

**Fall 2020**

**Volume 44, Number 1**



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### ***From the President***

Greetings, membership. I hope this annual message finds you safe and healthy. Who could have foreseen the events of this year? When I took over as President of the Appalachian Studies Association in March 2020, the global pandemic had only recently reached the United States. I remember being scared, but also optimistic that things would quickly be brought under control and my world would return to normal-- hopefully even in time for me to go back to my classroom and say goodbye to my students before heading into the summer. How naive that seems now, some seven months later.

So, what is in store for ASA this year? As you probably know, the 2021 conference will be virtual, and will not be hosted by a specific organization. This is something very new, and--yes--a bit scary, but we also see incredible possibilities. We hope that you will come along with us, share in the community and gather in this new way. Then, in 2022, we can look forward to seeing one another in person again, as the conference heads to Morgantown, WV and the campus of West Virginia University.

In addition to making crucial decisions about the 2020 and 2021 conferences, the ASA Steering Committee has also been hard at

Cancelling the Appalachian Studies Association annual meeting for 2020 was an incredibly difficult decision, and the repercussions of that continue to be felt. It was the right thing to do; keeping attendees safe was paramount. That, though, does not make the sting of losing that conference any less. The program committee at the University of Kentucky had been working on this conference for at least two years, and we did not take that decision lightly.

Now, though, is the time to look forward. If you are having a bit of a hard time doing that--as the pandemic stretches on; as the country faces incredible political division; as protestors continue to march, asking simply for justice and equality--you are not alone. I have been struggling with writing this message, in part because I find it difficult to talk about a future that seems so uncertain; however, if growing up an Appalachian has taught me anything, it is perseverance and resilience, the genuine necessity to push through even when that feels nearly impossible.

work; we have passed bylaw revisions that will allow leadership roles to be separated from conference planning; we have taken steps to better stabilize the financial situation of the association; and perhaps most importantly, we have made a commitment to seek inclusivity, diversity, and equality in ASA. Everyone should be seen and heard; everyone should feel welcomed and be a voice for their region. That this has not happened in the past is an egregious flaw, and one that we are determined to rectify. Change may not come as quickly or be as large right away as some want--change takes time--but we are not just trying; we are taking real steps to move ASA in the right direction.

Thank you for your continued support of ASA during these difficult times and for your dedication to this complicated, beautiful region we all love. If we can do nothing more, we can be generous with kindness, and bring light to one another.

**- Natalie Sypolt, President  
Appalachian Studies Association**

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## MISSION STATEMENT



*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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# BLACK LIVES MATTER

The Appalachian Studies Association stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and

with those protesting the horrific murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, James Scurlock, and many other Black Americans.

We acknowledge that ASA is an overwhelmingly majority white association. We admit that we have upheld structural inequalities within our organization and have not taken sufficient action to address our involvement in systemic racism. In accordance to our mission of promoting and engaging dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, we offer the following immediate plans to change the future of our organization:

- We will follow up with cancelled 2020 conference programming that specifically focused on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities and encourage these submissions to return to ASA 2021.
- We will listen and provide spaces for conversation at the 2021 conference that focuses on raising the voices of BIPOC including queer, trans, disability, and immigrant populations.
- We will share resources on our website about how to effectively build and maintain allyship with Black Lives Matter.
- We will listen to feedback from our BIPOC members and act upon how we can empower these voices further.

We stand with those in the streets and march alongside you. Let it be clear as to which side we're on as we continue to raise our voices in the streets, hills, and hollers of the mountains and beyond to empower the oppressed against the injustices that still exist.

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## 2021 ASA Conference Update

Greetings Appalachian Studies Community,

On behalf of the Appalachian Studies Association, I write to you today to share some news regarding the next ASA Conference. As I'm sure you know, the ASA annual meeting was set to be held in Athens, Ohio in 2021, hosted by Ohio University. After much discussion, the ASA Steering Committee has decided that we will instead host a virtual conference for 2021, with hopes of returning to an in-person conference in 2022 at West Virginia University.

We know that there will be many challenges with hosting a virtual conference, and that this is not what our membership is used to; however, in light of the continuing health threat that is COVID-19, we believe this is the best option. This is uncharted territory for us, but we are excited about the possibilities of a virtual conference, including encouraging members who may not be able to travel to participate remotely.

As we plan the program, we are looking for ways to incorporate some of what was lost in cancelling the 2020 Conference. We are also taking this opportunity to strengthen our commitment to social justice and are working to highlight voices from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Additional information, including a call for proposals, is coming soon. In the meantime, we hope that you will be looking forward to a new way of gathering to ensure that everyone stays safe and healthy. The Conference Planning Committee is working hard to present plenaries and performance events that represent ALL of Appalachia and embrace the beautiful diversity of our people and our region.

Please stay safe and healthy,

**Natalie Sypolt, President,  
Appalachian Studies Association**

# 44th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference



**March 11-14, 2021, Virtual Conference**

**Conference Theme:  
Toward Antiracism in Appalachian Studies**

To view the 2021 Conference Call for Participation go to <http://appalachianstudies.org/annualconference/>.

**Conference Planning Committee Chair and Immediate Past President:** Michele Morrone

**Conference Planning Committee Members:** Tiffany Arnold, Ann Bryant, Sophia Enriquez, Aaron Guest, Meredith McCarroll, Z. Zane McNeill, Eliot Parker, Stewart Plein, Caleb Pendygraft, Lindsay Radomski, Travis Rountree, Scott Sikes, Travis Stimeling, Natalie Sypolt, Mary Thomas

**Proposals may be submitted to the online submission system at [https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ebTu6IMob0TAFhz](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebTu6IMob0TAFhz) from October 1, 2020 through November 2, 2020.**

[View the CFP](#)

[Submit a Proposal](#)

## **\*\*Important Note Regarding 2021 Conference Registration\*\***

We are offering 2021 members free registration **as a one-time only member benefit**. to encourage everyone to engage and to show our gratitude to you our members who have supported us through the years. As most of you know, we cancelled the 2020 conference due to the pandemic and our decision to not refund registration was intended to keep the doors of ASA open. We hope that allowing conference participation as a 2021 membership benefit will honor members' support during this difficult time and help us to sustain the association long enough to survive until 2022 conference funds begin coming in.

