

2026 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

PROPOSALS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS

PRESENTERS, PERFORMERS, CONVENERS, PARTICIPANTS,
ADVERTISERS, EXHIBITORS, SPONSORS



*POWER OF A PLACE,
POWER OF ITS PEOPLE*

49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 19 – 21, 2026, Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia



Proposals may be submitted to the online submission system via a link from
<https://www.appalachianstudies.org/> between **September 2, 2025** and **October 7, 2025**.

Exhibitor, Advertiser, Sponsor registration forms due November 21, 2025.

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INVITATION

Marshall University welcomes submissions to the **49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference**, to be held in **Huntington, West Virginia**, an urban centerpiece in the heart of Appalachia. The Tri-State Area, where three states, three major rivers, and one of the most significant dividing lines in U.S. history converge, provides a welcoming and unique environment for sharing and learning.

The conference will run from **March 19, 2026**, through **March 21, 2026**, and takes as its theme **“Power of a Place, Power of Its People.”** In the spirit of this title, the conference planners encourage submissions that elevate, celebrate, and interrogate the strength and diversity that give life to the Appalachian region. United by the commonalities of resistance, perseverance, and pride, we invite work that elaborates and extends these themes through art, performance, research, policy/analysis, and advocacy. Although separated in geologic space by our region-defining mountains and rivers, and in political space by state borders and bureaucratic subdivisions, the Appalachian region has long served as a symbol of an alternative to the nation’s norms, the “best” and the “worst” of the American experience, and of endurance in the face of economic, political, and natural struggles.

For this gathering, we place a special emphasis on regionally significant strategies for confronting and countering issues of exploitation, prejudice, and oppression (broadly defined) relative to Appalachia. We realize, and desire, that submissions will take on many different approaches to these concerns: community-based documentation, critical media-analysis, performance, literature, humanities-oriented scholarship, sociological perspectives, theological contemplation, visual art, pedagogy, etc. We seek work that focuses on the people of the region—collectively, diversely, and/or individually—that defines the simultaneously persistent and ever-evolving character of Appalachia.

NEW THIS YEAR

Undergraduate and graduate student participation is an integral and valued part of every **Appalachian Studies Association Conference**. And we realize that our conference is, for many of these student presenters, their first foray into this important component of the academic profession. Consequently, we’d like to point our first time presenters (and even experienced presenters) toward some resources

that may help them as they construct their scholarly contributions to this year's conference. The program chair recommends the following:

- [Purdue Online Writing Lab: Conference Presentations](#)
- [MLA Grads Blog: Tips for Conference Presentations](#)
- [The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill: Conference Papers](#)
- [Posters with a Powerful Point](#) (University of York)
- [Poster Presentations: Designing Effective Posters](#) (University of Buffalo)

First time presenters may also visit our website for [FAQs](#) and a First Timers' Guide, and a link to the 2021 Virtual Conference if they wish to view an ASA conference session.

SELECTED CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights this year include:

- Keynote and plenaries to be announced
- A drag show by local Got the Beat Club's "Queens for a Cause," a fundraiser for Branches, a local domestic violence shelter
- The Appalachian Film Festival
- Underground Railroad site tours
- Black Huntington history trolley tours
- An artisan tour of the Marshall University Visual Arts Center, Blenko Glass, and the Huntington Museum of Art
- A tour of the Marshall Memorial Crash Site and Grave Site
- A tour of the Mothman Museum
- Tours of Marshall University Libraries Special Collections
- Recording opportunities with Marshall University History Department's Queer History Project
- And, as with previous conferences, there will be numerous musical performances, ranging from traditional string bands to hip-hop.

THE CONFERENCE LOGO

The conference logo—an imagining of John Henry and the North Star, in reference to Huntington’s role as both a rail center and an Underground Railroad waystation—was created by Charlie Umhau.

Charlie Umhau, “the Cowboy Prince,” is a self-taught, southern Vernacular Artist, tailor & apprentice farrier based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Charlie has a deep-rooted passion for the history, arts, and culture of Appalachia, the result of his childhood roots in Virginia and his undergraduate studies with conference program chair, Paul L. Robertson.

