

Society of Ohio Archivists
Slate of Candidates
2009

All candidates were asked to answer a question about what skills they could bring to the Society of Ohio Archivists.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

Judy Cobb

Product Manager, Digital Collection Services, Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)

B.A., Houghton College
MLS, University of New York at Buffalo

If elected, I will work to ensure that SOA provides opportunities for Ohio archivists to continue their professional development while working to support the archival community's efforts to enrich the lives and careers of the people of Ohio who we serve.

As an active member of SOA for the last 15 years, I have served on numerous local arrangements and program committees, as well as the Public Information Committee (PIC). While serving on PIC, I acted as webmaster for SOA. Additionally, I edited the SOA newsletter, the Ohio Archivist, and advocated for and led its transition from paper to the web, which provided significant cost savings to SOA. I was co-chair of the successful joint MAC/SOA 2007 Spring Meeting Local Arrangements Committee, and have served on Council.

Professionally, I have been fortunate to have been a working archivist for many years and have had professional leadership experience in the field of libraries and museums. As the Assistant State Archivist, at the Ohio Historical Society's State Archives, I served on and chaired several Ohio Electronic Records Committee working groups while gaining knowledge and experience with Ohio's public records laws. At OCLC, I have developed a series a digitization related workshops and have managed the development of services for the creation, management, access, and preservation of digital materials for libraries and museums. This wide range of experience has afforded me the opportunity to see first hand the transformation of archives, libraries and museums as they converge in the digital era. I believe the goals of cultural heritage organizations must align. We must work together to get collections on the Web and available to the people who need knowledge and information. SOA must continue its efforts to work with libraries and museums, and support Ohio archivists in their digital collections work.

My experience, skills, and knowledge will benefit SOA as it continues its strong commitment to quality conferences, outreach and educational activities. These local Ohio-based efforts take on new significance for us in the current economic climate. As conference attendance, travel and continuing education decline with our budgets, SOA

has the opportunity and responsibility to offer its members networking and professional development close to home.

Vic Fleischer

Associate Professor of Bibliography, University Archivist, and Head, Archival Services,
The University of Akron

BA History, Kent State University, Kent, OH

MA History, Kent State University, Kent, OH

MLS, Library and Information Science, Kent State University, Kent, OH

According to the Duties of Officers in the SOA Constitution and Bylaws the responsibility of the SOA President is to “direct and coordinate the affairs of the society” and to “preside at all business meetings of the society and of the council.” One of the other roles of the SOA President is to advocate for archives and gain support for archival programs throughout the state. I believe I have the necessary skills and experiences to carry out these functions of the office and to excel as your next president if given the opportunity.

I have served as the head of archives and special collections at two state universities and as the director of a university museum. For nearly a decade I have had the responsibility of administering all activities of my department including directing staff in the day to day operations of the unit, fundraising and managing financial operations, and promoting the programs through marketing and development activities. I have been extremely successful in communicating the importance of archives to a variety of players and have gained their support through substantial increases in staff and funding, which in one case helped to create a new archives program, and in the other case helped to rebuild one. These challenges required a lot of hard work, vision, creativity, patience, persistence, and determination. These endeavors also called for good problem solving skills, people skills, leadership skills, and the ability to set priorities, juggle numerous tasks at once, and to communicate and collaborate with a variety of individuals and organizations.

According to our mission one of the primary roles of SOA is to “improve professional competence” of our members through educational opportunities. As part of the new SOA strategic plan, which I assisted in creating while Vice President, one of our goals will be to promote and strengthen the archival profession in Ohio by improving our educational programs and networking opportunities and to increase membership by working with new professionals and students. Throughout my career I have taught in a variety of settings including teaching college level courses and information literacy classes, delivering lectures to community organizations, and presenting sessions at numerous conferences. I learned the value of education at a young age and firmly believe that education and information sharing is the key to success. I also believe that while we must continue to address the needs of our current members, we also need to involve and inform our students and young professionals. Therefore, I feel that SOA must continue to offer quality educational programs and networking opportunities at low costs that cater to

both groups and I feel that my experiences in the field of education and passion for teaching can assist in this area.

Throughout my career I have served on and chaired numerous committees on the university, community, and state level. As a member of SOA Council I presided over the Web Site/Public Information Committee where I shared information with the membership and helped to promote the important work of the society. As chair of the Awards Committee I have endeavored to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Ohio's archivists and archival organizations. I also participated on the Fall 2008 Workshop Committee and the 2009 Conference Committee where I assisted in developing and providing quality educational programs and networking opportunities to our members. As a Board Member of the Ohio Museums Association for many years I serve on the Communications and Advocacy Committee and formerly chaired the Web Site Committee.