We thank all of our members for their support during this difficult time.

**To become a new 2021 member or renew your 2021 membership**, visit our membership portal at <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jas/subscription.html>.

Once you have 2021 membership you need not take any further action. **Consider 2021 membership your registration for the 2021 virtual conference.** We ask that you renew membership for 2021 as soon as possible to make sure we have you added to the full conference access list. If you renew membership after March 1, 2021, please email the office at [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@marshall.edu) and let us know so we can make sure you receive full access to the conference.

\*The Appalachian Studies Association, Inc., (ASA) does not refund membership fees. Membership fees are non-transferable

## Become a Member

# FROM THE OFFICE



**Fall has arrived a little early at the ASA headquarters, but the cooler air and the hint of color to the world is enjoyable after many difficult months.**

For the first time in its existence, ASA did not have an annual conference (due to COVID-19). It was hard for us to miss out on seeing each other and participating in the amazing program the 2020 conference team had planned. This disappointment is felt keenly while also navigating the new realities of working and living during COVID-19. Add to that the learning curve many of us have faced with new technology and adjusting to the absence of in-person meetings and collaborations. But we are continually amazed at the resolve and perseverance of our ASA Steering Committee members and leadership to overcome these challenges and turn them into opportunities.

As you now know, we will not be meeting in person for the 44th annual conference. Our conference planning committee is meeting frequently and working on new and inventive ways for us to gather virtually this spring. A virtual conference offers a chance for so many people to participate that may not have been able to join us before due to the travel needed. So now is the time to share the opportunity of an ASA conference with friends and family who are interested in Appalachia and Appalachian studies. Follow ASA on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and our website for conference updates, and be sure to share with your friends and family.

In the day to day of the office we are now again in our annual review of the financial records to ensure completeness and accurateness before providing it to our accountant to file the required 990 forms with the IRS. Our treasurer will also present a financial report based on this at our next ASA business meeting for all our members to review.

As we continue the day-to-day of the office, we look forward to gathering, albeit virtually, with all of our ASA family next year.

**- Mary Kay Thomas, Executive Director  
- Ann E. Bryant, Office Manager**

## NEWS

## In Memoriam



**David Walls**, an Appalachian Volunteer who later helped to establish and administer the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center, died on June 6th, 2020. Please visit the link below for his obituary and more information about his life and work.

[Read More](#)



We were saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of **Elandria Williams**. Elandria was a member of the ASA Steering Committee from 2015-2019 and an active Appalachian activist, having worked with Highlander Research and Education Center where they helped found the STAY Project and SEAL (Supporting Emerging Appalachian Leaders Network). Elandria also was part of an organization known as "The People's Hub" and was active at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Additionally, they were the co-founder of the Knoxville Black Lives Matter movement. Elandria's good works will long be a testament to their dedication to social justice and to the people of Appalachia.

[Read More](#)

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## Call for Proposals

### *Journal of Appalachian Studies*

**Journal of Appalachian Studies Special Issue:**  
**Speculative Fabulation: Queering Appalachian Futurisms**  
 Zane McNeill and Jessica Cory, Special Editors



In 2017, Queer Appalachia's zine *Electric Dirt* provided a platform to peoples who have historically been marginalized throughout Appalachia, such as LGBTQIA+, African Americans, Latinx, people with disabilities, and Indigenous communities. These populations have been eclipsed from the Appalachian archive and erased in contemporary metronormative explorations of queerness (Halberstram, 2005; Gray et al., 2016). Queer Appalachia, as well as other activist projects like the exhibitions *Queering the Mountains* and *Appalachian Futures*, the oral history project and podcast *Country Queers*, and the book projects *Bible Belt Queers*, *Appalachian Reckoning* (2019), and *Storytelling in Queer Appalachia* (2020), challenge normative generalizations about the culture of the Appalachian region and give a space to marginalized voices to envision an Appalachia where y'all really means all.

Appalachia, despite being perceived as culturally backwards and economically isolated, is a place defined by its history of resistance (Fisher and Smith 2012; Fisher 1993). These histories are important and can be used as inspirations and frameworks on which Appalachian futurities, in particular the futurities of its most marginalized populations, can be imagined. We are looking for contributors to build on these experiences of defiance and solidarity, and envision an Appalachian futurity of entanglements, assemblages, and reckonings that trouble the colonial, cisheteropatriarchal, white-supremacist state.

These acts of "speculative fabulation" (SF)—creative storytelling and world making—are in and of themselves acts of rebellion. *Speculative Fabulation: Queering Appalachian Futurisms* invites contributors to dissect and destabilize what it means to be Appalachian, who is perceived as "authentically" Appalachian, which Appalachian voices and bodies matter, and what the implications of "Appalachia" as a construct are for oppressed groups.

Our goal is for this special issue to offer a hopeful, idealistic map to what an Appalachian future could look like if we embrace our histories of cultural, geographic, and economic marginalization while also facing our complicity in upholding structures of white supremacy, cisheteropatriarchy, environmental degradation, and capitalism.

Potential topics include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- Queer Appalachian utopias
- Decolonial/anti-colonial critiques of Appalachia/Appalachian studies
- Queer Appalachian ecologies
- Appalachian economic futurities (i.e. alternatives to capitalism in the region)
- Queering modes of defining Appalachia/Appalachian

Please send proposals of no more than 300 words to: [Mcneill\\_Zoie@alumni.ceu.edu](mailto:Mcneill_Zoie@alumni.ceu.edu) and [jscory@wcu.edu](mailto:jscory@wcu.edu) by **November 1, 2020**. Final articles of 5,000-7,000 words will be due by Jan. 15, 2021.