In his work, Charlie is madly in love with living life through his hands, remembering stories through material culture, and a penchant for the “meticulous-ridiculous” courting of slow old-time processes—the making of living folk tales enriched by the wrinkles of age, time itself becoming a texture in art.

For this year’s conference logo, Charlie wanted to specifically pay homage to the Underground Railroad’s North Star shining south; the African Appalachian American folk hero John Henry, who was pivotal in building West Virginia’s Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad, with his two whalebone handled sledgehammers singing as they drove clear through the mountain’s rock. In creating the logo text, Charlie took great inspiration from the black and white blur of passing coal cars, and the tradition of hobo boxcar graffiti, as they lay a patchwork topography of steel rail line ribbon unfurling across the hills, where people don’t let the dry truth get in the way of telling tales the way they actually happened.

Charlie’s art can be viewed on his [Instagram account](#).

CONFERENCE SITE

Marshall University



As an R2 Carnegie institution, **Marshall University** serves the educational needs of both **West Virginia** and the greater Tri-State area of northeastern **Kentucky** and southeastern **Ohio**. An integral part of urban **Huntington**, **Marshall University** supports the region with a nationally renowned hospital system, a premier entertainment venue (the Marshall Health Network Arena), the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, and the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Offering degrees through both on-campus and on-line modalities, **Marshall University** also operates a campus in **Charleston, West Virginia**. **Marshall University** has received national attention for its innovative “**Marshall for All**” program, an initiative to provide undergraduate students with a high-quality, debt-free university education.

Huntington, West Virginia

The second-largest city, just behind state capitol **Charleston**, “**The Jewel City**” of **Huntington** is located at the western edge of **West Virginia**. Although sharing many similarities with other urban Appalachian centers established in the late 19th century expansion of regional industry and commerce, **Huntington** (and its historical predecessor **Guyandotte**) is unique in its overlapping and evolving identities: an Ohio River trade locale, a frontier gateway of the early U.S., a portal between antebellum southern enslavement and northern freedom, an intentionally planned railroad hub, and a locus for healthcare, higher education, and the Arts.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Below is a list of accommodations in and near **Huntington, WV**. Hotels that are offering special rates are listed first along with instructions on how to book rooms and get the discounted rates. The rates below are before taxes.

Preferred hotel:

Double Tree by Hilton - \$139

(King, King w/pullout)
1001 3rd Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-1001
0.7 miles from MU, 4 stars

Hotels offering conference rates:

Comfort Inn - \$110 (2 Queens)

(Barboursville)
*Reference Appalachian Studies Association
Conference*
249 Mall Rd., Barboursville, WV 25504
304-733-2122
12 miles from MU, 3 stars

Comfort Inn - \$96 (King) \$103 (Queens)

(Huntington)
*Reference Appalachian Studies Association
Conference*
3094 16th St, Huntington 25701
304-523-4242
2.6 miles from MU, 3 stars

Comfort Suites - \$109

(South Point)
Reference MU/Appalachian Studies Association
2940 County Road 144, South Point, OH
45680
220-386-4005
5.18 miles from MU, 3 stars

Delta Hotels - \$209 (King)

(Huntington)
800 3rd Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
304-523-8880
1.7 miles from MU, 3 stars

Delta Hotels - \$189 (King)

(Barboursville)

8061 U.S. 60, Barboursville, WV 25504
304-733-3338
8.377 miles from MU, 3 stars

Fairfield Inn and Suites

536 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, WV 25701
304-696-8777
2.4 miles from MU, 3 stars

Hampton Inn

177 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, WV 25701
304-523-8001
2.7 miles from MU, 3 stars

Hampton Inn - \$109

Reference Marshall University rate
1 Cracker Barrel Dr., Barboursville, WV
25504
304-733-5300
8.77 miles from MU, 3 stars

TownePlace Suites by Marriott - \$102

Use code MFUU
157 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-4877
2.5 miles from MU, 3 stars

Other area hotels (by distance):

Quality Inn by Wyndham

3090 16th St, Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-1410
2.8 miles from MU, 2 stars

