



**Spring 2020**

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## IN THIS ISSUE

1. President's Message
2. Mission Statement
3. 43rd Annual Conference at University of Kentucky
4. News - Childcare Grant, Shepherd University BRIDGE Grant, Appalachian Curator
5. Vote
6. Nominees
7. A Note on Future By-Law Revisions
8. Committee Reports
9. Support the Silent Auction
10. Mark Your Calendars

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## From the President



[Dr. Michele Morrone](#)  
[ASA President](#)

### **Reflections on a Decade, Resolutions for a Decade**

Then, Hillbilly Elegy was published, and it was touted as the answer to all the questions that were raised by the election. The members of ASA knew this was not true, and internal debate about the book could have fractured our organization, but I think it made us stronger and more relevant. At the very least, it reminded us of the importance of discourse, diversity, and empathy as guiding principles for the organization. Which leads me to resolutions...

### **Resolutions**

As members of ASA, we need to build on the reflections of the past

When you look at the news stories about Appalachia during the past decade there are several topics that received more coverage than others: 1) the opioid crisis; 2) the decline of coal followed by the decline of natural gas; and 3) Appalachia's role in the 2016 election.

All of these brought attention to the region, but not necessarily in good ways. Adding to this is the role those so-called spokespeople for Appalachia, like J.D. Vance, have on telling our stories and it is easy to become frustrated--but we must not. It is more important than ever that all of us who make up the Appalachian Studies Association reflect on the past and resolve to continue and strengthen our work in a commitment to the future.

### Reflections

To people who do not understand Appalachia or have no connection to the region, it may seem like there are only problems and challenges here. We know that is not true, but we need to take time to reflect on why this perception is out there. What have we done as individuals and an association to contribute to these perceptions? What can we do individually and as an association to change these perceptions?

The 2010s was a defining decade for Appalachia. We were thrust into the national spotlight many times. In 2014, we remembered the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty. News coverage was intense as reporters descended on the region to document if the war was over. Time Magazine published more than thirty photographs taken in 1964 in an article entitled, *War on Poverty: Portraits from an Appalachian Battleground, 1964*. Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, said that we haven't won the war. The *New York Times* and *National Public Radio* focused at least some of their coverage on documenting how Appalachia is still poor. To the rest of the country, this anniversary reinforced the images of the region from fifty years ago. While it reminded the nation that Appalachia exists, the coverage also suggested that little has changed in the region. People are still poor, undereducated, white, coal miners who live in

decade and chart a path to leading the narrative rather than responding to it. We can do this by speaking up when we are troubled by the national coverage of Appalachia. We can continue our research focusing on the positive aspects of the region and its people. We can strengthen ASA by participating in committees, attending the annual conference, and submitting articles to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*.

We do not have to take only bold actions though. One of the best things we can do is talk about our work to people who are not familiar with today's Appalachia but seemingly know a lot about yesterday's. I see this in my daily life. For more than 5 years, I have been in a book club with eight other women in my community. If any of you are in book clubs, you know that talking about the monthly book is not often the main topic of conversation. Recently, we were talking about the drug crisis, since many of the women in the club are teachers, they have seen families struggle and fracture because of it. At one point, one of the women made a blatant comment reinforcing historic stereotypes of Appalachian people. I know I visibly gasped, but I took this opportunity to try to offer a more compassionate view. It is going to take a long time and a lot of repetition for us to change perceptions, which is why we must be tenacious in our approach.

As you make your usual New Year's resolutions to get healthier, be kinder, and save more, I am asking you to also resolve to help ASA maintain its relevance moving forward. In the short term, we are going to see another national election this year and the country will be watching Appalachia to see what we do. We need to get ready with our response as national news once again stakes out rural Appalachia to see what happens. In the long term, we need to resolve to continuously improve ASA. This means that we need to embrace technology, update our policies and practices, and take whatever steps we can to engage more young people in the organization. Here is where ASA leadership needs your help.

rundown houses; the one thing that has changed is that we are all addicted to drugs now.

The election of 2016 moved rural Appalachia into the spotlight as pundits, scholars, political scientists, and Democrats sought to explain the outcome of the election. They looked at the national map of voting and noted rural Appalachian counties that used to be pale blue turned bright red.

