

# *MRC Courier*

COMMITTEE

Volume 28, Number 3

Winter 2016

## From the Chair

Andrew Near



Andrew Near walking in from the cold, enjoys the Kruizenga Art Museum's permanent collection on view.

Greetings 2017! It is once again time to commit to our New Year's resolutions. Since I've recently followed the Grand Rapids Art Museum and University of Michigan Museum of Art (and others) towards the database called Collective-Access, I have a learning curve to get around... and then update.

We've had a busy year, which I will try to be brief here with more details in the Annual Report. We held board elections in July, attended the AMM Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and have already begun planning for the year.

Welcoming new faces: Please welcome Liz Fuhrman Bragg, Registrar of the

Evansville Museum; and Linda Endersby, Registrar, Museum of Art & Archaeology, University of Missouri as the new Co-Editors to the *MRC Courier*. They have volunteered to succeed Tamara Lange who was recently elected to be our Treasurer.

Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum professionals who support the objectives of the MRC, who reside in the Midwest region (including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin), and who hold positions such as registrar, collections manager, curator, volunteer, administrator, conservator, corporate registrar, or student.

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.

The membership period covers the calendar year (from January 1 through December 31). Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. For more information on the Midwest Registrars Committee or to join MRC, visit <http://midwestregistrars.org/>

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## From the Chair continued

I would like to give thanks to Lana Newhart-Kellen, Registrar at Conner Prairie for her many years of service as Indiana State Representative. A regular winner of past annual membership drive competitions, Lana has done much for the state and the MRC, and she will be sorely missed. While we take time to thank Lana, we are now on the hunt for a new Indiana State Representative. If you live in Indiana and would like to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to become more involved with the MRC while networking with registrars near you, please contact me at 616-395-6402 or email [near@hope.edu](mailto:near@hope.edu).

There are several conferences to look forward to in the coming year including the AAM Annual Meeting, May 7 – 10 in St. Louis, Missouri; AMM Conference (partnering with the Iowa Museum Association), July 12 – 15 in Des Moines, Iowa; and ARCS Biennial Conference, November 3 – 5 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada as well as state conferences. Additionally, I recommend talking to your State Rep about organizing a local round-table for which grant money is available.

A brief note about the AMM Conference: it will be the 90th anniversary of the Midwestern museum organization, and they will be celebrating with the theme: Strong Roots & Thriving Communities. We have been working together, and there are plans to offer special affinity/MRC member rates that coincide with the early bird registration deadlines—keep an eye out for that. Since they are already reviewing proposals, we should be able to peruse the intriguing session offerings in time to take advantage of this price break.

Don't forget to renew your membership! Better yet, be an advocate and invite your friend/colleague to join. For the cost of two beers or lattes—depending on your vice—your colleagues can increase their networking range, more easily share ideas, and take advantage of travel grant opportunities by joining the Midwest Registrars Committee. What a deal! You can go directly to the MRC homepage, <https://midwestregistrars.org> and click the link for Registration and Renewal. Also, check out our Facebook page to keep up-to-date on activities, deadlines, ask a question, and/or share information.

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## From the Editors

Linda Endersby and Liz Fuhrman Bragg

When I joined the staff at the Museum of Art & Archaeology in September 2016, I was finding my way back to collections work after a sojourn in management and other things. I worked with the Thomas Edison Papers project at Rutgers University for a few years. I also spent 10 years as Curator, Asst. Director and finally Director at the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City, Missouri. Most recently, I served as Museum Director at the Michigan History Center – which was a fantastic and rewarding experience including collections, exhibits and much more. But, family needs made a move back to Missouri necessary. While it's a very different experience than I've been used to, I do get to "geek" out transferring our old ARGUS database to the new ARGUS.net and start taking advantage of all the possibilities of sharing our collection online. And, it's allowing me time to get more involved in the field – like editing the newsletter for the Midwest Registrars Committee and serving on the Board of the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives.

Linda Endersby, Registrar/Collections Manager  
Museum of Art & Archaeology, University of Missouri

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I have been the Registrar at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science in Indiana for 10 years, however in my former life I was the Curator at the International Bluegrass Music Museum in Owensboro, KY. We were a small museum, so "Curator" really meant, Curator, Registrar, Collections Manager, Gift Shop Manager and Graphic Designer. Since coming to Evansville, I have had little opportunity to do any de-

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**From the Editors** continued

sign work, so when I saw that the MRC Courier needed an editor I volunteered. We are a small museum here in Evansville as well (although not nearly as small as the Bluegrass Museum), and I do not have a lot of time in my day for volunteer opportunities, so I was pleased that something came along that used my skill set and would allow me to be more involved. I am rarely able to attend conferences, I have only been to one in my entire career, so the chance that I will be able to meet many of you is small, but I am looking forward to reading your stories and sharing them with our membership. I have made some small changes this edition, and I welcome any feedback or suggestions for the future.