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## Call for Scholarship Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Members

We are looking for a dedicated individual to chair the ASA Scholarship Committee. The scholarship chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining the scholarship committee and leading it in decision-making about scholarship funding and allocations, and regularly communicating the results of the committee's work to the steering committee. Persons holding this position serve on the ASA Steering Committee for a four-year term and coordinate scholarships for each annual Appalachian Studies conference.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve as scholarship committee members. Committee members help the chairperson in the scholarship awards decision-making process.

If you are interested in serving as chairperson or as a committee member—or know of someone that might be—please contact Mary Thomas, executive director at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu) or Natalie Sypolt, ASA president at [natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu](mailto:natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu).

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### ASA 2020 Conference

I want to begin this final report by recognizing and acknowledging that I write from a place on lands of the Shawnee, Cherokee, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

I work at the University of Kentucky (UK). As a land-grant institution, UK has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of the university for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Had we met as planned, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington for the 2020 ASA conference "Appalachian Understories," a version of this land acknowledgment would have opened every conference highlight session. Since that did not happen, I want to offer the acknowledgment here, with thanks to Helen Danser, Venus Evans, UK linguistics graduate student Tyler Kibbey, and Jennifer Cramer.

Alas, this is the conference report no Conference Chair could relish writing. As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 ASA conference, "Appalachian Understories: Growing Hope and Resilience from Commonwealth to Global Commons." Hundreds of people at the University of Kentucky and beyond participated in developing this conference, which was more than three years in the making. We were all excited to welcome ASA to Lexington and to UK for the first time ever. It is difficult to express the level of

heartbreak we all felt—and continue to feel—at the necessary loss of this lovingly crafted conference. Previous conference teams well know how much time, energy, creativity, problem-solving, and financial commitment go into preparing for an ASA conference. All that was true for the ASA 2020 conference team as well.

I profoundly wish my wonderful colleagues had been able to enjoy the satisfaction of seeing their many gifts to the region delivered in full fruition. I wish all the presenters who prepared to share their work had been able to do so in person as planned. I wish we could have enjoyed beautiful opening and closing ceremonies together, and learned from four amazing plenary sessions. I really wanted to munch on cornbread and tortillas at the UK Appalachian Center after watching Cornbread and Tortillas perform. I looked forward to seeing forests celebrated, Black Appalachians honored, health and healing explored, hope spots featured, Appalshop's 50th feted, and so on. But I am very glad that the ASA Steering Committee, with the support of the 2020 Program Committee, made the difficult and ethical choice to cancel. Developments since March have clearly underscored the wisdom of that choice.

In this final report, it is important both to express gratitude and to offer a few parting "Appalachian Understories" words. I'll begin with the gratitude. It was a privilege to serve with the 2020 conference team, including my fantastic colleagues Jennifer Cramer, Program Chair, and Jane Jensen, Local Arrangements Chair. The three of us want to thank and draw special attention to the many early-career scholars whose vision and transformational leadership made "Appalachian Understories" sing. They include Kathryn Engle, Associate Director of the UK Appalachian Center, and Emma Kiser, ASA 2020 Project Manager. These two core team members helped create the conference's intellectual architecture, including title, emphasis areas, and plenary structure, and each made additional contributions quite literally beyond quantification. Three other early-career professionals on the program committee also made immense contributions. UK history graduate student Jillean McCommons designed and led the Black Appalachians emphasis with brilliance and profound generosity. Harm-reduction anthropologist Lesly-Marie Buer, working from Knoxville, masterfully spearheaded the health and healing emphasis. First as a law student and then as a community volunteer, Anna Biller organized the Hope Spots plenary and played a crucial local arrangements role. Each of these five Appalachian leaders invested years--a substantial proportion of their early professional life--in ASA 2020. It is crucial we honor that investment. As an organization, we also need to acknowledge the personal and professional loss the ASA 2020 conference cancellation represented for this talented group.

Beyond the official program committee, other early-career scholars also shaped "Appalachian Understories" and deserve our thanks. Anthropologist Zada Komara led the oral history emphasis, organized an exhibition, and highlighted indigenous voices. Forest scientist Kenton Sena made vital contributions to the forest emphasis and served as a natural-sciences liaison at UK. Social work graduate student Madison Mooney coordinated a vast array of volunteers; one glimpse of her spreadsheet made my head spin. Chris Leadingham, a history graduate student, organized financial support from student organizations. Fellow history graduate Greg Gibson stepped up to lead the Ask-a-Pro session. History graduate student Carson Benn offered behind-the-scenes assistance on a number of fronts. And GARC, the interdisciplinary Graduate Appalachian Research Community at UK, provided major conference sponsorship and donated more volunteer hours than I even know.

We also want to thank our wonderfully generous community partners, whose contributions to conference planning similarly defy quantification. At LiKEN, the Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network, volunteers Betsy Taylor and Mary Hufford poured their own transformational leadership talents into developing the forest plenary session and the innovative forest commons mini-program. No parallel emphasis on forests or commoning had ever been included in an ASA conference program. Partners at Appalshop, the Whitesburg media studio celebrating its first half-century this year, helped develop an array of sessions and recruit participation from film and media makers past and present. Community partners Helen Danser and Venus Evans generously shared their indigenous Kentucky expertise to help us develop indigenous Appalachian program components and plans for land acknowledgments. Thanks to their help, the 2020 conference promised to be more inclusive of indigenous perspectives than any since that hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Stephanie Lang of the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) spearheaded production of a special issue of the KHS Register focused on Appalachian history, and organized a downtown reception to welcome ASA 2020 participants and celebrate that issue. Another partner, University Press of Kentucky, also sponsored a reception and worked to showcase important scholarship on the region. Community volunteer Helen Rentch served on

the oral history emphasis subcommittee and contributed to forest programming. Kentucky Humanities supported opening ceremonies and focused a podcast episode on the conference.