The 2020 meeting in Lexington will be here in the blink of an eye. Once again, we are getting ready for the exciting and vibrant event that brings us together once a year. As we prepare for this meeting to refresh and make new friends, let's also plan to double down on our resolve. We want ASA to be one of the lead organizations that speaks for the region, but we need each of you to step up and help make this happen.

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## OUR MISSION



The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.

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## 43rd ANNUAL ASA CONFERENCE



We are just a few weeks away from our annual gathering! Join us in Lexington at the University of Kentucky, March 12-15, for "Appalachian Understories: Growing Hope and Resilience from Commonwealth to Global Commons," our annual feast of ideas, inspiration, and conviviality. There is

A black Appalachians drop-in social space invites conviviality Saturday. So too does a health mixer event after Saturday's health and healing plenary. UK Special Collections, which houses the largest collection of Appalachian archives on earth, hosts a reception as it rolls out a new

a lot to celebrate. We highlight, for the first time in ASA conference history, the beautifully diverse Appalachian forests that sustain lives, health, and livelihoods. We wish Appalshop a very happy 50th birthday! In poetry, film, music and story we celebrate the beautiful diversity of human Appalachians. We learn from black Appalachians and indigenous culture bearers who share their experiences. We consider women, gender, and sexuality, and we focus on health and healing. Our oral history emphasis reminds us of the power of listening, and our "hope spots" thread of the life-giving work countless Appalachians do every day.

Emphasizing the idea of "commons," our Commonwealth hosts offer ASA 2020 participants a range of shared experiences. Thursday afternoon's opening ceremonies welcome everyone to the gathering and Sunday mid-day's closing ceremonies send us journeying home. A series of four plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday take us deeper into the Appalachian forests, the experiences of black Appalachian women, questions of health and healing, and mountain hope spot stories. Saturday evening we enjoy a theatrical show by "Cornbread & Tortillas," a dynamic collective of Appalachian and Latino artists. After the show we head to the UK Appalachian Center, where we continue enjoying cornbread and tortillas, this time in the form of tasty eats!

Like all ASA conferences, this one offers many opportunities to socialize. In addition to important regular features such as the awards banquet, business meeting, publisher's reception, Y'ALL Meet and Eat, Camp Happy Appalachee gathering, and annual drag show, ASA 2020 also hosts other gatherings. Thursday field trips introduce participants to a variety of sites and to each other. The Kentucky Historical Society welcomes us to Lexington with a Thursday evening reception downtown. Appalshop plans a 50th anniversary evening party.

exhibit. Bring your dancing shoes for a Saturday square dance before Cornbread & Tortillas, and burn off in advance the cornbread and tortillas you will eat at the UK Appalachian Center afterward.

Please remember that UK will be in session Thursday and Friday. This offers a wonderful opportunity for hundreds of Appalachian students to attend the conference on their home campus without sacrificing their spring break, but it will complicate parking and logistics. Prepare to be patient, and remember that on the UK campus generally--and in the Gatton Student Center in particular--ASA 2020 is a guest and UK students are at home.

Also, please remember to book lodging early. Once our room block reservations at area hotels pass their expiration date, any remaining rooms will likely be grabbed speedily by March Madness basketball fans.

The ASA 2020 Program Committee again extends grateful thanks to supervolunteer Nick Arnold, whose exemplary work on conference software has made our jobs easier. We also thank our major sponsors, the UK Appalachian Center, the Graduate Appalachian Research Community, and the UK College of Arts and Sciences, without whom "Appalachian Understories" would not be possible. A special thanks as well to Gurney Norman, UK Appalachian Center Scholar-in-Residence, Kentucky Writers Hall of Famer, and all-around Appalachian icon, whose sponsorship makes "Cornbread and Tortillas" possible.

In sum: come one, come all, come gather in Lexington! A great cultural and intellectual feast awaits. We look forward to hosting you at ASA 2020, "Appalachian Understories: Growing Hope and Resilience from Commonwealth to Global Commons." Until then, safe travels and happy trails.

**- Kathryn Newfont  
Conference Chair**

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**News**



## **ASA Conference - Childcare Grant Program**

Creating an inclusive conference is a priority of the Appalachian Studies Association. While all are welcome at the conference, we understand the financial burden of seeking child and/or dependent care during conference events. With this grant program, we hope to offset the cost of the conference for those with dependents. We have a limited amount of funding and submitting an application does not ensure a grant, however we encourage all those with child care expenses to apply. The Appalachian Studies Association does not sanction or recommend child care providers. Further, we do not assume responsibility or liability for child care services of any sort. Selection of a care provider is entirely the applicant's responsibility.

