

Northwest Archivists, Inc Annual Report 2019-2020



From the Dining Table of the President

Well, this has been a unique year for NWA, and perhaps all of the other archival associations in the world. Here's an overview of what we have been up to:

- Western Archivists Meeting name change
- Archivist in Residence program Pilot Year
- Updates to Procedures Manual
- Scholarships and Awards (attached report)

Western Archivists Meeting

- In 2019 the Presidents of NWA, SCA, CIMA, and SRMA voted to change the name of the “Western Roundup” to “Western Archivists Meeting.” The new title is more descriptive and less problematic.
- We had a very promising program with excellent presenters, speakers, and unique offerings scheduled for April of 2020.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic caused the conference to be cancelled.
- Due to the diligence of SCA, the organizations avoided any financial penalties for cancellations.

Archivist in Residence Program – Pilot

- In 2019, the NWA Board approved the Archivist in Residence (AiR) Pilot Program for 1 year.
- In 2020, the NWA Board approved the AiR Committee's selected application and project.
- This project begins in Summer or Fall of 2020.
- A report will be issued to the membership outlining the outcomes of the pilot.

Procedure Manual Updates

- In 2020 the NWA Board approved the following addition to the Procedures Manual, page 12, under Special Presentations:

The Committee should arrange a Tribal Land Acknowledgement. This includes outreach to officials from the tribe (or tribes) who claims the conference site as their traditional lands and may take many forms including, but not limited to an opening blessing, an educational talk, or performance.

Special Thanks to Steve Bingo for proposing the update and text!!!

Appointments and Transitions

- Rachael Woody resigned as Webmaster after 2 productive years including a complete website overhaul.
- Alisha Babbstein took over the Webmaster role in February.
- Elizabeth Russell resigned as Membership Coordinator after 2 awesome years of ensuring members' dues are correctly logged in Wild Apricot and updating payment info for renewals.
- Colleen Needham resigned as Communications Committee Chair after serving 2 years coordinating the efforts of that group.

State Representative Reports - Oregon

- 77 Active Members
 - 12 New Members!
- 70 Emails of News, Jobs and Announcements sent to Oregon Members.
- Archives Month Activities
 - Archives Crawl in Portland
 - PDX ReMIX
 - State Archives Open House
 - SAA's Ask an Archivist Day
 - COSA's Electronic Records Day
- 2019 Annual Conference in Bozeman, MT
 - 39 Oregon Members Attended
- COVID-19
 - Received several questions about Oregon's response and WAM status.

State Representative Report - Alaska

- Hellos and goodbyes: New archivists at University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Anchorage Museum; Veronica Denison left us for the plains of Kansas but is still editing the NWA blog
- The informal Alaska Archivists group is still meeting, a year after an NWA professional development grant got us up and running
- Proposed closure of NARA-Seattle drew responses from state and local historical societies and strong lobbying of Alaska's congressional delegation
- Covid-19-related closure of all libraries, archives, and museums from March 23 to present has already led to some layoffs

State Representative Report - Washington

- 83 active members
 - 10 new members...Welcome!
- Archives Month
 - Celebrate Washington's Heritage
 - Used Washington State Archives Month page to promote 17 events
 - Big thanks to Ryan Donaldson for spearheading effort
- NARA Seattle sale approval
 - Gathered input on desired support
 - Discussed statements and resources in early March
- COVID-19
 - Received several responses about work status of Seattle-area archivists and recommendations for postponing WAM 2020.

State Representative Report - Montana

- A site was chosen for the Montana Historical Society's new Montana Heritage Center and the project moved to the design phase.
- The Montana History Foundation awarded funding to the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation's Central Montana Métis Oral History Project for an oral historian to interview ten descendants of original Central Montana Métis settlers. The interviews and additional documentation will be made available on the Montana Memory Project and will also be available at the Lewistown Public Library.
- A project to document COVID-19 in Missoula County brings together professionals from the University of Montana, Missoula County, the City of Missoula, Heritage Missoula, and several Missoula businesses to implement and manage "Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County: A Community Archive Project."
- The Montana Historical Society acquired an additional 285 linear feet of records from the Montana AFL-CIO to add to its existing collection, MC 341 Montana State AFL-CIO records, 1896-2000.

State Representative Report – Idaho

- We currently have 4 active members
- 2 new members
- Our most active members are from the University of Idaho and they are still looking for a Head of Special Collections and Archives
- We had two Member spotlights on the blog in 2019!
- Ashlyn Velte , the Idaho representative 2018-2020, moved to Colorado in the middle of last year, so we are very happy that Amy Thompson from the University of Idaho is taking over!

Native American Collections Roundtable

- Roundtable leadership consisted of Lotus Norton-Wisla (secretary), Terry Baxter (treasurer), Steve Bingo (coordinator).
- Organized brown bag session for Western Archivists Meeting featuring Nicole Myers-Lim titled “Decolonizing Framework for Archives and Collections.”
- Proposed addition to NWA policies and procedures to make a land acknowledgement a regular part of program planning.
 - It passed!
- Did not award any scholarships.
 - We believe this was in part due to location, but will need to revisit if lack of applicants persists.
- 2020-2021 leadership will be: Lotus Norton-Wisla (secretary), Shannon Rosenbaum (scholarship coordinator), Terry Baxter (treasurer), Gena Peone (coordinator).

From the Home Office of the Incoming President, Anne Jenner

I enter my year of service at a challenging time for archivists and users of archives. I look forward to working with the NWA Board to keep members connected and better prepared to meet new challenges.

- We will host a series of virtual programs for members to present papers/panel sessions that were missed because the 2020 Annual meeting cancellation.
- We will strive to offer online professional development opportunities for members.
- We are planning an in-person Annual Meeting 2021 to be held in Olympia, Washington (time and place TBA.) We will be flexible and creative to meet the challenges of any possible extended shutdown orders or other limits for in-person meetings in spring 2021.
- We are open to your suggestions for ways to keep members connected this year.
- Keep in touch and take care!

Reports

- 2019 NWA Budget Report, courtesy of Brian Johnson, Treasurer
- 2019-2020 Membership Coordinator Report, courtesy of Elizabeth Russell, Membership Coordinator
- 2019-2020 Nominating Committee Report, courtesy of Bryce Henry, Past President
- Awards Overview 2019-2020, courtesy of Anneliese Warhank and Josh Zimmerman