Other colleagues also deserve recognition, including UK Arts and Sciences Dean Mark Kornbluh, who provided crucial ASA 2020 conference support for three years. Jessica Wilkerson, of West Virginia University, served on the program committee and spearheaded the women, gender, and sexuality emphasis. At UK, John Jacob Niles Center director Revell Carr provided leadership and expertise arranging music events and venues. Emeritus public health professor Douglas Scutchfield, who leads the new *Journal of Appalachian Health*, made major contributions to the health and healing emphasis. UK literary lights including Crystal Wilkinson, Frank X Walker, and Shauna M. Morgan supported the black Appalachians emphasis, while fellow luminary Gurney Norman helped with Cornbread and Tortillas and the oral history emphasis. Forest scientist Chris Barton organized field trips, secured funding, and supported the forest emphasis. UK's Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History Director Doug Boyd and Oral History Archivist Kopana Terry supported the oral history emphasis and prepared Appalachian oral history features. Matthew Strandmark, Education Archivist in UK's Special Collections Research Center, prepared archival showcases and organized a reception. In the UK College of Medicine, Nathan Vanderford contributed to the health and healing emphasis and involved young Appalachians. UK filmmaker Catharine Axley collaborated with various team members to make a pre-conference digital video feature. We thank them all.

The 2020 ASA Program team also extends gratitude to everyone in ASA who supported us as we struggled with the cancellation decision and its aftermath. Then-president Michele Morrone provided excellent leadership and conducted a membership survey that helped clarify the decision to cancel. Many ASA members contributed to the survey. In exemplary fashion, steering committee members offered thoughtful assessments, respectful discussion, and wise counsel. Mary Thomas and Ann Bryant in the Marshall office demonstrated yet again their extraordinary dedication to ASA and all members. Featured participants we had to disinvite behaved graciously--George Ella Lyon even sent a beautiful and healing poem. Many other ASA members also reached out directly to support us individually and as a group. We felt the benefit of all this support.

We also thank Jordan Laney, Aaron Nelson, Gretchen Beach, and Ann Bryant for the dedicated work they put into designing and implementing a digital platform for ASA 2020 presentations, and we thank all those who participated in that effort. It means a lot to us to know that some components of ASA 2020 have moved forward in this format. When you explore the site at <http://appalachianstudies.org/2020/>, don't miss Catharine Axley's wonderful short pre-conference film. And please note the long list of generous 2020 conference sponsors, whom we also thank.

Finally, the 2020 team thanks the original ASA 2021 team at Ohio University for the generous way they offered to include ASA 2020 components in their conference (which has since itself been reimagined due to the ongoing pandemic).

To close, a few parting words from the Appalachian understories. Events of the last few months have highlighted the urgency of many points we planned to emphasize with ASA 2020. Recent coverage of black Appalachian communities, for instance, has underscored their dignity and resolve, and also their ongoing struggles for visibility and justice within and beyond the region. Meanwhile, an exhibition of black Appalachian art and culture at a regional university has been on the receiving end of attacks of racial hatred. In the face of such violence we must redouble efforts to amplify black Appalachian voices. Similarly, the Appalachian region's health and healing challenges have become even greater and more pressing than they were in March. Among other things, during the coronavirus pandemic the opioid epidemic has come roaring back. Pandemic-driven school cancellations, the move to online educational platforms, and new pressures on home spaces have also added to the already long list of gendered caregiving responsibilities many Appalachian women shoulder. At the same time, devastating fires have destroyed western North America's native forests on a monumental scale, reminding us of threats to our own region's forests and to the global commons that is our planetary home. Forest Commons; Black Appalachians; Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Health and Healing—these "understory" themes deserve and demand our attention. Finding "hope spots" and "growing hope and resilience" seem more urgent now than ever. All that to say: we lost the in-person ASA 2020 conference and that was awful. But the Appalachian understories? Those remain.

**- Kathy Newfont  
2020 ASA Conference Chair**

## Visit the 2020 Conference Digital Landing Page

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### Education

#### **PLEASE NOMINATE EXCELLENT TEACHERS FOR THE FISHER AWARD!**

Deadline: **Friday, November 15.**

If you know of a K-12 or college/university teacher who excels in teaching Appalachian studies, please nominate them for the 2021 Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching, offered by the Appalachian Studies Association. Preliminary nominations require only the completion of a brief form. Full nomination packets are due later, once the finalists are selected.

Please send your preliminary nomination form to the committee chair, Ron Roach (roachr@etsu.edu), by November 15, 2020 (this is an extension to the original deadline). More information, along with the nomination form, can be found on the ASA website Awards page: <http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/#teachingexcellence>.

Thanks for helping us to recognize outstanding teachers!

#### Nominate a Teacher

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### Finance

Greetings from the Finance Committee! As you can imagine, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Appalachian Studies Association's financial situation in a variety of ways.

The Steering Committee has focused its efforts on ensuring the Association's survivability for future generations of activists, community members, and scholars. Our recent activities are presented below:

1. ASA secured two-months of salary from the CARES Act Payment Protection Program to prevent layoffs.
2. The committee continued the process of transferring our endowment to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.
3. In July 2020, the Steering Committee Authorized a membership dues and conference registration fee increase to ensure financial sustainability and more adequately cover costs.
4. In July 2020, the Steering Committee authorized the creation of a BIPOC Membership Scholarship Fund. From each non-student membership, \$5 will be allocated to this new program to support scholarships for BIPOC Appalachian community engagement with the Appalachian Studies Association.
5. We remain committed to developing new methods of engagement with ASA, including an institutional membership option.
6. We continue to review the impact of COVID-19 on the Association's finances and to develop plans to ensure the viability of the Association.