During our first year of the pilot program, the Appalachian Studies Association will offer grants of up to \$100 in the form of reimbursement for documented expenses for child care to assist ASA members who have these costs during the conference. The grants are intended to help offset the cost of child care to support attendees with children to attend the conference; however, attendees are wholly responsible for making their own arrangements for child care. To apply, please send the information requested in the "Application" section below to Jordan Laney ([jlaney@vt.edu](mailto:jlaney@vt.edu)) no later than **February 10th, 2020**.

\* The pilot program will only be to provide grants for child care at the ASA 2020 Conference, based upon the terms of the generous donation we received that is funding this pilot program. It is the hope of ASA to continue this program after the 2020 conference and expand the grant to cover any dependents that attendees incur care provider expenses for while attending the conference. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this initiative or have suggestions on funding sources please contact Jordan Laney at [jlaney@vt.edu](mailto:jlaney@vt.edu).

### **Grant Eligibility and Terms:**

- Grant recipients must be ASA members and must be registered and attend the annual conference.
- During our pilot years, we are limiting applications to only one caregiver per family.
- Allowable expenses include babysitters (at the conference location or child care at home), in home caregivers, or any child care provider chosen by the applicant, and airfare/hotel costs for a caregiver to accompany the dependent to the annual meeting location (applicant must provide documentation of the child care expenses as explained below).
- Not eligible for reimbursement are meals, onsite transportation, and tickets to museums and other attractions, or other expenses not related to attendance at the meeting.
- Child care funds cannot be used to fund travel or other expenses related to the attendee's participation in the meeting (including meeting registration or other expenses the attendee would already be incurring by attending the meeting).
- Funds cannot be used for travel or other expenses for the child or children, nor can applicants charge fees for themselves or for their spouse or partner providing care for the child or children.

Reimbursements will be distributed following the annual meeting. In order to receive the funds, recipients will need to complete an ASA reimbursement form (distributed with the award notification e-mail) and submit it with original receipts (including caregiver tax ID information) to the ASA office at the address noted on the reimbursement form. Reimbursement may be requested for eligible expenses up to the maximum amount of the grant (\$100). Receipts for reimbursement must be submitted within two weeks of the end of the Conference. If they are not received, the grant will be awarded to someone else. Expenses in excess of the award amount must be paid by the individual recipient. No funds can be distributed prior to the conclusion of the annual meeting. Funds will not be distributed on site at the meeting. Upon approval of expenses the reimbursement may take 8-10 weeks to be processed. All awarded applicants will need to complete and submit an IRS W-9 form for payment to be issued.

**Application materials:**

Please send the following information to Jordan Laney ([jlaney@vt.edu](mailto:jlaney@vt.edu)) no later than February 10th, 2020. The email subject line should read: "ASA Child Care Application" and the information below can be submitted within the text of the email or as a word attachment. If there are issues with sending the information via email, please call Jordan Laney (828) 406-6514 to discuss other ways of submitting materials.

ASA members planning to attend the meeting can apply for a grant by completing and submitting the application form no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 10th, 2020. Please note expenses must be documented by receipts.

1. First Name
2. Last Name/Surname
3. Institution/Organization/Affiliation
4. Phone Number
5. Email Address
6. Current Job Position/Title
7. Please share what you will be doing (presenting, performing, etc.) at the conference.
8. Have you received financial support to attend the conference from any other organizations?
9. Please write a short paragraph of application stating your needs and how the funds would be used.

We are currently working to transition from the pilot stage of the grant program to a more permanent program. If you are interested in creatively finding ways to ensure dependent and child care is a priority of the ASA, please email Jordan Laney ([jlaney@vt.edu](mailto:jlaney@vt.edu)).



**Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities  
Receives BRIDGE Grant for Teacher/Community Leadership Institute**

The Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities received a \$10,000 grant for a community leadership institute: "Voices from the Misty Mountains, Reclaiming Our Story for a New Appalachia: An Appalachia Institute for Community

Leadership," February 4-April 28, 2020, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30 p.m. on the Shepherd University campus. The BRIDGE grant specifically targets underserved communities in order to enrich and enhance them, in this case through an understanding of the history, culture, and literature of Appalachia, specifically West Virginia.