Liz Fuhrman Bragg, Registrar

Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science

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# Travel Stipend Scholarship Report

By Hannah Frederick

## ***I Guess You CAN Do That in a Museum!***

This past July, I had the fortunate privilege to attend the 2016 Association of Midwest Museum Conference due to a generous scholarship awarded to me by the Midwest Registrars Committee. This was my first time attending the conference, and, as an emerging professional, the experience was invaluable to me. I started my career in the museum field four years ago—acquiring multiple titles over the years at a small-sized historical society in Ames, Iowa. We are a small staff of three, and, although my official title is Collections Manager (as many of you readers are all-too-familiar), I wear many hats. I work with our collections, marketing, volunteer coordination, exhibits, event planning, research, membership, and, if the garbage is full, I take it out. As an emerging museum professional that wears many hats, attending conferences that foster networking and offer an array of well-rounded breakout sessions is vital to my professional development.

This year's AMM conference theme, "Innovation: Become the Unexpected," was an aptly appropriate theme for what I was hoping to bring back to my museum in terms of ideas and experiences. Although I attended numerous informative sessions during the conference, one breakout in particular really resonated with me. "You Can't Do THAT in a Museum!" was presented by Kelly Klobucher, Executive Director, Hegeler Carus Foundation in La Salle, Illinois, and Jerrod Roll, Director and County Historian, Monroe County Local History Room and Museum in Sparta, Wisconsin. This breakout related perfectly with this year's theme of innovation and becoming the unexpected.

As the world around us becomes more digitally innovative, many of us are struggling to stay relevant to an increasingly "plugged-in" society. How do we bring in the Gen Xers or millennials? How do we show the surrounding community that we *are* worth investing in? Klobucher and Roll's breakout focused on thinking outside the box when it came to offering events and exhibits at their museums, while at the same time staying true to their missions and values.

Klobucher presented on the new type of events she has begun to hold at her historic house museum. She was dealing with a lot of the same issues my small museum does: an aging and dying membership base, lack of community support, and pre-conceived notions of us being boring, to name a few. She therefore decided that the museum needed to build a supportive audience from scratch. She began to think outside the box in terms of experiences the museum could offer to patrons. Experiences that some would question, "can

## ***I Guess You CAN Do That in a Museum!*** continued

you do that in a museum?" But why *not* do those things in a museum? Historic homes can host concerts, and no, not chamber music, but rather "rock" concerts on the front lawn. These new types of experiences brought in demographics that would have not otherwise ventured to Klobucher's museum.

Jerrod Roll, Director and County Historian at the Monroe County Local History Room and Museum, shared a similar experience of thinking outside the box in order to engage new demographics in his community. Often times in our history museums the question arises as to what constitutes being historic. Part of our job is to collect and preserve contemporary history in order to save it for future generations; but, an object from 1977 is often not considered historic enough for exhibition. So, how do we integrate more recent history into our exhibits?

Roll has a similar conundrum I have at my museum. We do great at bringing in and engaging baby boomers; but, what about Gen X or Millennials? Roll decided to bring in Gen Xers by focusing on what was nostalgic for that generation. He accomplished this by opening an exhibit titled, *A Very 1970s Christmas*. The exhibit showcased an iconic 1970s living room scene decorated for Christmas, including a tree and classic toys of the era. The exhibit was a huge success, and the museum saw an increase in Gen X visitors.

Opening an exhibit that harkened back to a time "only" forty years prior is a bold endeavor for a history museum – definitely something that is unexpected. However, our museum has also had success in exhibiting and sharing more recent history. On our social media accounts we began to share photos from around town in the 1970s and 1980s. They have been a huge success. These photos are the events and places that bring back almost forgotten memories for people. Most of them comment on the photos, sharing their personal experiences and memories of places, allowing the poster to feel engaged in the telling of our town's history. Or course, social media interactions do not necessarily equate physical numbers through the door; but, for a small museum like ours, it is a step in the right direction. As a small museum with limited exhibition space, it is critical to think outside the box when attempting to bring people in the door. We do not have the resources for large and flashy exhibits, so we need to make an impact with limited space and small exhibits. Overall, this particular breakout affirmed the idea that many small museums in the Midwest are constantly looking at ways to expand their visitorship by thinking outside the box and offering things to visitors that traditionally you would not have found in a museum.