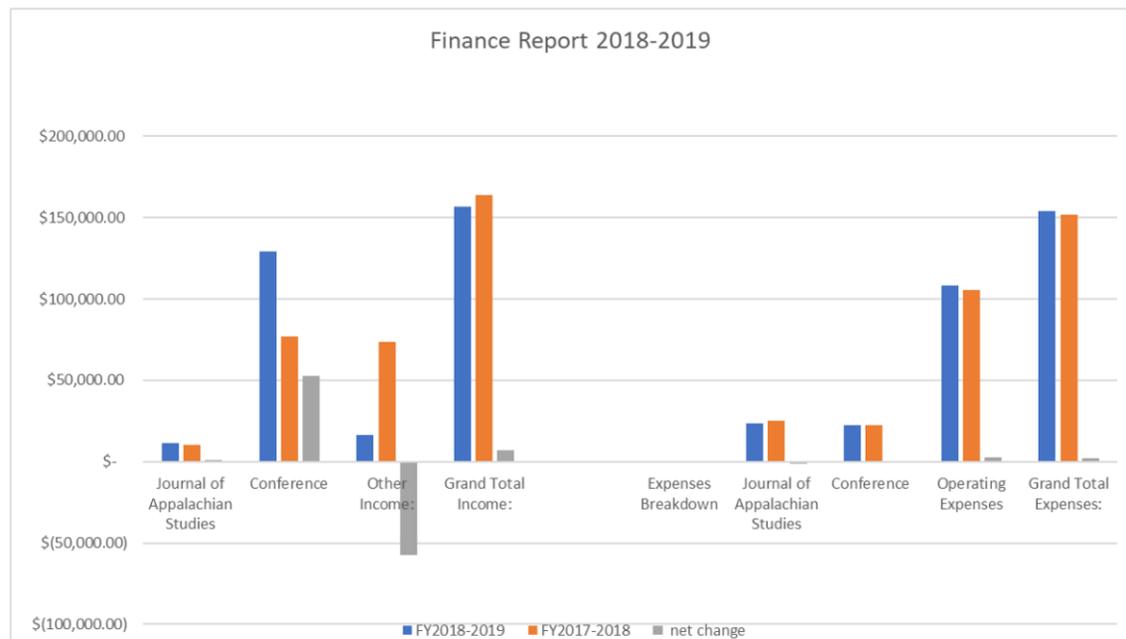
There are a lot of moving parts as we continue to ensure the financial sustainability of the Association. Like all, COVID-19 has threatened the existence of the Appalachian Studies Association. Yet, we all remain committed to doing what is necessary to sustain the

Association. If you are interested in learning more about the Finance Committee's work, have questions regarding decisions, or would like to offer advice, please contact us! ASA needs your input. Thanks to all!

- Aaron Guest, Chair  
**Interim Finance Committee Chair/ASA Treasurer**  
 aaron.guest@asu.edu

## From the Treasurer

Financial Report, FY 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019			
<b>Grand Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 156,777.16</b>		
<b>Grand Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 153,918.68</b>		
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>\$ 2,858.48</b>		
<b>Cash on hand at end of 2018-2019 Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$ 257,131.97</b>		
<b>Cash on hand minus endowment</b>	<b>\$ 221,157.69</b>		
<b>Income Breakdown</b>	<b>FY2018-2019</b>	<b>FY2017-2018</b>	<b>net change</b>
<b>Journal of Appalachian Studies</b>	\$ 11,407.01	\$ 10,390.33	\$1,016.68
<b>Conference</b>	\$ 129,126.66	\$ 76,627.33	\$52,499.33
<b>Other Income:</b>	\$ 16,243.49	\$ 73,771.34	-\$57,527.85
<b>Grand Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 156,777.16</b>	<b>\$ 163,964.85</b>	<b>\$7,187.69</b>
<b>Expenses Breakdown</b>			
<b>Journal of Appalachian Studies</b>	\$ 23,648.55	\$25,064.53	-\$1,415.98
<b>Conference</b>	\$ 22,157.60	\$22,342.23	-\$184.63
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 108,112.53	\$105,561.57	\$2,550.96
<b>Grand Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$153,918.68</b>	<b>\$151,833.93</b>	<b>\$2,084.75</b>
<b>Endowment Funds (since inception through 6/30/19)</b>	<b>\$36,477.65</b>		
Grand Total Expenses Per Capita:	\$ 157,777.16		
with 500 Members	\$ 315.55		
with 600 Members	\$ 262.96		
with 700 Members	\$ 225.40		
<i>Travis A. Rountree, Treasurer, trountree@wcu.edu</i>			



## ***Journal of Appalachian Studies***



As 2020 draws to a close, I am reminded of my regret at not getting to meet with everyone in person at the conference in March. I want to thank everyone again for their welcome and assistance as I take on the role of editor. This spring, Jennifer Wies and Caroline Reid co-edited a special issue on Social Justice, especially focusing on the themes of political, environmental, cultural, and economic justice. The articles cover issues ranging from right-to-work legislation, to the work of trans activist Holly Boswell, to service learning courses at an Appalachian university, the effects of off-highway vehicles and the environmental politics of economic development, to the paradoxical counternarratives contained by a collection of “contemptible collectibles” and the rhetorics of class in coalfield activism.

This year, we have had some transitions on the editorial board, as John C. Inscoe, Ann R. Tickamyler and Phillip J. Obermiller have stepped down. We thank them for their dedication and service to the Board. We are also welcoming three new board members. First, Alison Buck, a sociologist at Eastern Kentucky University who has published widely in gender and work, and whose research and teaching interests include race, class and gender, sexuality, work, organizations, and industry, and social psychology. Next, Gloria Goodwin Raheja, an anthropologist from the University of Minnesota. She is currently putting the finishing touches on a book about the music of Frank Hutchinson from Logan County, WV, and her teaching and research interests include cultural production in India, colonialism and colonial ethnography, music and industrial capitalism in Appalachia, American vernacular music and landscape, history, and memory. Finally, we are very thankful that Shaunna Scott has generously agreed to stay on as a member of the board. (Despite sharing a last name and many research interests, we are not related.)

Moving forward, we are excited to put forth a call for papers for a themed issue to be published around the theme of “Speculative Fabulation: Queering Appalachian Futurisms,” to be edited by Z. Zane McNeill and Jessica Cory. Be sure to look for the complete call for papers in this issue of Appalink. As a reminder, we have issued a regular call for proposals for themed issues on the [Journal webpage](#).

