

The Kentucky Archivist

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Rusty Heckaman, KCA Chair 2023-2024

Since our last newsletter, we've entered a new year, crossing a threshold that gives us pause and an excuse to reflect on the past year and resolve to change in the next. 2023 marked my family's second full year in Kentucky. I've witnessed my children continue to grow and evolve their unique personalities, often surprising me with just how independent and self-aware a 4- and 6-year-old can be. Personally, it has been a rewarding year. Professionally, it has been no less so. Thankfully, my colleagues do not feel the need to express their independence quite so vociferously as my children. I've truly been fortunate to find such an accommodating workplace with peers that I look forward to spending time with at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and a community with whom I belong in the Kentucky Council on Archives.

When I reflect on the past year with KCA, I find my thoughts



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

revolve around three core concepts: community, education, and service. Community is something we often think of as archivists. We consider the communities we serve as well as those our collections represent. However, we may not as regularly consider the community to which we belong. Many of us work independently in our institutions or work apart from the rest of our organizations. Through groups like KCA we find our professional community, our peers, and friends who share our experience and among whom we can find understanding—understanding of our professional passions and frustrations as well as the joys of our accomplishments KCA has welcomed me to Kentucky and connected me to a community of archivists that I'm excited to belong to.

In addition to the camaraderie found in KCA has been education. This past year, that education focused on disaster response and planning. In May 2023, we gathered as a community in Hazard and heard from our peers who experienced tragic flooding in Eastern Kentucky. Hands-on activities in Louisville in November 2023 gave us the chance to practice skills to feel more comfortable with responding and taking action in emergencies.

Action, perhaps, provides the best transition to my final thoughts. KCA has been a place where I've been so impressed by the actions of my peers. Current archivists represent only the most recent actions of nearly 50 years of archivists in this state in service to KCA and its members. Our combined commitment has created the opportunities for community and education that I so gratefully enjoy. As I look toward passing on leadership to Carol Street, I also look towards those who will take action and commit to professional service by volunteering to serve as Vice-Chair. I hope you may be inspired to do so.

Thanks to Carol and the Board, KCA is positioned to continue to act in support of archival community and education next year. Carol's leadership in the creation of a Membership committee promises to create more opportunities for involvement in our community. The Board's plan for the Spring meeting will include excellent education and professional development sessions. I'm looking forward to another year with KCA and all of you!

- Rusty

KCA BOARD

Rusty Heckaman, Chair
*Kentucky Department for Libraries
and Archives*

Ruth Bryan, Past Chair
University of Kentucky

Carol Street, Vice Chair
University of Kentucky

Mark C. Meade, Treasurer
Thomas Merton Center

Elizabeth Reilly, Secretary
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Suellyn Lathrop, Member-at-Large
Western Kentucky University

Matthew Strandmark, Member-at-Large
University of Kentucky

Elisha Taylor, Webmaster
University of Pikeville

Cathrine Giles, Newsletter Editor
*Kentucky Department for Libraries
and Archives*

[Learn about KCA Governance here.](#)

KCA BOARD NEWS

Fall Meeting 2023

Submitted by Cathrine Giles



Hosted at the Filson Historical Society, the KCA Fall 2023 Meeting offered practical emergency response training as a follow up to the Spring 2023 Meeting, No Archives Unaware. Under the direction of Sara Holmes, a conservator at the National Archives and Records Administrator, attendees spent the morning getting their hands dirty and learning how to organize a response to an emergency, prioritize and handle materials, and observe the effects of water damage in particular.

In the afternoon, Leah Hamilton, Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky

Department of Arts Administration, guided attendees through a variety of emergency scenarios. They were also challenged to create their own disaster scenarios and solutions, leading many to appreciate the need to audit risk for a safer and more resilient work environment.

Call for Board Nominations

Are you interested in serving on the KCA Board? **Consider nominating yourself (or someone you know!) for Vice Chair/Chair Elect!**

The elected Vice Chair will serve as Chair during their second year and Past Chair in their third year. In order to serve on the Board, you must be a KCA member in good standing. Board members are expected to attend business meetings and KCA events. The Board facilitates the operations of the organization, plans membership meetings and events, and advocates for the professional interests of its members.

More information about the position can be found [in the bylaws](#).

Nominations should be sent to Rusty Heckaman (Rusty.Heckaman@ky.gov) or Carol Street (CarolStreet@uky.edu).