EconoLodge

3325 US 60, Huntington, WV 25705
304-525-7001

3.9 miles from MU, 2 stars

Motel 6

4644 US 60, Huntington, WV 25705

304-736-3466

4.8 miles from MU, 2 stars

Red Roof Inn

5190 US 60, Huntington, WV 25705

937-328-1479

6 miles from MU, 2 stars

Days Inn by Wyndham

494 Braley Rd, Huntington, WV 25705

304-733-4477

6.1 miles from MU, 2 stars

Rodeway Inn

3441 US 60, Barboursville, WV 25504

304-736-9772

9 miles from MU, 2 stars

Ramada by Wyndham

6000 Centerline (Crider) Dr., Catlettsburg,

KY 41129

606-739-5700

11.98 miles from MU, 3 stars

SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Appalachian Studies Association** offers a limited number of Scholarships to assist individuals who require financial assistance to attend the conference. Funds are limited so we continue to prioritize our scholarships according to those with the most need. Scholarships cover the cost of registration/membership only. Other ticketed activities are not included. **Travel and lodging are the responsibility of conference attendees.**

Before applying for an ASA Scholarship, we ask applicants, if applicable, to first seek financial assistance from their own institution or organization.

The scholarship award serves as your registration for the conference. Please sign in at the registration desk located in the *Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room*, to pick up registration materials. **Applicants do not need to register or pay UNLESS they have been notified that they are NOT receiving a scholarship.**

➤ General Conference Scholarships

General Conference Scholarships support conference attendance for those that would otherwise be unable to attend. Applications will be available on the ASA website beginning **December 1, 2025**, and are due by **February 10, 2026**. Notifications of award decisions will go out on **February 19, 2026**. See the application guidelines on the ASA website for more information.

The general scholarship covers conference registration and includes **2026 membership**.

➤ BIPOC Conference Scholarships

The **Appalachian Studies Association (ASA)** is seeking applications from individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) for a scholarship program intended to support BIPOC participation in the ASA. Applications will be available on the ASA website beginning

December 1, 2025, and are due by **February 10, 2026**. Notifications of award decisions will go out **February 19, 2026**. See the application guidelines on the ASA website for more information.

The BIPOC scholarship covers conference registration and includes **2026 membership**.

ASA 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.

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

There are many ways to participate in the ASA conference. You are welcome to attend conference events as a registered participant (ASA membership included).

- Pre-registration is **\$175 (\$115 for students)** through **March 5, 2026**. *
- Late registration is **\$215 (\$155 for students)** beginning **March 6, 2026**. *

Registration will be available online beginning **September 2, 2025**, via a link from:

<http://www.appalachianstudies.org>.

We encourage everyone to participate. Please keep the guidelines below in mind when submitting your proposal:

Submitters should be available for scheduling at any time during the entire conference, from Friday morning through Saturday afternoon. It is not possible to guarantee any session or participation for a

particular day or time on the program. **Once scheduled, session times will not be moved.**

Proposals may be submitted online from **September 2, 2025**, through **October 7, 2025**, via the ASA website <http://appalachianstudies.org/>.

Important Proposal Information:

- **Late and incomplete proposals will not be considered.**
- **Please note, applicants may be listed as a presenter for a maximum of three sessions.**
- **Submitters will be notified starting in late November regarding the status of their submissions. All presenters, conveners, and participants must pay the registration fee.**

ROLES

- **PRESENTER/LEAD PRESENTER.** A presenter is an individual who has primary responsibility for a paper, poster presentation, workshop, or performance. The presenter or lead presenter should submit a proposal that clearly reflects the content of the presentation. Lead presenters submitting proposals for group presentations are responsible for identifying all presenters and informing all participants that they need to pay registration prior to attending the conference, or on-site upon arrival at the conference. All presenters must adhere to the time allotted, which includes time for audience discussion (**individual presentations in most sessions—not including performances and workshops—should be no longer than fifteen minutes**).

PLEASE NOTE, APPLICANTS MAY BE LISTED AS A PRESENTER FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE SESSIONS.