To submit a proposal for a themed issue, please send an abstract of the theme with a list of possible editors and participants to Rebecca Scott at [scottr@missouri.edu](mailto:scottr@missouri.edu). Proposed themed issues will be considered for approval by the editorial board of the journal. As always, we are excited to consider submissions of articles, notes, or essays on topics of interest to our membership outside of these themes. And we are always seeking article reviewers; if you would like to be a reviewer for the journal, please send your name, contact information, credentials and areas of expertise to Rebecca Scott at [scottr@missouri.edu](mailto:scottr@missouri.edu).

**- Rebecca Scott, Editor  
*Journal of Appalachian Studies***

[Learn More](#)

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## **Membership**

Greetings, ASA members!

Above all, I hope that each and every one of you are finding joy and health amid this crazy year.

ASA’s membership survey is primarily focused on conference attendees, so we did not issue a membership survey this year. All the same, I’d like to direct your attention to the

upcoming changes in membership and registration fees. Yes, we are asking for a little bit more from many of our members, but I assure you that this step was necessary to ensure the survival of our organization. We are also taking needed steps toward inclusion of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities (BIPOC) in ASA.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming virtual/remote conference in the Spring. We'll check in with everybody once that is over, but in the meantime feel free to contact me (carson.benn@uky.edu) with concerns or ideas for ASA members.

**- Carson Benn, Membership Chair  
Appalachian Studies Association**

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## 2020 Scholarship Report

As most of you know, we cancelled the 2020 conference due to the pandemic. Even so, the Steering Committee decided to extend ASA 2020 membership as well as a 2020 journal subscription to all awardees. Since the silent auction did not take place, our funding for 2021 scholarships is extremely limited. With that in mind, the steering committee voted to split 2020 scholarship funds with membership going to 2020 awardees and the registration portion credited towards 2021 scholarship awards.

ASA awarded 63 scholarships to 21 non-students and 42 students. The amount awarded was \$7,350. With only \$5,497.00 in scholarship funds available, we were short \$1,853.00 of the necessary funds needed to cover all awardees. Regardless, all awardees received 2020 membership so that they might still benefit from Appalachian scholarship.

We are currently in the planning stages for a 2021 silent auction. If you are willing to participate, please contact me at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu).

**- Mary Thomas, Executive Director  
Appalachian Studies Association**

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## Special Collections

Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent cancellation of this year's conference, the first meeting of the Special Collections Committee was held via Zoom on April 17 of this year. Full committee membership was in attendance: Gene Hyde, Jeff Dey, Jeremy Smith, Scott Sikes, Cassie Patterson, Marc Brodsky, Liz Skene Harper, Jinny Turman and myself, Stewart Plein, Chair.

An agenda with a focus on planning was sent out prior to the meeting. Agenda items included a report on the *Appalachian Curator* newsletter as well as engagement strategies concerning reference queries, web development, and planning goals for the months ahead.

Topics discussed during the meeting included:

- Impact of COVID-19 as it affects institutional electronic reference and the inability to access physical collections,
- Providing an outlet for the committee to perform region wide reference under the suggested tag line "Ask an Appalachian Archivist,"
- Issues faculty face across the region during the pandemic,
- Readership and visit stats for the *Appalachian Curator*,
- Development of a web presence, and
- Determining a meeting schedule.

Since the April meeting, the *Appalachian Curator* has moved idea into action with the new "Ask an Archivist" tab on the web page. In addition, Special Collection Committee meeting notes as well as a summary by committee member Jeremy A. Smith, ETSU, Archives of

Appalachia, are now available in the latest issue of the *Appalachian Curator*. Meeting notes are also be available on the ASA website.

The fall meeting was held September 3. The agenda included the introduction of a new member, Julie Fox-Horton, ETSU Archival Studies Program. Topics for discussion included plans for the upcoming ASA Virtual Conference and a report from Gene Hyde, editor of the *Appalachian Curator*.

**- Stewart Plein, Chair  
Special Collections Committee**

# Appalachian Curator

A newsletter about Appalachian special collections and archives | ISSN 2642-8822

We're pleased to announce publication of the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of the *Appalachian Curator*!

This issue includes:

- an interview with Scottish archivist Catherine MacPhee,
- the first part of a new update of the 1985 Archives in Appalachia survey,
- responses from two PhD candidates on archival research during the pandemic,
- our new "ask an archivist" feature,
- a report on ASA's Special Collections committee,
- a story on the Library of Appalachian Preaching at Marshall University,
- what's new in Appalachian archives,
- and our featured collection, ETSU's Archives of Appalachia.

Enjoy!

[Read the Latest Issue](#)

## 2019-2020 AWARD WINNERS

### 2020 Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award

Gillian Berchowicz from Ohio University Press

### 2019 Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award

Highlander Research and Education Center, led by executive directors Ash-lee Woodard Henderson and Allyn Maxfield-Steele

### 2019 Carl A. Ross Appalachian Graduate Student Paper Award

Michael Pruitt for his paper "Appalachian Exits: Solving the Loss of Talent and Opportunity in America's Eastern Highlands."

### 2019 e-Appalachia Award for Outstanding Website

[Appalshop Archives](#)**2019 Jack Spadaro Documentary Award**

*Mine 21*, a documentary directed by Stephen Garrett and produced by Christopher McDonough; sponsored by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU

**2020-2021 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship**

Cynthia Sorousha Gorman

**2019 Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies**

**Post-secondary:** Sylvia Shurbutt, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV

**K-12:** Ray Sugg, Tuscola High School, Waynesville, NC

**Gates-Carawan Artist Award** - no winner

**2019 Weatherford Awards:**

**Non-fiction:** *Appalachian Reckoning*, eds. Anthony Harkins and Meredith McCarroll

**Fiction:** *Any Other Place* (fiction) by Michael Croley

**Poetry:** *Forage* by Rose McLarney

**2020 ASA Special Distinguished Service Award:**

Nick Arnold in recognition of his extraordinary generosity, supporting the Appalachian Studies Association with custom-built software to serve the organization's needs.