The WV BRIDGE Institute at Shepherd is modeled on the NEH Summer Institute Voices from the Misty Mountains, and many of the same scholars will be part of this learning experience for community leaders. The difference is that the WV Institute content will specifically be targeted at underserved children, with the aim of utilizing the Institute content directly in the programs and classrooms of the BRIDGE participants. ASA Stephen L. Fisher Award winner Jessica Salfia will be on hand to help teachers apply what they learn to their classroom and leadership work.

Teachers and community leaders can use the BRIDGE Institute content for professional development, and they will receive a \$500 stipend for their work which they can apply toward materials for their classrooms or toward graduate credit for the Misty Mountains Institute experience. Teachers and community leaders applying for a position in the Bridge Institute coming from under-served institutions will be given the highest priority for a position in the Institute.

For information contact Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities at [SShurbut@shepherd.edu](mailto:SShurbut@shepherd.edu) or call 912.655.2380 (cell) or 304.876.3119 (message).



**Volume 1, Issue 3, Winter 2020** ([view full issue PDF](#))

- [Editor's Column](#) | Gene Hyde, UNC Asheville
- [Special Collections Committee News: Thinking about Special Collections: The Understory Grounding Appalachian History](#) | Stewart Plein, Special Collections Committee Chair, Appalachian Studies Association
- [Origin Story Edition: Special Collections at the University of North Carolina Asheville](#) | Gene Hyde, UNC Asheville
- [Ginseng, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and Appalachian archives](#) | Trevor McKenzie, Appalachian State University
- [Curating Appalachian Futures: an interdisciplinary, collaborative project](#) | Sally Brown Deskins, West Virginia University Libraries
- [Northern Appalachian History Digital Storytelling Archives](#) | Christina Fisanick, California University of Pennsylvania and Robert Stakeley, Senator John Heinz History Center
- [What's New in Appalachian Special Collections](#)

**Community Archiving Profiles**

- [Continuing the Story: Oral Histories Shape Arthurdale's Legacy](#) | Meredith Dreistadt, Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.
  - [Community-driven Archives Programs in the Buncombe County Public Library System](#) | Katherine Calhoun Cutshall and Zoe Rhine, Buncombe County Public Library
  - [Mountain People, Mountain Lives Oral History Project](#) | Elizabeth McRae and Alex Macaulay, Western Carolina University
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# Officer & Steering Committee Election

The word "VOTE" is written in large, bold, black letters with a red and blue 3D shadow effect. The letters are arranged in two rows: "VO" on top and "TE" on the bottom.

The election for ASA officers and Steering Committee members is open now.

There is an option on the ballot to write-in candidates for every position. Contact Michele Morrone at [morrone@ohio.edu](mailto:morrone@ohio.edu) with questions.

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

## Nominees

### **Program Chairperson Elect/2023 Conference Program Chair**

Needed

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### **Treasurer (2020-2023)**

**M. Aaron Guest** is Assistant Professor of Aging within the Center for Innovation for Healthy and Resilient Aging at Arizona State University. Guest completed his PhD in Gerontology at the University of Kentucky, focusing on the intersections of networks, health, and quality-of-life among lesbian and gay rural aging individuals. At UK, Guest was an affiliate of the Appalachian Center and program planner for the Graduate Appalachian Research Community's Annual Symposium. Although now in Arizona, his research remains focused on the experiences of aging LGBTQ Appalachians. Within the ASA, Guest has served on the Finance Committee and the Development Sub-Committee.

*From Travis Rountree: As outgoing Treasurer, I would like to nominate Aaron Guest as ASA Treasurer for 2020-2023. In addition to Rachel Terman, Aaron has been a valuable person on the Finance Committee. He has researched and reported on numerous ways that we could fund-raise as well as helped us to think of ways to save (and make!) money in the budget. In conjunction with Rachel as Finance chair, I think Aaron would make an excellent Treasurer. I highly recommend him to the position.*

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### **Two At-Large Members of the Steering Committee (2020-2024)**

**Scott Sikes** is the Associate Director of the Appalachian Center for Civic Life and an instructor in the Civic Innovation program at Emory & Henry College. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Tennessee and his dissertation research is focused on the West Virginia teachers' strike and issues of information communication technologies related to events of collective action and dissent. His work and his life are both rooted in a deep love for the region, his native ground. Hoping to become more involved in the scholarship of Appalachian studies, he is enthusiastic about serving the work of ASA.