As Vice President of SOA for the past two years I have supported the President, the Council, and the Executive Board with running the organization. Through these experiences I have demonstrated my organizational, communication, and leadership skills and the ability to work as part of a team. All of these experiences have helped me gain valuable insight into all aspects of the operation of the society and a solid understanding of the goals, mission, and direction of the organization. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as your next president and I welcome the opportunity to put my skills, knowledge, and experiences to work to help address the needs of our members and to move our society forward.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Davidson

BA -- Michigan State University

MLS -- University at Buffalo

MA -- Kent State University

If elected vice president of SOA, I would offer experience, problem-solving skills, vision for new ideas, and a great desire to contribute to advancing SOA as a professional organization.

As an active member and officer of SOA, as well as a member and chair of committees, I believe that my experience is substantial and diverse, and offers unique qualifications for service. I am well familiar with the governance of SOA and its policies and practices, having been a member since I started in the profession. I have worked with many SOA members during my tenure on council, particularly as chair of this year's conference planning committee. Other relevant experience includes my current employment, where I solely manage my library's local history collections and present original programming (lectures, blog articles, etc.). As manager of my department (and a staff supervisor), I have solved a variety of issues, from enforcing library rules to establishing a collections management policy.

This diversity of experience helps to inspire in me a vision for improving the quality of service and support from SOA to its members and to the profession in general. As a high priority, we should continue to implement and enhance the ideas formulated in our recent long-range plans -- particularly those relating to expanding membership services and professional outreach. A reassessment of committees and their services is a good start. I intend to work with the president and council to increase communication with members - - encouraging input and critiques from members, and reporting regularly on SOA actions and ideas.

I wish to offer my time and interest in making SOA an even better organization for its members. This can best be achieved through cooperation and communication between all members and with council. I encourage you to share your thoughts with me.

Louise Jones

Department Manager, Research Services
Ohio Historical Society

B.A., Cornell University
M.L.S., Drexel University

I have worked with archival and special collections for over 20 years, mostly in a reference or public service capacity, but over the years I have worn a variety of hats. Whether as a manuscripts curator, processing archivist or reference archivist, my interest has always been providing the best possible access to the collections in my care. I started my career at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania with manuscripts but have enjoyed broadening my knowledge by coming to the Ohio Historical Society where I have added public records, printed materials and audio-visual collections.

It is important to be able to connect with different audiences to promote and to provide better access to collections. Working closely with both internal partners (such as History Day and Outreach staff) and external organizations (such as Franklin County Genealogical Society and Ohio Library Council Subject and Special Collections committee) I have created programs and presentations highlighting archives and collections access. I have presented sessions on promoting archives through public programs at MAC, OLC and SAA. I have been active in the American Library Association, serving on the ABC-CLIO awards committee as well as the history and genealogy committees. For the last two years, I have served as the chair of the Archives Month Committee.

I strongly believe that the mission of most collecting organizations is to provide a safe haven for collections so that people can use them to understand history and the world around them. I enjoy seeing people connect to history by using the unique evidence of the past. My experience with outreach at the state and national level will help SOA build partnerships and accomplish its goal of promoting Ohio's archival institutions. If elected

as Vice-President, I hope to expand the role of the committees in order to attract more members to SOA.

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Gillian Hill

Records and Information Manager / Archivist, Greene County. Degrees: BA and MA, Wright State University. Member: SOA (Council 1996-98, Secretary 2001-present), SAA, MAC, Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (Chair 1995-98), Society of Archivists (UK), West Sussex Archives Society (UK) (Treasurer 1983-91), ARMA International (Great Lakes Region Manager 2007-present, Region Coordinator 2003-2007, Archives ISG Leader 1999-2001), ARMA Greater Dayton Chapter (Director 1994-95, 2005-2007, Secretary 1995-97, 2007-present, Vice-President 1997-98, President 1998-99, Chair 1999-2000,), Records Management Society of Great Britain, SAA/ARMA Joint Committee (Vice Chair 2000-01, Chair 2001-2003).

The experience I bring to this position is my past eight years of service as Secretary on Council. I have very much enjoyed working in this position and would welcome the opportunity to continue. I believe that I have demonstrated in my past years of service as Secretary that I possess the organization and communication skills required for this position.

To reiterate my feelings about the duties of the Secretary from past statements, I believe that what is most important is to provide accurate, complete and timely minutes of Council meetings. This is both to assist Council with its duties, and to provide accountability to the membership as a whole. The minutes also provide a detailed history of the Society, documenting its goals and achievements over time. I have consistently prepared and distributed drafts of the minutes of Council meetings to Council members shortly after the meetings. Once approved, the minutes are posted to the SOA website, so that members can review Council's deliberations as soon as possible.

I remain committed to the position of Secretary, because I firmly believe that sound recordkeeping in the present guarantees the permanent retention of records of enduring historical value for the future. As a member of this organization of archivists, I realize that we should take as much care of our Society's records as we do of the archival collections of the institutions for which we work.

I would be honored to continue to serve as Secretary of SOA, and ask for your support.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL

Christine Engels

Christine is currently the Assistant Archivist at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Previously she was the Associate Archivist at the American Jewish Archives. She has a master's degree in Public History from Wright State University, a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Florida and is a Certified Archivist. In addition to working with SOA's education committee and the program committee for the 2009 conference she also was the co-chair of SAA's Women's Archivist Roundtable.