- **CONVENER.** Conveners are facilitators who introduce sessions and presenters (providing brief bios), foster discussion, maintain time limits, troubleshoot, and complete audience feedback and attendance forms. There are two levels of convener participation at ASA:
 1. Conveners who fulfill the basic duties outlined above for sessions comprised of one or more individual presentations, performances, or workshops.
 2. Conveners who fulfill the duties outlined above AND take primary responsibility for

the creation and submission of a complete panel, workshop, performance, or roundtable. Conveners may participate in the sessions they convene, thus playing two distinct roles in one session.

If you would like to volunteer as a convener for a session other than the one in which you are participating, please email **Paul L. Robertson** at robertsonp@marshall.edu or **Marianna Footo-Linz** linz@marshall.edu with the subject line “ASA Conference Convener” and indicate the topics that most interest you. Conveners must pay the conference registration fee.

PARTICIPATION TYPE/FORMATS

- **PAPER.** Papers are formal presentations of original and unpublished scholarly research that is analytical more than descriptive. Paper proposals are judged on their potential contribution to the field of Appalachian studies and regional concerns and should be submitted by the presenter/lead presenter. Co-authors sharing a presenter’s fifteen-minute presentation time must be identified in paper proposals as participants and must pay the conference registration fee. Choose either:

- **Individual Presentation** for individual papers with one presenter.
- **Group Presentation** for individual papers with more than one presenter.

Individual and Group papers will be grouped into panels by the ASA Program Committee.

- **PANEL.** A panel consists of individual and co-authored presentations introduced by a convener. A panel is created, introduced, facilitated, and submitted by a convener **OR** organized by the ASA program committee from individual or group proposals/papers. Panels include up to four, fifteen-minute papers or presentations on related topics or three, fifteen-minute presentations plus a response. All participants must be identified in the proposals and must pay the conference registration fee.
- **POSTER.** A poster is a visual presentation of scholarly, community, or creative work. Poster proposals are submitted by the presenter. **Please bring your poster on a trifold poster board. Tables will be provided to display your trifold poster.** Presenters commit to attending the poster session to engage attendees in discussion of their poster topic. Poster proposals are judged on their potential contribution to the field of Appalachian studies and

regional concerns. All participants in group poster presentations must be identified in the proposals and must pay the conference registration fee. Please include faculty advisor if applicable.

- **PERFORMANCE.** A performance session consists of one or more individual or group performances of original creative works introduced by a convener. These sessions include film/documentary and other forms of literary, visual, and performance art. Spatial, technical, and time requirements will be considered during the selection process. **Sessions are limited to one hour and fifteen minutes. In the session notes please specify if you need the full session time, or if your performance should be grouped with other performances/papers (15 minutes each).**

Copyright restrictions will be observed. Performance proposals are submitted by a convener or presenter/lead presenter. All participants in performances must be identified in proposals and must pay the conference registration fee.

- **ROUNDTABLE.** A roundtable consists of directed audience discussion on a topic of interest to the ASA membership. Roundtables are organized, introduced, facilitated, and submitted by a convener. **Roundtables are limited to one hour and fifteen minutes.** All roundtable participants asked in advance to give remarks must be identified in proposals and all participants must pay the conference registration fee.

- **WORKSHOP.** A workshop consists of demonstrations and/or skill-building activities of interest to the ASA membership. Workshops are organized, introduced, facilitated, and submitted by a convener. Spatial, technical, and time requirements will be considered during the selection process. **Workshops are limited to one hour and fifteen minutes. In the session notes please specify if you need the full session time, or if your performance should be grouped with other performances/papers (15 minutes each).** Participants asked in advance to contribute to workshops must be identified in proposals and all participants must pay the conference registration fee.

- **COMMITTEE-SPONSORED SESSIONS.** These may fall into any of the above formats and are organized and sponsored by a standing ASA committee. Proposals are submitted by committee chairs or their designated committee members through the regular proposal process but will receive special designation in the program. **Sessions are limited to one hour and fifteen minutes.** All participants must be identified in proposals and must pay the conference registration fee.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposal submissions require:

- 1) an abstract or summary,
- 2) the name and contact information for each participant,
- 3) a notice of any special requirements, and
- 4) a short biography (50-75 words) and affiliation for each participant (click on the “Add a Presenter” box to add required information for each presenter).