Although this reflection focuses on the impact of one particular breakout session, I would like to add that the entire conference was interesting, beneficial, and innovative. I was able to take back with me ideas from every breakout session to share with the other two members of my staff. Networking was also a huge part of my experiences at the AMM conference. Meeting so many colleagues in different places in their career paths allowed me to really build connections, ask questions, and share experiences. "Innovation: Become the Unexpected" could not have been a more appropriate themed conference for me. I left the conference with new ideas and confidence that my small museum is keeping pace with the innovative experiences our patrons have come to expect.

Coming from a small museum that lacks the budget to send its staff to large professional conferences, I want to say again how grateful I am to MRC for offering me this opportunity to expand my professional knowledge.

Hannah Frederick, Collections Manager  
Ames Historical Society, Ames, Iowa



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# News From the Midwest

## Indiana

Lana Newhart-Kellen

### Statewide

The events surrounding Indiana's bicentennial celebrations have wrapped up. It's been an interesting year of events – everything from a torch relay and fiberglass bison to art exhibits and quilt raffles, as well as the addition of 1000+ acres to the Bicentennial Land Trust. But, it seems to be a good point at which to step down as Indiana's State Rep for MRC as well. So, if you are interested in the position please contact Andrew Near!

Happy Birthday Indiana!!!  
December 11, 1816



A fiberglass Bison, part of Indiana's Bison-ennial Public Art Project

## Iowa

Sarah Connors

### Statewide

Iowa MRC members make up a tiny, but mighty group within the MRC! Our members represent a wide variety of our state's important institutions including the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and the Museum of Danish America. The projects that our members are working on across the state are quite impressive and so important to preserving Iowa's material heritage. It was fun to see members of this group come together to share their time and experience with one another at a meet and greet hosted by the University of Iowa's Pentacrest Museums earlier this year. This was a great opportunity to meet our colleagues in the state and share some of our stories from the field.

Looking forward to the new year, we will continue to work on growing our numbers by inviting more of our colleagues to get involved in this fun and important organization. Des Moines, Iowa will host the 2017 Association of Midwest Museums conference that is being held in conjunction with the annual Iowa Museum Association conference! Stay tuned for more information about the 2017 Mighty Rescue Crew event that will take place around the conference

Images from the meet and greet at the University of Iowa's Pentacrest Museums



## Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn



Mermaid

Whimsical. Quirky. Fun. The Museum of Danish America presents a delightful world of mid-century art and design by Danish icon Bjørn Wiinblad (1918-2006) this winter and spring. "The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad" features a wide variety of pieces, from textile art to housewares. Wiinblad is an artist who embraced it all – every medium and every color, from the handmade to the mass-produced. The exhibit samples his work with ceramics, theatrical costumes, posters, tapestry, and more. The exhibit runs at the Museum of Danish America through May 30, 2017 and at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle from July 28 through November 5, 2017. Other venues are in negotiation, and the itinerary is still open to interested hosts.



Mandolin

## Michigan

Julie Conklin

### Mackinac State Historic Parks

Mackinac State Historic Parks has closed for the winter season but we are keeping busy with many projects.

Registrar Brian Jaeschke is assembling images for the reprinting and update of Dr. Eugene Petersen's book *Mackinac Island: Its History in Pictures*. The book contains many original historic images of the island and will be available within the next year.

The park has hired two winter archives interns, Taylor Arkfeld from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Krystal Perry from University of Michigan-Flint. They will be working in the **Petersen Center Library** at Mackinaw City conducting a book inventory, adding object images to the ARGUS database and assisting the registrar with other archival and collections projects.

**Mackinac State Historic Parks** recently issued a request for proposal for the conservation of two recent collections acquisitions. Two different donors gave a brass engine



Brass engine plate from the steamer William Barnum



## Mackinac State Historic Parks continued

plate and a wooden triple pulley from the shipwreck of the steamer William Barnum. The Barnum sank in the Straits of Mackinac in 1894 after ice and high winds caused the ship to take on water. Once conserved, the objects will go on display in the **Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum** in Mackinaw City.

In November, the Mackinac Island ferry company Arnold Line Transit was sold to Star Line after over one hundred years of business. Several years ago, the state park acquired some of the original ledgers of the company which started in 1878. The company donated several other objects and records this fall before the sale was finalized. The park will process this large collection and eventually have the records available for research.

The park will be installing a new exhibit in the **Fort Mackinac** Guardhouse in 2017. The new exhibit will inform visitors about the role guard duty played in the fort, which besides guarding prisoners, included walking a sentry beat, watching for fires and regulating entrance and exit from the fort. The exhibit will include an audio visual program and new exhibit panels.

