented on the renovations and new construction at the Cranbrook Art Museum and gave attendees a behind-the-scenes tour of the wonderful new facility.

Museum Openings

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, opened on November 9, 2012.

**Change of Address? New job?
Don't miss an issue of the *MRC Courier*!!**

Be sure to send your updated contact information to :
Craig Hadley, Curator
DePauw University
10 W. Hanna, Greencastle, Indiana 46135
craighadley@depauw.edu

Annual Report from Missouri

▪ *Submitted by Lacy Bettcher* ▪

It was an exciting year for museums in Missouri with changes galore - new buildings, renovations, name changes, new staff. The list goes on, so here are just a few!

The **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art** completed renovation of four Chinese Galleries. The galleries opened to the public at the Museum's Chinese New Year celebration on Friday, January 27. Two of the newly renovated galleries explore the world of ritual and ancestors in ancient China, as well as tombs.

The **Saint Louis Art Museum's** biennial gala gave attendees a sneak peek inside the newly completed David Chipperfield-designed East Building, set to open to the public in mid-2013. Chipperfield's design features a dramatic, dark, polished concrete façade incorporating Missouri river aggregate with new galleries and public spaces featuring skylights and floor-to-ceiling windows inviting visitors inside and providing dramatic views of Forest Park. The \$162 million project was made possible by the largest capital campaign for a cultural institution in St. Louis history.

This year was the Toy and Miniature Museum's 30th Anniversary and the celebration commenced with unveiling an upcoming name change to **The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures**. Over the last 30 years, the Museum has shared the Midwest's largest collection of antique toys and the nation's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures with the Kansas City community and visitors.

A new professional group also arrived in Missouri with the establishment of the **Kansas City Metro Area Emerging Museum Professionals** group, KCEMP! The group formed over the summer by five Kansas City area museum professionals, Amber Courtney, Adam MacPharlain, and Lacy Bettcher of the Toy and Miniature Museum, Amy Duke of the Spencer Museum of Art, and Rebecca Rosamond of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, to provide social, professional, and networking opportunities for other EMPs in the area. KCEMP's inaugural event was held in September with an outstanding turn out of nearly 50 people! The months since have featured a mixture of social and professional events including the National EMP workshop, sponsored by AAM, on Personal Branding and Networking, seasonal refreshments and a museum tour at the Spencer Museum of Art, and a Young Friends of Art holiday happy hour at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The KCEMP founding members are proud of the progress the group has made and are excited to see success in the future.

Stacie Petersen joined the staff of the **National World War I Museum** as the Museum's first Registrar in January 2012 having spent the prior 3.5 years as Registrar for the Roswell Museum and Art Center in Roswell, New Mexico. Currently Stacie is creating the Museum's first digital database in PastPerfect with an online component to be launched in Fall 2013.

Barbara O'Brien, the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art's** Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections, was named the Museum's new Director.

Annual Report from Wisconsin

▪ *Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena* ▪

We hear regularly that with the recent economic challenges, cultural institutions have seen increased demand and growth in use, while in many cases having to cope with decreased resources. The **Racine Art Museum** provided some great statistics from the past year to support the increased interest, visitorship, and participation in Museum's across the country, the Midwest, and Wisconsin.

- 9.1% increase in studio art class enrollments

through the first 9 months of the year

- 31.5% minority participation in outreach programs, up from 8% in 2008
- 25% increase in participation in education programs
- On pace to surpass the attendance from 2011

Even in times of economic stress, RAM and the other museums of Wisconsin are dedicated to serving the public!

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The Midwest Registrars Committee formed in 1978 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and methods among museum collections professionals and registrars in the Midwest region. The MRC fulfills this objective by promoting an atmosphere of mutual aid and cooperation and by promoting professional practices to benefit colleagues, the museum community, and members.

The MRC is affiliated with the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums (RC-AAM) and the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM).

Who can join?

Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum personnel who support the objectives of the MRC and who reside in the Midwest region, including:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

You don't have to be a registrar! Collections managers, curators, volunteers, administrators, conservators, corporate registrars, students, or other collections care professionals are encouraged to join.

A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

Benefits of membership

- The Courier, MRC's quarterly newsletter
- Funding assistance for state workshops
- Professional network
- Workshops
- Travel stipends to attend AMM Conference
- Membership directory

Membership fees

- Annual dues are \$10.00 per year
- The membership period covers the calendar year (January 1 - December 31)
- Make checks payable to:
Midwest Registrars Committee

Membership form (can type and save text)

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Position: _____
 Institution: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone/fax: _____
 Email: _____

- ☐ New (voting \$10)
☐ Renewal (voting \$10)
☐ New (non-voting \$10)
☐ Renewal (non-voting \$10)

Make a difference!

Your active participation ensures the ongoing success of the MRC programs and activities. Please check the areas in which you would like to get involved:

- ☐ State representative
☐ Newsletter
☐ Programs/annual meeting
☐ Fundraising
☐ Membership

NEW FOR 2013—Renew and pay online!

Follow these two steps to renew your membership electronically:

1. Simply fill out this PDF form and e-mail it to jenn@childrensmuseum.org
2. To pay for your MRC dues via PayPal, login to your account, click "Send Money", and send your dues to: jenn@childrensmuseum.org

-OR-

Send paper application and payment to:
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 MRC Treasurer
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