KCA BOARD NEWS

KCA Continuing Education Scholarship Award

Submitted by Suellyn Lathrop

The Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA) invites applications for the inaugural Continuing Education Scholarship Award. The awards are available to professional archivists, graduate students, and para-professionals who seek funds to pursue continuing education or professional development opportunities both within the Commonwealth and outside it, virtual or in-person. Those interested can apply for up to \$500 to offset registration, lodging, and/or travel expenses. Awards are open to any person engaged in archival work in Kentucky; applicants are not required to be members of KCA.

To apply for the Scholarship Award, please fill out and submit the [application form](#) by March 29, 2024.

KCA particularly encourages graduate students, new professionals, para-professionals, and members of underrepresented groups to apply for the scholarship award.

Please contact Suellyn Lathrop with any questions or comments, suellyn.lathrop@wku.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Midwest Archives Conference



May 2-4, 2024 | Des Moines, Iowa

Join hundreds of archivists, curators and information professionals from a 13-state region and beyond to find out what MAC has to offer you. The conference theme this year is "Sowing Seeds of Change." [Details here!](#)



KCA Spring 2024 Meeting—Save the Date!

May 31, 2024 | Nerinx, Kentucky

Taking place in person and at the [Loretto Heritage Center](#).

More information on [page 6](#). Registration details will be provided soon!



Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance Conference

June 2-4, 2024 | Maysville, Kentucky

The Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance Conference is all about the exchange of ideas and learning from our fellow colleagues, so we need your help and input! The 2024 KMHA conference theme is Gateway to Museums and asks you to consider how we ensure that our institutions remain relevant and accessible in an ever-evolving world. [Details here!](#)

Have an event or know of one that might be of interest? Email ElishaTaylor@upike.edu to include it on the [KCA online events calendar!](#)

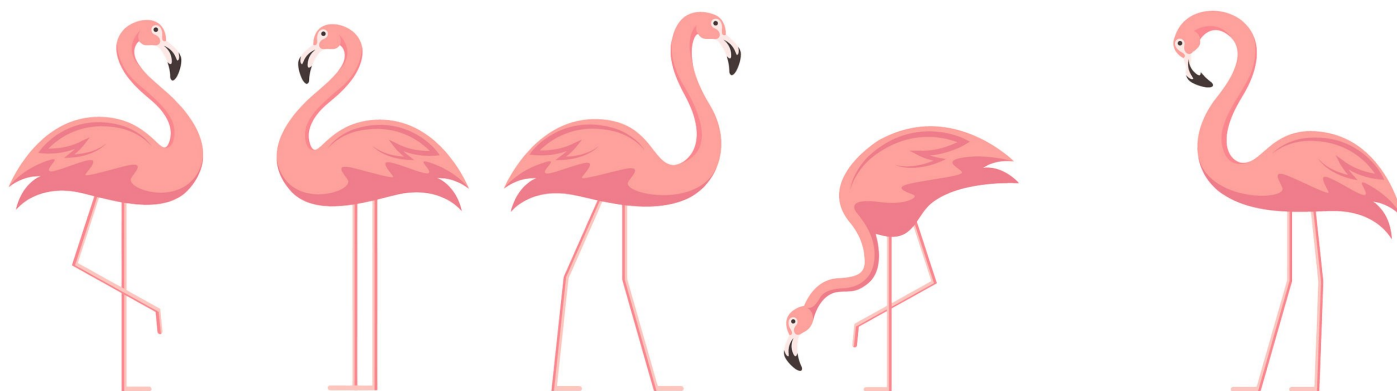
Spring 2024 Meeting

The Commonwealth's Community of Archives: *Flocking Together*

Recent Kentucky Council on Archives annual meetings focused on the challenges faced by our archival repositories in response to major events like the COVID pandemic and natural disasters. Amidst grappling with these weighty themes, our collections, peers, and facilities have all experienced significant changes. This year KCA invites you to attend an annual meeting that looks to regroup our community of archivists and cultural heritage workers. Whether you have recently joined the profession in this region, or are a more tenured member, this meeting will be an opportunity for everyone to connect—and reconnect—with one another. Discover the many archival institutions from across Kentucky and bond with fellow archivists over the shared challenges and joys of our work.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 31st, at the Loretto Heritage Center in Nerinx, where we will flock together to hatch new ideas. In addition to finding your birds of a feather among similar organizations or workgroups, attendees will learn from the migratory experience of peers dealing with relocation efforts for their collections.

Save the date and look for your opportunity to register soon.



May 31, 2024

**Loretto Heritage Center
Nerinx, KY**

Image Credits

Submit photos to include in the newsletter!

Front Page: A donated hearse repurposed as a bookmobile. State Librarian Jane Porter assists a woman.

Source: *State Librarian Photo Collection, Kentucky Department of Public Information, Archives and Records Management Division — Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 1950s.*

Page 3: Water damaged materials laid out on a table.