Currently, the park is taking applications for collections assistants who will fill two unpaid summer internships. The internships can start any time after May 1, 2017, have flexible end dates and can be used for college credit. The interns will be based on Mackinac Island at the Heritage Center with free housing provided. Applications and a position description can be found on the parks' website [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com)

## Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners

Artist Paula Blinco-Collins, a freelance sculptor from Denton, Texas, has donated her recent 2016 ArtPrize competition entry titled "Mom's Favorite Car" to the **Gilmore Car Museum**. "It's a 1940 Pontiac that will never rust!" explained Collins. That's because her donation to the car museum is a life-sized recreation of a car made entirely out of clay brick—12,000 pounds of brick—which is nearly four times the weight of the real car.

The sculpture took three years to complete – from concept to installation – and over



Paula with her mother (Aileene Blincoe) and brother (George Blincoe) at the installation of the brick car for Art Prize.



The inspiration, Paula's father and their 1940 Pontiac.

5,000 hours of carving. Paula assembled the carved bricks directly on the trailer that was used to haul the "car" from Texas to Michigan where it ranked 5th in ArtPrize's three-dimensional entries. The stand-alone brick sculpture was created in honor of the first car her mother rode in – a 1940 Pontiac. It was fitting that the gift to the Museum arrived on Monday, October 10 – Paula's mother's 90th birthday.

Collins was very familiar with the **Gilmore Car Museum** prior to making her generous donation. She spent what

## Gilmore Car Museum continued

she calls her “wonder years” in Michigan. “This pays homage to my family, my life, and the sculptural beauty of the transportation created back in the day,” Paula said.

**Brick Car Arrival:** The brick car was lifted by crane from its display space in Grand Rapids and transported to the Gilmore Car Museum in October. The car will be lifted into place next to the Museum’s Shell Station this winter.

OPPOSITE: Work in progress at Paula’s Denton, Texas home.



## Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo

*Let’s Dance!* opened at the **Kalamazoo Valley Museum** on October 15, 2016. The years from the 1920s to the 1980s witnessed a significant shift in the culture of dance, dance venues, and dancing in Kalamazoo. This exhibit explores these shifts through the evolution of dance as reflected in clothing styles, music, and cultural changes during this 60-year period. The exhibit includes oral histories from six individuals including leaders of local big bands of the 1940s and 1950s and their wives. The exhibit features 16 historic costumes, ranging from a recently conserved



Disco Fever

1920s flapper dress to a 1970s polyester leisure suit and a 1980s prom gown. It is the largest display of costumes from the Museum’s permanent collection that has been on exhibit in recent history.

Not only can you listen to original recordings of local big bands from the 1950s and 1960s, you can also take a step back in time while exploring a vignette of Club Hollywood, known as “the” dance club in Kalamazoo during the 1940s. The exhibit has something for everyone as it includes video elements, music from the 1920s-1980s, historic costumes and a hands-on tactile learning experience featuring braille labels.

The exhibit was designed and produced by the **Kalamazoo Valley Museum** and made possible with a grant from the **Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation**. The exhibit is open through January 16, 2017.



TOP: Club Hollywood

BOTTOM: Getting Ready for Prom



## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Padnos Museum Internship Program at the **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum**. As a young undergraduate at Grand Valley State University in 1997, I enjoyed the distinct honor of serving as the first museum intern in the program under Don Holloway. I am now in my 14th year managing the program. Over 100 undergraduate and graduate students have participated from universities across the nation. The program exposes students to the fundamentals of museum collections and exhibits work. Interns gain hands-on experience with preventive conservation, artifact inventories, mount-making, condition-reporting, database work, storage methods, artifact loans, exhibit installation, general research, and so much more. Projects vary with the museum's calendar, making each internship unique. Many interns move on to graduate programs and rewarding career paths in the field. Managing the program and providing guidance to so many exceptional students has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job. For more information on the Padnos Museum Internship Program, visit <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/internInfo.asp> or contact me at 616.254.0379 / [James.Draper@nara.gov](mailto:James.Draper@nara.gov).



Museum interns Mary Frances Eshleman and Jesse Damsteegt clean and wax the Gerald R. Ford statue on the museum's plaza in preparation for winter.

## Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame, Lansing, MI

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame (MWHOF) installed a new small temporary exhibit in their Hall of Fame Gallery titled: *Because They Won, We Run: Michigan Women in Politics*. When women's suffrage finally passed in Michigan in 1918 and nationally in 1919, the door opened for women to run for local, state, and federal offices. The victories were hard won, as was respect from their male counterparts. Many women were not taken seriously and often found themselves facing more barriers and judgement once in office. This exhibit features Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Inductees that broke through those glass ceilings.