**2019 -2020 WILMA DYKEMAN "Faces of Appalachia" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP****A Study of Food Security Assistance, Racialized Barriers, and Equitable Program Design****Mary Beth Schmid, PhD**

I'm honored to be the 2019 recipient of the [Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) for my research project, Racialized Obstacles to Food Security in Western North Carolina. Due to the 2020 pandemic, my presentation is posted on the ASA website.

This project contributes to the study of the nexus of health equity, racism, program design, policy, and food security in rural places in the contemporary US. It does this by focusing on food assistance organizations that offer dry goods and fresh fruits and vegetables to economically

This study focuses on food pantries and food banks or "traditional models" and community gardens or "alternative models" (Batada and Lewis 2019). Traditional food assistance programs are designed around The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funded by the 2018 Farm Bill and administered by federal and state agencies. The network channels food items through food banks to food pantries. Food banks also support food pantries via capacity building and donations in the form of food and financial support.

marginalized populations – including Latinx families - in ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) counties in North Carolina in the context of an anti-immigrant federal policy landscape.

This landscape is defined as such due to policies like the 287(g) Program - which requires local law enforcement officials to work with ICE officials - and the redefinition of “public charge” by the Department of Homeland Security. This redefinition (enacted in late 2019) meant that immigrants with lawful permanent residency status - also known as green-card holders - would be negatively impacted by their use of certain public programs (e.g., SNAP) when applying for renewal or citizenship status. I found that these federal policies are experienced as racialized barriers, even when documented Latinx residents attempt to access food security. Below, I will discuss how some food assistance organizations are working to mitigate this at the local level. Food availability, access, and adequacy are the three fundamental elements of food security.

Food assistance programs are meant to improve food security. These programs can come in many forms.

Through IRB-supported interviews, surveys and participant observation, I found that food assistance organizations in western North Carolina are developing strategies and policies to counter the racialized barriers that Latinx are experiencing due to federal policies. Here are two examples of such strategies.

When possible, some food assistance programs have decided to become “low threshold” – which means that people needing food do not have to exchange their personal information (e.g., home address) for that food. For marginalized people, and especially immigrants, submitting personal information to federal databases is enough of a danger to their wellbeing that families avoid these public health programs all together. Another example is when food assistance programs create “harvest tables” or mobile “free” markets near underserved neighborhoods, so participants do not need to drive to access food.

To improve health equity, programs must be designed with equity in mind. This means that food assistance organizations need to better understand how Latinx families are experiencing federal policies as racialized barriers to food security in order to better assist them.

***Mary Beth Schmid is a cultural anthropologist, independent researcher and part-time instructor at Western Carolina University. She completed her dissertation research on food systems, im/migration, and security in North America and has continued this work in southern Appalachia with support from the Wilma Dykeman Postdoctoral Fellowship.***

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## CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

For more information, please visit the ["Awards"](#) page on the ASA website.

### Awards

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#### GATES-CARAWAN ARTIST AWARD

The Gates-Carawan Artist Award recognizes an individual for artistic potential or artistic contributions to Appalachia in the realms of visual, oral, musical, literary, or other arts. With this award, the ASA seeks to recognize and cultivate artists who are working in the spirit of the award’s namesakes, independent filmmaker Bob Gates and activist musicians Guy and Candie



Carawan—socially conscious artists who supported and encouraged the work of other regional artists.

The winner will receive a physical award produced by a regional artist and either a \$500 stipend (for artistic contributions) or the guidance of a mentor (for artistic potential). Nominators of a winning candidate with artistic potential will be strongly encouraged to develop a mentoring plan with the winning artist.

Nominations may come from any ASA member. Submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website. Send nomination materials to Scott Goebel, Gates-Carawan Artist Award Selection Committee Chair, [badbranch3@gmail.com](mailto:badbranch3@gmail.com), by **December 1, 2020**.



### **STEPHEN L. FISHER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

The ASA Award for Excellence in Teaching seeks to honor individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. There are two awards: one for college or university teaching and one for public school teaching.

The winners in each category will receive \$250. Candidates may be nominated or may self-nominate. The nomination process has two steps; the preliminary nomination deadline is **November 1, 2020**. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by December 1, 2020, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due January 31, 2021.

Preliminary nomination forms, available on the ASA website, must be submitted as an attachment to an e-mail to the chair of the ASA Education Committee, Ron Roach, at [roachr@etsu.edu](mailto:roachr@etsu.edu), by November 1, 2020. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee.



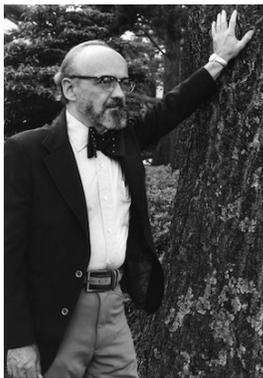
### **CARL A. ROSS APPALACHIAN STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

This competition is open to students in two categories: middle/high school and undergraduate/graduate students. Middle/high school papers should be eight to fifteen pages in length. Undergraduate/graduate papers should be fifteen to thirty pages in length.

The authors of the winning papers will receive \$100 each. All papers must adhere to guidelines for scholarly research. Students who wish to present their papers at the conference must also submit a conference proposal following the submission guidelines. The cost of attending the conference is the responsibility of the winners.

Submissions should be sent in Microsoft Word attachments via e-mail to the selection chair, Casey LaFrance, at [TC-LaFrance@wiu.edu](mailto:TC-LaFrance@wiu.edu) by **January 15, 2021**. Papers submitted to the undergraduate/graduate competition must have been completed during the current or previous academic year and must include proof of student status during the current or previous academic year; documentation may consist of a letter

from a faculty advisor (including faculty advisor's e-mail, phone, and address), a schedule of classes, or a transcript.



"Cratis Williams, Photo 2," Appalachian State University Digital Collections

### **CRATIS D. WILLIAMS & JAMES S. BROWN SERVICE AWARD**

The Cratis D. Williams & James S. Brown Service Award is given to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia, Appalachian studies, and/or the Appalachian Studies Association.

