

# President's Message

*Travis A. Rountree*

Dear ASA Members,

It is my privilege to give you an update about where we are with the association. I want to start with saying a big thank you to Ohio University for hosting a wonderful conference last spring. It was truly a joy to gather together again and share space, fellowship, and learn from each other in Athens, Ohio. Kudos to all those who helped make the conference happen, from the planning committees to the folx on campus. Thank you to each of you!



Speaking of conferences, my journey with ASA started when I attended the Huntington, West Virginia conference in 2008. From my first visit, I knew I had found a group of folx who shared my vision of the region. I want to continue to challenge us, as we move forward with the organization, to pay particular attention to diversity and inclusivity with our vision. Our work with anti-racism and LGBTQ activism and outreach is growing, and I'd love to see us continue in this direction as we see attacks on these oppressed groups daily. I'm so grateful and honored to share in this role as president and work alongside each of you.

Bylaw changes recently passed by the ASA Membership will have a large impact on the sustainability and structure of the ASA. Thank all y'all for your voice in this vote.

The spring 2024 conference will be in Cullowhee, North Carolina where I teach, live, and thrive. We at Western Carolina University are so excited to host you here as we pair with the Town of Sylva and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee for events that we think you'll find inspiring and thoughtful. Please keep an eye out on social media and our website for future communications from our dynamic organization. Take care of yourselves and hope to see you in March!

Sincerely, Travis A. Rountree  
President, Appalachian Studies Association