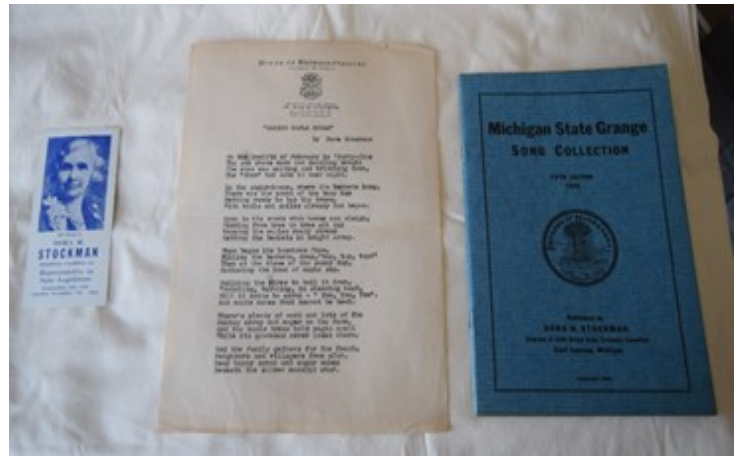


*Because They Won, We Run: Michigan Women in Politics*

## Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame continued

The museum's other current temporary exhibit, *Great Girls in Michigan History*, has been extended until April 15, after which it will go on the road throughout Michigan. MWHOF is also gearing up for Women's History Month in March with various community outreach programs, including a screening of the documentary *Equal Means Equal*, and over ten traveling exhibits available for rental. In addition, the museum will have its new slate of once-a-month "Family Saturdays" programming starting in January.

MWHOF recently received two new important collections. The first being the personal papers of Dr. Dora Stockman (1872-1948), a Hall of Fame Inductee and Michigan Grange member who was instrumental in starting the 4-H Club. She also served on the Board of Directors at Michigan State University (then the Board of Agriculture), helped create the Michigan Medical Insurance Program (instituted as Blue Cross/Blue Shield), and served in the Michigan House of Representatives. Stockman was also a prolific song, poem, and play writer with over 200 published poems.



Items from the Dr. Dora Stockman Collection



Items from the East Tawas Ladies Literary Club Collection



The second substantial collection consisted of various papers, scrapbooks, and photographs of the East Tawas Ladies Literary Club (1884-present). Literary/Woman's Clubs were very popular throughout the nation in the mid-to late-nineteenth centuries and were often the only place that women could express any kind of a role of leadership in their communities.

# Missouri

Stacie Petersen

## Statewide

The Springfield-Greene County Library District, Missouri History Museum, Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the State Historical Society of Missouri received the 2016 Award of Merit given by AASLH for the project *Over There: Missouri & the Great War*. A statewide collaborative digitization initiative to document Missouri's World War I history, this project improved or created access to nearly 22,000 pages of primary source materials. More than thirty organizations came together to combine their resources and expertise to share this story with students, teachers and audiences across the state.

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## National World War I Museum, Kansas City

In December 2006, the newly built National World War I Museum opened to international acclaim. Ten years and more than 2 million visitors later, the Museum celebrates the 10-year anniversary. One of the world's great museums, this Kansas City-area funded and national icon is saying "Thank you."

The National World War I Museum and Memorial was featured prominently on the Friday, Sept. 23 episode of the Emmy Award-winning television game show *Jeopardy!*. *Jeopardy!*, the top-rated quiz show on television with more than 23 million viewers each week, featured the Museum in an entire category of video clues filmed on-site at the Museum. *Jeopardy!* Clue Crew members Jimmy McGuire and Kelly Miyahara visited the Museum and participated in the filming of the clues.

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## Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

A manuscript internationally recognized as one of the greatest Armenian illuminated manuscripts by artist Mesrop of Xizan has been acquired by The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City through the generosity of late donor Lee Lyon. The acquisition of the London Book of Gospels allows the Nelson-Atkins to present, for the first time, a magnificently illustrated 17th-century Armenian Christian manuscript. The London Book of Gospels is an important cultural and historical document that provides valuable insight into the religious beliefs and related artistic practices of Armenian communities in West Asia.

The Nelson-Atkins has also acquired Piet Mondrian's important formative painting *Stammer Mill with Streaked Sky* in honor of Henry W. Bloch, Chair Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of the museum. The painting will join the recent gift of the Marion and Henry Bloch Collection, a transformative gift of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, in the newly designed Bloch Galleries, which will open in Spring 2017. The acquisition was announced at the 50th anniversary dinner of the Society of Fellows at the Nelson-Atkins.



## Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri, Columbia

In cooperation with the National Basketry Organization, the Museum will premiere the exhibit, *Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America*. This exhibition visually chronicles the history of American basketry from its origins in Native American, immigrant and slave communities to its presence within the contemporary fine art world. Baskets convey meaning and interpret American life through the artists' selection of materials; the techniques and forms they select; and the colors, designs, patterns, and textures they employ. Most of the pieces in the exhibit are being loaned by the artists for the tour. And some of them stretch the definition of "basket" (although all are woven).