**James Tate Hill** is the author of *Academy Gothic* (2015), winner of the Nilsen Prize for a First Novel. His stories and essays have appeared in *Literary Hub*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Hobart*, *Story Quarterly*, and *Sonora Review*, among others. He serves as fiction editor for *Monkeybicycle* and a contributing editor for *Lit Hub*, where he writes a monthly audiobooks column. Born in Charleston, West Virginia, he is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College and the writing programs of Hollins and UNC Greensboro. Find out more at [jamestatehill.com](http://jamestatehill.com) or follow him on Twitter @jamestatehill.

**Eliot Parker** is the author of four novels, most recently *A Knife's Edge*, which was an Honorable Mention in Thriller Writing at the London Book Festival, and is the sequel to the award-winning novel *Fragile Brilliance*. His novel *Code for Murder* was named a 2018 Finalist for Genre Fiction by American Book Fest. He is a recipient of the West Virginia Literary Merit Award and *Fragile Brilliance* was a finalist for the Southern Book Prize in Thriller Writing. He recently received the Thriller Writing Award by the National Association of Book Editors (NABE) for his novels. His first collection of short stories titled *Snapshots* will be released in May 2020. Eliot is the host of the podcast program *Now, Appalachia*, which profiles authors and publishers living and writing in the Appalachian region and is heard on the Authors on the Air Global Radio Network and Blog Talk Radio. A graduate of the Bluegrass Writers Studio at Eastern Kentucky University with his MFA in Creative Writing and Murray State University with his Doctorate in English, he teaches writing at the University of Mississippi and lives in Oxford, Mississippi and Chesapeake, Ohio.

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### **One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2020-2022)**

**Zoie (Zane) McNeill** is a nonbinary Appalachian invested in ensuring that y'all really means all. His varied research interests span from critical geographies, to queer ecologies, to politichoreography and socially engaged art, but he is continually invested in using these theories to explore his home in the hollers and his existence as queer person in the mountains. He is currently facilitating an anthology forthcoming from PM Press titled *Y'all Means All: The Erupting Voices of #QueerAppalachia* and has another project concerning queering Appalachian ecologies and econormativity under review at Illinois Press. He is also currently co-authoring chapters on the queer choreopolitics of the Stone Mountain anti-fascist protest, the queer performance and more than human politics of Appalachian natures, and the animacies of North Carolina non/human bodies contaminated from factory farm pollutants

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### **Four At-large Program Committee Members (for 2022 conference in Morgantown, WV)**

**Beth Nardella** is Associate Professor in the School of Medicine at West Virginia University where she serves as the Director of Global Education and Service Learning for the Department of Human Performance. She holds an MFA in Photography from UNC Chapel Hill and an MA in American Literature from West Virginia University. Beth is currently researching why people stay in West Virginia through the lens of resistance. Specifically her work looks at healthcare and staying as resistance. Beth integrates Appalachian issues into her global health course and hopes to inspire her students to stay in the state.

**Kirk Hazen** is Professor of Linguistics at West Virginia University, where he is the founding director of the West Virginia Dialect Project and a Benedum Distinguished Scholar in the Humanities. His research, teaching, and linguistic service are all centered on social and linguistic patterns of language variation. His most recent books

are *Appalachian Englishes* (WVU Press 2020), *An Introduction to Language* (Wiley 2015), and *Research Methods in Sociolinguistics* (co-edited with Janet Holmes, Wiley 2014).

**Bradley Wilson** is Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the Center for Resilient Communities at West Virginia University. His action research focuses on community responses to economic crisis, radical spaces of hope, and the role of solidarity and cooperation in building more just social and economic institutions. He is currently editing a book with his students and collaborators entitled *Food Justice for All: Cooperation, Experimentation and Action in Appalachia* (WVU Press) reflecting on ten years of participatory action research in West Virginia. Bradley especially enjoys singing, river swimming, and playing soccer with his daughters Lily and Zayda in and around Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Audra Slocum** is an assistant professor of English education and the co-director of the National Writing Project at West Virginia University. Her teaching and research have been located in rural Appalachian contexts for the past twenty years. First, as a high school English teacher for six years in southeastern Kentucky, and now as a teacher educator and researcher in West Virginia. Her teaching centers in preparing new English teachers to use critical place-based pedagogies and preparing graduate students to center their research in Appalachia with critical perspectives on race, gender, and class. Her research focuses on adolescents' identities as they navigate standard language ideologies in school spaces and West Virginia teachers' identities as activists in the recent work stoppages.