NOTE: IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM, SO PLEASE USE CORRECT SPELLING AND GRAMMAR, AND AVOID USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. WE WILL NOT CHANGE CAPITALIZATION SO PLEASE TYPE ALL PRESENTER NAMES IN THE PREFERRED CASE.

Specific proposal submission requirements are as follows:

- **For panels and roundtables**, provide session title and session abstract or summary, plus individual paper or presentation title, abstract or summary, name, contact info, a brief bio statement and affiliation for each participant and notice of any special requirements (in terms of physical space or technology).
- **For individual papers or posters with one participant**, provide title, abstract or summary, name, contact info, brief bio statement and affiliation, and notice of any special requirements (in terms of physical space or technology). **For individual papers or posters with more than one participant**, choose group presentation and provide title, abstract or summary, as well as name, contact info, brief bio statement and affiliation for each participant, and notice of any special requirements (in terms of physical space or technology).
- **For performances and workshops**, provide session title, session abstract or summary, titles from each participant (if desired), abstract or summary from each participant (if desired), and name, contact info and a brief bio statement and affiliation for each participant. Be clear about your requirements for time, space, and equipment, including duration of each performance or film.

FOR ALL PROPOSALS: LIST ALL NAMES OF SESSION PRESENTERS INDIVIDUALLY USING THE “ADD A PRESENTER” BOX ON THE FORM. INCLUDE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR EACH PRESENTER.

Proposals Will Be Judged as To Whether They:

- 1) indicate a relevant topic and a current approach for the Appalachian region and/or Appalachian studies,
- 2) are clear about their intended arguments, goals, recommendations, or desired outcomes/effects on audiences and are specific about how these will be supported or achieved, and
- 3) contribute to providing a multiplicity of perspectives and content.

IF A GROUP SESSION IS ACCEPTED, THE SUBMITTER SHOULD IMMEDIATELY REMIND PARTICIPANTS TO PAY THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE PRIOR TO ATTENDING, OR ON-SITE AT REGISTRATION.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH REVIEW

If you elect to have your submission in the “**Scholarly Research Review**” track, you are required to submit an abstract rather than a summary. Additional criteria similar to those for the [*Journal of Appalachian Studies*](#) will apply including:

- Does the proposal address an interesting and important research problem or question relevant to Appalachia/Appalachian studies?
- Does the proposal contribute to the accumulation of knowledge or challenge existing understanding of Appalachia?
- Does the proposal demonstrate sound theory, methods, and interpretation?
- Is the analysis, interpretation, or argument based on adequate evidence or data?
Does the proposal engage relevant Appalachian literature?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INCLUDING YOUR SUBMISSION IN THE “SCHOLARLY

RESEARCH REVIEW” TRACK:

- Create your submission as you normally would.
- Once the submission is complete select the check box at the end of the submission page that says: “**I wish to submit my proposal for scholarly review.**”

FIELDS AND TOPICS

To help the program committee create the agenda and avoid scheduling conflicts, proposal submitters should select up to **TWO** fields or topics from the list below. **All submissions related to Appalachian studies are welcome.**

- Activism/Organizing
- Agriculture and Land Use
- Appalachian Studies (assessments of the academic field)
- Archaeology and Physical Anthropology
- Architecture, Historic Buildings, and Historic Sites
- Art, Craft, and Design
- Art History
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
- Economic Conditions, Economic Development, and Economic Policy
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental Issues
- Foodways
- Folklore
- Gender, Women, Sexuality, and LGBTQIA+
- Health
- History
- Language and Linguistics
- Law
- Literature, Poetry, Drama, and Fiction
- Material Culture
- Media and Representation; Journalism
- Migration, Population, and Urban Appalachians
- Music and Dance
- Natural Sciences
- Place, Space, and Regional Studies
- Politics and Government
- Professional Development
- Race and Ethnicity
- Religion
- Rural Life
- Social Justice Issues
- Sociology-Anthropology
- Teaching, Pedagogy
- Technology
- Other (with a space to describe)

WHAT IS AN ABSTRACT?