It will run January 28 – May 14, 2017 at the Museum of Art and Archaeology and then begin a 3-year tour around the US – from New York to Florida to Washington state. More information is available at [americanbasketry.missouri.edu](http://americanbasketry.missouri.edu).



Basketry from the *Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America* exhibition, L-R: Ed Rossbach, *Mickey Mouse Coil Basket*, 1975, Synthetic raffia, sea grass: 6" x 9" x 9" ; Lois Russell, *Magic Bus*, 2012, Waxed linen: 9.25" x 11.5" x 10.5"

## Ohio

Robin Goodman

### Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier

In October, the Gund Gallery, installed *Pore*, by noted sculptor Antony Gormley, on the North façade of Rosse Hall. The anthropomorphic work, showing a figure seemingly crouched on the side of the building, was an uncanny sight that surprised and delighted students upon their return to campus over fall break.



Preparing *Pore* for installation

## Gund Gallery Continued



Installation of *Pore*

The sculpture joins several other artworks on campus as part of an active public art program. Other noted artists on view include Henry Moore, Kiki Smith, Paul Manship and Louise Nevelson.

The sculpture was given to the Gund Gallery in 2015; but, due to its extreme weight and outdoor location, the Public Art Committee took the time to properly site the work. Once a survey of possible locations was completed and recommendations made, the siting was granted final approval by the college. Fall break was selected for the final installation of the work to minimize any risks to the community from the heavy construction equipment required to move the artwork to Rosse Hall. On the day of, a crew of professional art handlers from Columbus completed the work under the supervision of Gund staff.



## Wisconsin

Laurel Fant

### The Rock County Historical Society

The Rock County Historical Society is busy preparing for 2017. This will be the second year we have selected one theme for all our events, programs and exhibits. "History In Focus: The Exhibit" will, of course, feature photography. We are also adding art, newspapers and quilts to encourage story telling by our visitors. One of our major events will utilize eight selected pieces of clothing, exhibited in the Lincoln-Tallman House. The Historical Society is inviting designers to focus on one element of the piece to recreate in a modern version. To unveil our 2017 year, several small artifacts will be included in an exhibit. Details about the events and programs can be found at [www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us).

Laurel Fant, Curator/Collections Manager

### Share Your News!!

Make life for your State Rep a little easier by submitting a news story, interesting tidbit, or update for the next issue of the *MRC Courier*. Listings for each state and contact information can be found at the end of the *Courier*.

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## of the

# MIDWEST REGISTRARS COMMITTEE

## Annual Report of the MRC Chair

Submitted by Andrew Near

### **MRC Board:**

We held elections this summer and have new board members. Andrew Near, succeeded Rachel Vargas as Chair; Ms. Vargas has taken over from Devon Pyle-Vowles as Vice-Chair; and Tamara Lange replaced Jennifer Noffze as Treasurer. Liz Fuhrman-Bragg and Linda Endersby now co-edit the newsletter. Continuing board members are: Ashleigh Herrera, Secretary; Lauren Hancock, Archives; Terry Segal, Development; and Cristin Waterbury, Nominations.

### **State Representatives:**

Our State Representatives include: Laura McDowell Hopper, Illinois; Sarah Connors, Iowa; Julie Conklin, Michigan; Jackie Hoff, Minnesota; Stacie Petersen, Missouri; Robin Goodman, Ohio; Laurel Font, Wisconsin. We have one new vacancy for the Indiana State Representative since Lana Newhart-Kellen has resigned.

### **MRC Business Meeting:**

The MRC held their business meeting during the Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 27—30, 2016. We welcomed our new board members. The board worked hard to provide collections sessions that were distinctly disaster related. Our annual meeting lunch was sponsored by Huntington T. Block and the MRC evening social was sponsored by Willis Fine Art, Jewelry & Specie.

### **Travel Stipends:**

Three travel stipends were awarded by the MRC to support member attendance at the 2016 AMM Annual Conference. Coordinated by Development Chair Terry Segal, these stipends were generously sponsored by Masterpiece International, Terry Dowd, Inc., and US Art.

### **State Meetings:**

The MRC sponsored two round table events held in Iowa and Michigan. State Representatives are encouraged to organize events in their state.

### **Budget:**

The MRC account balance remains steady as detailed in the Treasure's report.

### **Membership:**

MRC membership is up slightly from last year. We will be discussing opportunities to grow membership and add value to the organization this year.