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

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## A Note on Future Bylaw Revisions

The steering committee will be voting on significant changes to the bylaws related to leadership and conference management in Lexington. After this meeting, any appointed changes will go to the membership for a vote.

- Michele Morrone, ASA President

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## Committee Reports

### FINANCE



**Greetings from the Finance Committee!** We are continuing to focus on two main finance issues:

First, after researching options for moving our ASA Endowment fund to a **community foundation**, we presented two options to the ASA Steering Committee: The Blue Grass Community Foundation located in Lexington, KY, and the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio located in Nelsonville, OH. The Steering

Committee voted to go with the [Foundation for Appalachian Ohio](#), and we are now working on the process to move those funds over and start a socially-responsible investing strategy that will align with the mission of ASA. Special thanks to ASA member and Development Subcommittee Chair, Aaron Guest, for his work on this front. This move will allow us to expand our development efforts and make ASA a more sustainable organization in the long term. Stay tuned for future giving opportunities!

Second, we are continuing to work on an **institutional membership option** for the ASA. As we work on a proposal for institutional membership, we are also considering possible changes to the individual membership and conference fee structure in order to make our membership and conference offerings more understandable, transparent, equitable, and sustainable.

If you have ideas about the endowment or institutional membership, please let us know! In addition, if you have experience in development or fund-raising or just want to get more involved, the ASA needs you! Please contact us (Rachel Terman, Finance Committee Chair, [terman@ohio.edu](mailto:terman@ohio.edu)).

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## A NOTE FROM OUR OUTGOING TREASURER



It has been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer for the past three years for ASA. As my term comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way in this very important role, especially Mary Thomas, Ann Bryant, and past treasurer, Kristin Kant-Byers. I would be lost without their guidance. I am also particularly thankful of the work that the Finance Committee has achieved with Rachel Terman serving as chair and Aaron Guest as an active member of the committee.

Please join me at the Business Meeting at this year's conference to hear about the current conditions of our finances. I look forward to focusing my energy on the role of Diversity and Inclusion Chair.

**Travis Rountree**

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## JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES

Now is a time of transition at the [Journal of Appalachian Studies](#). Long-time editorial board member, Phil Obermiller, has announced that he will resign from the board after our March 2020 meeting. Phil's presence, his wisdom, and support will be sorely missed. Shaunna Scott is finishing up her two terms as editor, and Rebecca Scott is beginning her term.

Throughout Fall 2019, Rebecca shadowed Shaunna, observing the journal's submission portal, participating in the editor's



correspondence, and sitting in on the November Editorial Board conference call.

In January, new manuscript submissions were assigned to Rebecca, who will be the editor overseeing the review process from now on. Finally, on Tuesday, January 14, Rebecca and Shaunna talked on the phone for over an hour, going over the status of the journal, projects, procedures, and addressing any questions or concerns of the incoming editor. After that, Shaunna transferred copies of recent minutes, reports, and agendas to Rebecca to assist in a smooth transition.

Shaunna is staying on through the first half of February in order to get the Spring 2020 issue finalized and submitted to the University of Illinois Press (available to you in July 2020). She will then move on to the editorial board, a practice that was introduced by the board and staff in 2013.

With the support of our understanding editorial staff and board, Rebecca and Shaunna are confident that we will have a smooth transition between our terms, and the journal will continue to serve our community well.

We are currently at work on a special themed issue of the *JAS* which will focus on Social Justice in Appalachia. The due date for submissions was in January 2020. Because we did not obtain enough acceptable manuscripts for the previously proposed special issue on practicing Appalachian studies in a polarized era, any revised articles on that topic will be considered for the Social Justice issue or a future regular issue. We are looking forward to the possibility of publishing the Social Justice issue in Fall 2020.