I believe that my current job at the Cincinnati Historical Society Library at the Cincinnati Museum Center gives me a different perspective from many of the people who have served on council in the past. I am not attached to a university or government organization. Most of the records in Ohio and throughout the country are held at small historical societies. While the CHSL is not a small historical society it still operates within the world of those historical societies in that our collections are varied and include books, manuscripts, photographs and objects and also that our funding is precarious. The societies often do not have the staff or funding to attend conferences and are often run by volunteers on a daily basis. Were I to be on council I would hope to place more emphasis on including these societies and their workers into the activities of SOA.

I have worked a variety of positions since entering the field, beginning with processing collections and doing reference work and later progressing into supervising workers, teaching courses and leading projects of both digital and physical exhibits. I have also stayed as active as I can politically by remaining in contact with my local representatives and obtaining their support for funding of historical and cultural projects. Building a relationship with your representatives and their staff is crucial in these times of budget cuts. The Statehood Day events held each year in March are a great example of doing just this but with our allied professions we make a far greater impression. Since I work in the same building as many allied professionals I have a good understanding of their needs and also the commitment of the general public and city and county governments to cultural and historical institutions.

Lynda Kachurek

Education: B.A., History, Millikin University
M.A. and ABD, History, Purdue University
Certificate, Archives Management, Wright State University.

Member: Society of American Archivists
Society of Ohio Archivists
Midwest Archives Conference
Miami Valley Archives Roundtable
Oral History Association

SOA serves an important purpose for Ohio archivists through its organization, its training, and its conferences and events. SOA's members have a variety of needs from this professional association, and it is incumbent upon the leadership to be aware of and to try to meet those needs. Frequent communication is vital to retain and grow members, as well as continuing strong educational opportunities around the state, whether via the web or in person. Forging new partnerships to highlight collections and institutions, sharing ideas and technologies, and working together to continue to raise awareness of the rich cultural resources of Ohio archives is the hallmark of SOA.

All of us face exceptional demands on our professional and personal resources, not the least of which is time, so I believe volunteering for service to any organization must include a willingness to dedicate time and energy to the task. Enthusiasm to support the mission of SOA is crucial to the organization's success. As an archivist, oral historian, adjunct graduate instructor, and member of SOA, I would bring a diverse set of experiences to the work of the SOA Council.

Through my daily work, I keep current not only on best practices but on technologies and trends within the profession. My participation in local, state, regional and national professional organizations serves as an opportunity to learn and share ideas and to refine known skills while developing new ones as well. As an adjunct faculty member in the Public History program at Wright State University, I help train the next generation of archivists to enter the profession. Perhaps the most defining skills I offer as a candidate to serve as a council member for the Society of Ohio Archivists would be dedication, enthusiasm, and a strong professional and personal commitment to the organization.

It would be an honor to serve the SOA membership and help address the challenges facing Ohio archivists. Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Kattelman

Assistant Professor/Associate Curator
Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute
The Ohio State University

PhD Theatre - Ohio State 1999
MLIS Information Studies - Kent State - 2005

Member of OhioLINK EAD Task Force 2007 - present
SOA Newsletter Editor 2005 – present

The skills and experience I will bring to SOA are varied. I am currently the Associate Curator of Ohio State's Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, but prior to that I worked at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and was the General Manager of Borders Books and Music. Thus, I come to the archival profession with a broad base of knowledge that encompasses not only archives and special collections, but also public libraries and corporate information systems. I also teach theatre at OSU and am active in

the Columbus theatre community, and I believe that my teaching and public speaking skills would be a real asset to the organization. I have taught more classes and given more workshops and presentations than I can count -- and have loved every minute of it!

As the current editor for the newsletter of the Society of Ohio Archivists I have had the privilege of attending SOA council meetings for the past four years, and this experience has given me good insight into the actual operation of the organization. I am very impressed with the governance of SOA and believe strongly in the organization's mission. Simply put, it's a great group run by a great bunch of people, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve along with them.

Deanna Ulvestad

Head Archivist/Records Manager, Greene County Public Library

B.A., Studio Art/Art History, Wittenberg University

M.A., Public History, Wright State University

It is hard to predict the full effect of the current economic crisis on the archive profession. As organizations continue to cut budgets and staff, the importance of and reliance on regional professional groups such as SOA will increase. I participated in the SWOT session at the SOA Spring 2008 meeting. The consensus was that SOA is valued by its membership and the support it provides is needed. If elected to Council, I would welcome the opportunity to work to meet the needs of the membership and to plan for the future of SOA.

For more than 20 years, I have worked as an Archivist in a variety of organizations, including museums, businesses, a seminary, and a public library. I have a range of experiences and skills that will enable me to contribute to the work of the Council. I have been a member of SOA and SAA for a number of years. In 2008, I served on the SOA nominating committee. Currently, I am serving on the SAA Records Managers Roundtable website committee.