Photo by: Cathrine Giles, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Page 5: Photo of the Hearing Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. 2021.

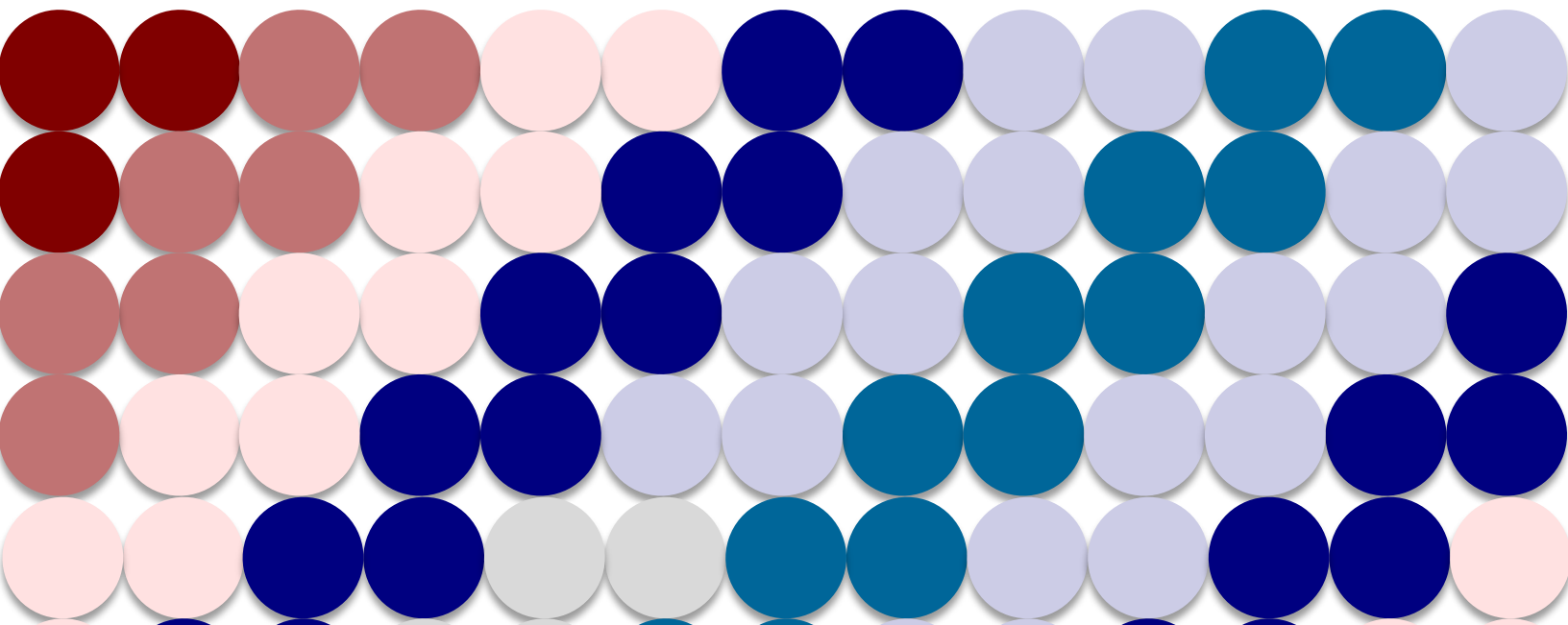
Photo by: Cathrine Giles, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Vector image of museum.

Source: [Freepik](#)

Page 6: Vector images of flamingos.

Source: [Freepik](#)





Membership Form

KCA Dues (May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025)

KCA membership cycle goes from May 1-April 30 and is **\$20**.

Please fill out this form as if it were a mailing label to you. You can email the form to the KCA treasurer, Mark C. Meade, at mmeade@bellarmine.edu, or you can mail it to the address at the bottom of the page.

PLEASE DO NOT USE PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD NOT WANT ON THE KCA WEBSITE!

We accept membership dues via PayPal, although there is an additional \$1.50 convenience fee. Please see the membership page of the KCA website to pay your dues electronically. <http://www.kyarchivists.com/membership/>

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Include my name and contact information on the KCA website membership directory.

_____ Do not include my name and contact information on the KCA website membership directory.

Send dues checks to:

**Mark C. Meade
Thomas Merton Center
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205**

Make Checks Payable to: Kentucky Council on Archives

The Kentucky Council on Archives, a professional membership organization, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. Persons requiring special accommodation or auxiliary aids must notify a member of the KCA board thirty (30) days prior to a meeting so that the proper arrangements can be made.