An abstract is approximately 250 words that summarizes a paper, panel, poster, or roundtable that presents scholarly research. Your abstract (and your presentation) should:

- State the purpose of the work. Give your research questions and what motivates them. Why are the questions significant? What is at stake? How does this work relate to ASA's commitment to foster quality of life and/or appreciation and understanding of Appalachian experiences?
- Cite essential scholarship relevant to your topic to orient the reviewers to your specific field(s).
- Briefly describe your primary sources and methods. Include your methods for answering your questions.
- State your findings. State how your research contributes to the accumulation of knowledge.

WHAT IS A SUMMARY?

A summary is approximately 250 words that briefly describes the performance, panel, paper, poster, roundtable, or workshop. Your summary should highlight the way in which your submission would accomplish at least two of the following:

- Facilitate ASA connections and collaborations with other organizations, groups, and movements.
- Engage ASA membership with regional needs and diverse populations.
Promote dialogue, teaching and education, creative expression, and/or action among a diverse and inclusive membership.
- Advance the ASA's commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation, and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Educate ASA membership about innovative work being conducted in the region.

SUBMISSIONS

- All proposals must be submitted online via a link from the ASA website beginning **September 2, 2025**, through **October 7, 2025**.
- Proposal notifications will be emailed from *asaconferencenoreply@gmail.com* beginning in November.
- Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered or accepted.

ALL PRESENTERS, CONVENERs AND ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE OR RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, AND TO WEAR A CONFERENCE BADGE TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN SESSIONS.

UNOFFICIAL SESSION CONNECTION FORM

To connect those interested in forming or joining a session or panel, the program committee has created an unofficial session connection form. This spreadsheet allows individuals to collaborate and find others interested in their topic. This spreadsheet is NOT part of the official submission process, and any session developed using the spreadsheet must be submitted through the official conference portal, by the deadline, to be considered. [Unofficial session connection form.](#)

ACCESSIBILITY

The Appalachian Studies Association strives to ensure that all events are accessible to all participants and that participation be in a meaningful and comfortable manner for all.

➤ **Conference Materials:**

All conference programs and calls for participation will be provided in both a PDF (two column format), and a Word document with a single column format to work with screen readers. If there is an old document, you would like in a Word document for a screen reader please contact the ASA office at: 304-696-2904 or at asa@marshall.edu.

➤ **Conference Registration:**

Choose one of 3 ways:

1. Written and mailed form - with check or credit card information
2. Online at this [link](#)
3. Over the phone at: (217) 300-5437 (University Illinois Press handles registration)

➤ **Conference Accessibility:**

Each conference location will have its own information for accessibility, which will be noted in the preliminary and final programs, and on our website.

Additionally, if you have a special accessibility request you may contact the ASA office at (304) 696-2904 or at asa@marshall.edu.

Service animals are welcome (unless prohibited by the host location). If prohibited, information will be made available in advance.

If you require an aide to attend with you for accessibility, please contact the office for more information.

If you need assistance accessing the registration desk and/or completing your registration on-site please let the ASA office know ahead of time, and we will be happy to assist you.

➤ **We make every effort to provide:**

- Disability parking close to the event (paid or unpaid)
- Gender inclusive restroom(s)
- Lactation room(s)
- A quiet room for religious observances, respite from stimulation, medical equipment charging, and additional/related or other needs
- Refrigerator storage for infant feeding and medical needs
- Pronoun stickers or other identifying methods for nametags
- Program notations for loud music, crowds, and high traffic
- Program notations for sober-friendly events (mocktails and other non-alcoholic choices), and sober events (no alcohol)

➤ **Presenters:**

If you have an accessibility request for your session please inform the Program Chair, and ASA office when you submit your proposal. Please list your request in the Notes section, and email or call the ASA office.

We will do our best to accommodate schedule requests based on religious practice, ADA or other accessibility requests; these requests need to be submitted at the time of the proposal submission.

➤ **Neurodivergent or other sensory requests:**

If you have any neurodivergent or sensory requests or sensory needs, please contact the ASA office.

For all accommodations, please contact the ASA office by email at: asa@marshall.edu or by phone at (304) 696-2904 and we will be happy to do our best to accommodate the request.

CALL FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AWARDS NOMINATIONS

STEPHEN L. FISHER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The **Stephen L. Fisher 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 K-12 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, 2025**. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by **December 1, 2025**, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due **January 31, 2026**.