In addition, the editorial board is considering a possible future themed issue on Queer Appalachia. A call should go out in the coming year, with a possible publication date in 2021. The *JAS* editorial board will welcome proposals for designated themed issues in the future, and intend to put an announcement on the website reminding people of that opportunity. Rebecca and Shaunna agreed that we need to limit special issues to no more than once per year in order to retain publication space for scholars who may not be working in the "hot" topical areas that tend to inspire themed issues.

As we enter the conference season, please remember to keep your eyes and ears open for good conference presentations that could be revised into journal submissions. Encourage your graduate students and colleagues to submit to *JAS*. Oh, and please say "hello" to our new editor as she stalks the conference rooms in search of journal content

**Shaunna L. Scott**  
**Rebecca R. Scott**

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## **ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN**

As I have only been ASA's Archivist/Historian for a short time, this report will also be brief. Updating ASA's website timeline is one of the tasks that is part of my role as the Archivist Historian. In September, I attended a conference session that explored a variety of digital tools, including a segment focused on tools for developing timelines. Four tools were examined including:



- **TimeMapper:** which transforms a Google Spreadsheet into an interactive timeline and map.
- **Timeline.js:** Uses a Google spreadsheet template to make a sophisticated timeline.
- **Neatline:** A suite of add-on tools for Omeka, an online exhibit program.
- **myHistro:** Timeline tool advertised for archiving personal or organizational histories

After my return I shared these tools with Ann Bryant. Of the four tools, TimeMapper and myHistro rose to the top of the list. Additional data that needs to be added to the timeline is forthcoming. Following that I'll be able to work further with these tools and make a recommendation for the best option for updating the website's timeline.

**Stewart Plein**  
**Curator, Rare Books & Printed Resources**  
**West Virginia University**

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## SUPPORT THE SILENT AUCTION



### CALL FOR HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in the late 1990s, this annual fund-raiser has supported student and community member participation at ASA conferences. With the 2020 conference on the horizon, the silent auction team needs your help! The Appalachian Understories conference calls for donations, bids, and fund-raising to support this year's gathering in the Horse Capital of the World, Lexington, Kentucky. The silent auction welcomes crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, home-canned goods, spirits, event tickets, music, art, getaway opportunities, gently-used and new books, and more! Please start gathering your items now to help ensure that the 2020 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction reaches its fund-raising goal of \$6,000. So far, we have some beautiful glass work, signed books and book themed gifts, and a variety of other Appalachian themed items.

We are also looking for 3-4 dedicated volunteers to join our efforts. Ideally, our growing team will include ASA members from across Appalachia to ensure that this annual fund-raiser reflects our many diverse communities and invites those not yet involved with the ASA to see and understand themselves within our shared work. If you are looking for a meaningful way to support the Appalachian Studies Association, please consider assisting in some way with the silent auction. We especially need someone local to the Lexington area to take up the job of soliciting and collecting local donations.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, as well as to coordinate donations, email silent auction co-chairs Natalie Sypolt at [natalie.sypolt@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.sypolt@gmail.com) and/or Jessica Wills at [jesskw7@gmail.com](mailto:jesskw7@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you—and your silent auction items—in Lexington!

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### 43rd Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 12-15, 2020, University of Kentucky  
Kathy Newfont, Conference Chair, [Kathryn.newfont@uky.edu](mailto:Kathryn.newfont@uky.edu)  
Jennifer Cramer, Program Chair, [Jennifer.cramer@uky.edu](mailto:Jennifer.cramer@uky.edu)

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### 44th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 11-14, 2021, Ohio University  
Michele Morrone, Conference Chair, [morrone@ohio.edu](mailto:morrone@ohio.edu)  
Tiffany Arnold, Program Chair, [arnoldt2@ohio.edu](mailto:arnoldt2@ohio.edu)

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### 45th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

TBA, West Virginia University  
Natalie Sypolt, Conference Chair, [natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu](mailto:natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu)  
Travis Stimeling, Program Chair, [Travis.Stimeling@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Travis.Stimeling@mail.wvu.edu)

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*Appalink* is published twice a year.

We welcome submissions, announcements, and/or news.

Email submissions to Anne Chesky Smith at [anne.chesky.smith@gmail.com](mailto:anne.chesky.smith@gmail.com).

Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

**Editors:** Anne Chesky Smith, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann Bryant

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