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**Newsletter:**

Three issues of the MRC Courier were edited and published by Tamara Lange and distributed to members. Our newsletter contains special articles, information from the board and state representatives along with updates within the region.

**Web Presence:**

Sarah Connors has taken over from Craig Hadley as Webmaster, and maintains our website. Past issues of the *MRC Courier*, contact information for the board and state representatives, and membership information are available at [www.midwestregistrars.org](http://www.midwestregistrars.org). Our Facebook page continues to be a good place for information sharing.

**Looking Forward:**

We will hold our annual business meeting during the AMM Conference (July 12 – 15) in Des Moines, Iowa. The window for proposals for the 2017 AMM Annual Conference has already closed.

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## Annual Report of the Vice Chair

Devon Pyle-Vowles

**Travel Stipends**

In 2016, MRC had three travel stipend awards to support the recipients to attend the 2016 Association of Midwest Museums Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

The 2016 recipients were:

The ***Terry Dowd, Inc. Annual Travel Stipend*** was awarded to Hannah Frederick, Ames Historical Society, Ames, Iowa

The MRC Travel stipend funded by ***Masterpiece International*** was awarded to Julie Conklin, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan

The MRC Travel stipend funded by ***US Art Company*** was awarded to Amy Dunn, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan

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

In 2017, we hope to award another 3-4 travel stipends to support travel to the AMM meetings in Des Moines, Iowa. Look for the MRC Travel Stipend Application to arrive a bit earlier this year, in mid-March.

Devon Pyle-Vowles

MRC Vice Chair (2014-2016)

Rachel Vargas

MRC Vice Chair (2016-2018)

# Annual Report of the Treasurer

Tamara R. Lange

Beginning Balance January 2016	(**Includes \$50 not shown on previous annual reports held in separate Savings Account at Indiana Members Credit Union)	\$5,447.60
<b>INCOME</b>		
	Membership Dues/ Donations	\$1,020.54
	Sponsorship - Travel Stipends	\$2,250.00
	Sponsorship - Other	\$1,500.00
	Total Income Deposited	\$4,770.54
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	Annual Conference Travel Stipend	\$2,250.00
	Annual Conference Expenses	\$1,321.80
	MRC Chair Expenses	\$500.00
	State Event Support	\$381.06
	Administrative Costs	\$208.83
	Reimbursement Due MRC	\$182.90
	Total Expenses	\$4,844.59
Ending Balance 12/20/2016		\$5,397.60
<i>Funds held at Associated Bank NA</i>		

The Treasurer transition is well underway. Further information on membership renewal via PayPal will be forthcoming in early 2017; we are working to transition the account appropriately. Watch for an update coming soon!

# Annual Report of the Archives

Lauren Hancock

The MRC archives were re-organized this fall at the Field Museum and had some new additions, most notably the treasurer files from the last few years. With some board members moving on, the records of their work will be kept in the archives. We keep by-laws, agendas and meeting minutes, summaries of election results, annual rosters and membership lists, reports and correspondence, materials related to annual meetings, and of course, this newsletter! If you have anything you think may be appropriate to add, especially if you're a state representative or board member, please contact me at [lhancock@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:lhancock@fieldmuseum.org).

# Annual Report of the Secretary

Ashleigh Herrera

Membership in MRC remains strong at the end of 2016, with 122 current members. Heading into 2017, we still have 21 MRC members with unpaid dues. Don't forget that MRC membership dues are for the calendar year- membership for all members will expire on December 31, 2016.

**Secretary's Report** continued

This year will bring several retirements and moves, so don't forget about MRC when speaking with emerging professionals as well. MRC is a great way to get involved for a nominal \$10 fee – with many great networking and professional development opportunities!

Starting January 1, feel free to submit a renewal for 2017 by filling out the renewal form here: <http://midwestregistrars.org/membership-2/joinrenew-membership>. Filling out this form is also the easiest way to let MRC know of any contact information changes.

New for this year, due to the Treasurer change, we will be invoicing members during the 2017 Membership Drive. Simply indicate that you would like to pay by "PayPal" on the renewal form and pay the invoice when you receive it. Dues can still be paid by check by following the instructions on the "registration and renewal tab" on the MRC website.

For questions regarding membership status, please contact your state representative or Ashleigh Herrera at [ashleigh.herrera@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:ashleigh.herrera@wisconsinhistory.org). Watch your email for more Membership Drive updates!