Preliminary nomination forms, available on the ASA website, must be submitted as an attachment to an e-mail to Ted Olson, chair of the ASA Education Committee, olson@etsu.edu, by **November 1, 2025**. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee.

TRAVIS STIMELING EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING APPALACHIAN STUDIES

Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies honors individuals within the first ten years of their careers who are dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. Thanks to sponsorship by **East Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Appalachian Studies and Service**, the winner will receive **\$250**. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee.

If you know of excellent college/university teachers of Appalachian studies with 10 or fewer years of

teaching experience, please nominate them. Preliminary nominations should include the following information: Name of Nominee, Institution, Number of Years Teaching, Classes Taught (Please provide full course name), Name of Nominator (or self-nominator), Position, Email and Phone Number.

Attach a brief statement, no longer than one page, explaining why you believe this person is a strong candidate for the **Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies**.

Candidates may be nominated or self-nominated. Preliminary nominations must be submitted by **November 1, 2025**, to olson@etsu.edu. By **December 1, 2025**, the Education Committee will invite finalists' nominators to submit a full nomination packet, which will be due by **January 31, 2026**. Full nomination packets must be submitted in a single PDF file as an email attachment sent to that same email address. Questions about this award should be directed to Ted Olson at olson@etsu.edu.

TAMMY “TAMBONE” CLEMONS VISION AWARD

In honor of her life and legacy, the annual **Tammy “Tambone” Clemons Vision Award** recognizes young and emerging artists and activists in Appalachia who embody Tammy’s passion for storytelling, oral history, and creative expression, whether through oral history projects, creative media, filmmaking, writing, or other storytelling efforts that honor the culture, history, and voices of our beloved and vibrant region. This award not only acknowledges outstanding achievement but also serves as a reminder of Tammy’s enduring legacy and her deep belief in the power of stories to shape and strengthen communities.

The **\$250** award seeks to recognize individuals or collaborative groups with a connection to Appalachia who demonstrate outstanding dedication to storytelling and creative activism that uplifts the region’s culture, history, and voices.

Nominees will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Commitment to Storytelling, Creative Excellence, Community Impact and Inclusion, Dedication to Documenting Appalachia’s Diverse Histories, and Emerging Leadership.

Nominees should be young or emerging artists or creative activists (“young” is broadly defined in terms of age and experience). Nominees must have a clear connection to Appalachia, either through residency, cultural heritage, or work focused on the region. Individuals or collaborative groups are eligible to apply. Nominees can self-nominate or be nominated by others.

Nomination Requirements:

- A brief description of the nominee’s work and its alignment with the award’s criteria up to but not exceeding five single-spaced, 12-point type pages.
- Examples of the nominee’s storytelling or creative projects (e.g., videos, writings, recordings, or other relevant materials).
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the nominee’s work and its impact.

Applications for the award will be accepted between **December 1, 2025**, and **January 31, 2026**. Selection of the award winner will be made by an awards subcommittee of the ASA Special Collections Committee.

Please send nomination materials to: Jed DeBruin, ASA Special Collections Committee Chair, jdebruin@jsu.edu, with the subject line “Clemons Award Nomination.”

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 by **January 15, 2026**. 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 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. Nominations include a two-step process:

Nominations, due to the chair of the selection committee by **January 15, 2026**, should include the following:

- A letter of nomination including a brief statement highlighting the individual's specific contributions
- The individual's c.v./resume or a list of projects, awards, and accomplishments relative to serving the region, Appalachian studies, or the ASA
- Three letters of support from individuals and/or organizations that can attest to the person's contributions to the region, Appalachian studies, or the ASA.

Following a review of the nominations, the selection committee will determine if they would like to request additional information about one or more finalists before selecting the award recipient.

Send nomination materials to Charles W. Calhoun at c.calhoun201@gmail.com by **January 15, 2026**.

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.

The committee encourages nominations of individuals or organizations who were previously nominated but did not receive the award.

Send nomination materials to Julie Shepherd-Powell, Appalachian Studies, Living Learning Center, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or to shepherdpowellja@appstate.edu by **January 31, 2026**.