The selection process consists of two steps:

- 1) Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's specific contributions to the region and/or the individual's C.V./résumé;
- 2) Following a review, the committee will request additional information about one or more finalists before selecting the award recipient.

Send nomination materials to Jinny Turman at [turmanja@unk.edu](mailto:turmanja@unk.edu) by **January 15, 2021**.



### **HELEN M. LEWIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

The Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award is given to an individual or an organization that has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia through involvement with and service to its people and communities. Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's or organization's specific contributions to the region and its people, and at least two letters of support.

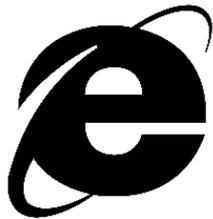
Send nomination materials to Sandy Ballard, Belk Library, Box 32026, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or to [ballardsl@appstate.edu](mailto:ballardsl@appstate.edu) by **January 31, 2021**.



### **JACK SPADARO DOCUMENTARY AWARD**

This award honors the activist and whistleblower Jack Spadaro, who spent his professional career working within the coal mining industry for the betterment of the Appalachian community. The Spadaro Award is given annually to recognize the producer of the best nonfiction film or television presentation on Appalachia or its people.

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be made by **January 31, 2021** to Tom Hansell or Meredith McCarroll at [hansellts@appstate.edu](mailto:hansellts@appstate.edu) and [mmccarro@bowdoin.edu](mailto:mmccarro@bowdoin.edu), respectively. Technical and submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website.



## THE e-APPALACHIA AWARD

The e-Appalachia Award is given annually in recognition of an outstanding media source that provides insight on Appalachia and its people, or provides a vital community service to Appalachians. The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be sent to Roger May and Amanda Jo Slone by emailing [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@marshall.edu) with "e-Appalachia Award" in the subject line, by **January 31, 2021**.



## WEATHERFORD AWARDS

The ASA and Berea College annually present the Weatherford Awards to honor published works that "best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South." The Weatherford Awards are named after Willis D. Weatherford Jr. and Sr. for their contributions to the region. The late Alfred Perrin began the award in 1970. Three awards are presented annually for nonfiction, fiction, and poetry in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. The subject matter of nominated books must be Appalachian or set in Appalachia and originally published in 2020.

Anyone may nominate, but nominations in any of the three categories must include seven copies. Nominations and copies must be received by Chris Green, Director, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, CPO 2166, 205 North Main Street, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404, by **November 1, 2020**. If copies will be delayed, the nomination letter must specify the expected delivery date. For further information, visit the ASA website or [www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford](http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford).



## WILMA DYKEMAN "Faces of Appalachia" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, which provides \$3,000 to support research related to gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia, is accepting proposals. The research is to be conducted during the 2021 - 2022 academic year and presented at the 2022 conference.

Members of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited institution within the past seven years are eligible to apply. Fellowship applicants must have been members of ASA for one year prior to applying and must maintain membership throughout the course of the fellowship period. No person may receive the fellowship more than one time.

Applicants should email their proposals, including the following parts, to Mary Thomas ([mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu)) by **December 31, 2020**: research proposal limited to 1,500 words, current curriculum vitae with contact information, and contact information for two references. For more information about the award and details on the application process, please visit the ASA website: [appalachianstudies.org/awards/#dykeman](http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/#dykeman). Althea

Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee chair and may be contacted at [althea\\_webb@berea.edu](mailto:althea_webb@berea.edu).

**Award winners will be announced at the 2021 ASA conference awards ceremony.**

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# ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

## NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

### Elected Positions

#### **Treasurer, 2020 – 2023**

M. Aaron Guest

#### **At-Large Steering Committee Members, 2020 - 2024**

Eliot Parker

Scott Sikes

#### **Y'ALL Steering Committee, 2020 – 2022**

Z. Zane McNeill

### Appointed Positions

#### ***Journal of Appalachian Studies* Editor 2020 - 2024**

Rebecca Scott

#### **Diversity and Inclusion Chair, 2020 – 2024**

Travis Rountree

#### **Vice-President/President Elect 2020 - 2023**

Meredith McCarroll

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## CALL FOR OFFICER AND STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Your nominations are needed for ASA officers and Steering Committee members. The ASA bylaws call for the annual nomination and election of officers. Any member of ASA may nominate a fellow member to serve.

Self-nominations are also accepted. ASA is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

1. **Vice President/President Elect** is a three year term. This person chairs the nominating committee (2021-2022). During the second year as the 2022-2023 President, this person negotiates the conference location, presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, serves as a spokesperson, and serves on the Steering Committee. This person serves their final year as Past President (2023-2024).
2. **One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2021-2023)** to serve for two years. Y'ALL Steering Committee members act as co-chairs of the Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners committee and work collaboratively with the President in support of the conference.

**How to Make a Nomination:**

1. Make sure the nominee is willing to serve and understands the commitment involved.
2. Write a 100-word biography of the nominee that includes his or her involvement in Appalachian studies and/or ASA. This paragraph will be included in the spring Appalink with the ballot.
3. Self-nominations are welcome.
4. Send your nomination(s) to Meredith McCarroll, ASA VP  
President: mmccarro@bowdoin.edu by **December 15, 2020**.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### 44th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 11 - 14, 2021, VIRTUAL

Conference Planning Committee Chair and Immediate Past President: Michele Morrone

Conference Planning Committee Members:

Tiffany Arnold, Ann Bryant, Sophia Enriquez, Aaron Guest, Meredith McCarroll, Z. Zane McNeill, Eliot Parker, Stewart Plein, Caleb Pendygraft, Lindsay Radomski, Travis Rountree, Scott Sikes, Travis Stimeling, Natalie Sypolt, Mary Thomas.

### 45th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

Tentatively Scheduled for March 17 - 20, 2022, West Virginia University

Natalie Sypolt, Conference Chair, natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu  
Travis Stimeling, Program Chair, Travis.Stimeling@mail.wvu.edu

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## FOLLOW ASA ON SOCIAL MEDIA



*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 E. Bryant

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