<b>MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY STATE</b>			
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2016 CURRENT MEMBERS</b>	<b>2016 MEMBERS WITH UNPAID DUES</b>	<b>2015 MEMBERSHIP (PAID AND UNPAID)</b>
IOWA	9	0	7
ILLINOIS	17	4	16
INDIANA	11	1	11
MICHIGAN	24	3	17
MINNESOTA	23	2	6
MISSOURI	8	3	9
OHIO	11	4	12
WISCONSIN	19	4	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>96</b>

<b>MEMBERSHIP YEARLY BY STATE</b>			
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
IOWA	9	7	9
ILLINOIS	17	16	16
INDIANA	11	11	12
MICHIGAN	24	17	18
MINNESOTA	23	6	8
MISSOURI	8	9	6
OHIO	11	12	7
WISCONSIN	19	18	23
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>99</b>



# Midwest Registrars Committee

## CHAIR

Andrew Near, Collections Manager  
Kruizenga Art Museum, Hope College  
271 Columbia Avenue, PO Box 9000  
Holland, Michigan 49422-9000  
616-395-6402, [near@hope.edu](mailto:near@hope.edu)

## VICE-CHAIR & TRAVEL STIPENDS

Rachel Vargas, Registrar  
Broad Art Museum  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824  
517-884-0651, [vargasr@msu.edu](mailto:vargasr@msu.edu)

## SECRETARY

Ashleigh Herrera, Collections Assistant  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
815-219-9039, [aherrera3@wisc.edu](mailto:aherrera3@wisc.edu)

## TREASURER

Tamara R. Lange, Collection Coordinator/Registrar  
Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum  
3110 Erie Avenue  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081  
920-458-1103, [tamara.lange@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:tamara.lange@sheboygancounty.com)

## ARCHIVES

Lauren Hancock, Associate Registrar  
The Field Museum  
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-2496  
312-665-7872, [lhancock@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:lhancock@fieldmuseum.org)

## DEVELOPMENT

Terry Segal, Associate Registrar  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
5200 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48202  
313-833-7907, [tsegal@dia.org](mailto:tsegal@dia.org)

## NOMINATIONS

Cristin Waterbury, Director of Curatorial Services  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium  
350 East Third Street  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
563-557-9545, [cwaterbury@rivermuseum.com](mailto:cwaterbury@rivermuseum.com)

## NEWSLETTER

Linda Endersby, Registrar/Collections Manager  
Museum of Art & Archaeology, University of Missouri  
115 Business Loop 70W, Room 2014B  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
573-882-5077, [endersbyl@missouri.edu](mailto:endersbyl@missouri.edu)

Liz Fuhrman Bragg, Registrar  
Evansville Museum  
411 S.E. Riverside Drive  
Evansville, Indiana 47713  
812-425-2406, [liz@emuseum.org](mailto:liz@emuseum.org)

## WEBSITE

Sarah Connors, Assistant Director  
International Preservation Studies Center  
203 E. Seminary St.  
Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053  
815-244-1173, [connors@preservationcenter.org](mailto:connors@preservationcenter.org)

## ILLINOIS

Laura McDowell-Hopper, Curator  
The Anthropology Museum, Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
248-462-3181, [laura.mcdowell.hopper@gmail.com](mailto:laura.mcdowell.hopper@gmail.com)

## INDIANA

Open  
Contact Andrew Near, Chair, if you're interested in serving!

## IOWA

Sarah Connors, Assistant Director  
Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies  
203 E. Seminary St.  
Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053  
815-244-1173, [connors@campbellcenter.org](mailto:connors@campbellcenter.org)

## MICHIGAN

Julie Conklin, Associate Registrar  
Grand Rapids Art Museum  
101 Monroe Center  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
616-242-5020, [jconklin@artmuseumgr.org](mailto:jconklin@artmuseumgr.org)

## MINNESOTA

Jackie Hoff, Director, Collection Services  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
120 West Kellogg Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651-221-9435, [jhoff@smm.org](mailto:jhoff@smm.org)

## MISSOURI

Stacie Petersen, Registrar  
National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial  
100 W 26th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
816-888-8119, [Stacie.Petersen@theworldwar.org](mailto:Stacie.Petersen@theworldwar.org)

## OHIO

Robin Goodman, Collections Manager and Registrar  
Graham Gund Gallery  
Kenyon College  
101 1/2 College Drive  
Gambier, Ohio 43022  
740-427-5969, [goodmanr@kenyon.edu](mailto:goodmanr@kenyon.edu)

## WISCONSIN

Laurel Fant, Curator/Collections Manager  
Rock County Historical Society  
426 N Jackson Street  
Janesville, Wisconsin 53548  
608-756-4509 ext. 302, [rchsfant@gmail.com](mailto:rchsfant@gmail.com)



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 Alliance 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 annual 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](mailto: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](mailto:jenn@childrensmuseum.org)

### -OR-

Send paper application and payment to:

Jennifer Noffze

MRC Treasurer

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

P.O. Box 3000

Indianapolis, IN 46206