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**. In the event that the committee selects two winners, each will be awarded **\$125**. Nominations should be made by **January 31, 2026**, through Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/JackSpadaroDocumentaryAward>.

Email questions to Tom Hansell at: hansellts@appstate.edu.

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 that provides a vital community service to Appalachians.

The winner will be awarded **\$250**. Nominations should be sent to Jordan Lovejoy by emailing asa@marshall.edu with “e-Appalachia Award” in the subject line by **January 31, 2026**.

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, the latter in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. The subject matter of nominated books must be Appalachian or set in Appalachia and originally published in **2025**.

Anyone can nominate a book published in the current year. Nominations must be made in one of the three categories: fiction, poetry, or nonfiction. No self-published books will be considered.

To nominate, email Chris Green, Director of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, greenchr@berea.edu. Nominations need only share when we can expect to receive the books. If needed, we will use this email address for future contact regarding the author and the book. Nominators need to ensure that seven copies of the book are sent to The Weatherford Awards, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, 101 Chestnut Street, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404, by **November 1, 2025**.

Deadline for nominations is **November 1st** of the current year. If the book will be published after the deadline, the nomination letter needs to specify the date the books are expected to be delivered. If the date is late enough, we may ask the books to be mailed directly to the judges.

Judging: Each award committee is comprised of one Berea College faculty or staff, one or two members of the Appalachian Studies Association, and other independent persons from various parts of the Appalachian South. To learn more about the Weatherford Awards visit <https://www.berea.edu/centers/loyal-jones-appalachian-center/awards/weatherford-award>.

WILMA DYKEMAN “Faces of Appalachia” POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2026-2027)

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 awarded annually when funding is available. 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.

Please send applications to Mary Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu by **December 31, 2025**. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee chair and may be contacted at webba@berea.edu. The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified in early **Spring 2026**. Award winners will be announced at the **March 2026** ASA conference awards ceremony.

For more information about the award and details on the application process, please visit the ASA website: <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/awards>.

APPALACHIAN FOODWAYS PRACTITIONER FELLOWSHIP

Grow Appalachia, the **Appalachian Studies Association**, and **Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions** program are thrilled to host the Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship to honor, celebrate, and support foodways tradition bearers and practitioners in the Appalachian region.

Fellows may include, but are not limited to home cooks and bakers, seed savers, farmers, community elders, keepers of recipes and traditional foodways knowledge, hunters, and foragers, who have made significant and long-term contributions to sustaining and supporting the foodways heritage of their respective communities.

Fellowship applications open **September 8, 2025**, and are due **October 13, 2025**, by 5pm EST.
<https://growappalachia.berea.edu/appalachian-foodways-fellowship-program/>

CALL FOR HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

**CONTRIBUTE ITEMS TO THE SILENT AUCTION! SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
THOSE WHO OTHERWISE COULD NOT ATTEND.**

We are currently seeking contributions for the **Howard Dorgan Silent Auction** for the 2026 **Appalachian Studies Conference**. The silent auction welcomes Appalachia focused swag and experiences including books, clothing, food, music, and craft bundles. Please start brainstorming now!

The more money we raise, the more **Appalachian studies** scholars we support! In the late 1990s, **Howard Dorgan** created the silent auction to raise funds to support student and community participation in the **Appalachian Studies Association**—particularly at the conference. All proceeds fund scholarships for people who could not otherwise attend the **Appalachian Studies Conference**. By contributing to the silent auction — and later placing a bid for items — you are building on Howard’s legacy and supporting a more diverse and more robust **Appalachian Studies Association**.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the silent auction, please contact **Jeff Dey** (jeffd134@aol.com) or **Dee Parker** (darryl.parker32@gmail.com). Please pledge your contribution by February 26th!

FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$6,000



INVITATION TO ADVERTISERS, EXHIBITORS, AND SPONSORS

WHAT: Appalachian Studies Association's 49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

CONFERENCE THEME: *Power of a Place, Power of Its People*

WHEN: March 19-21, 2026

WHERE: Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia

WHO: Approximately 800-1,000 people, including scholars from diverse fields, as well as teachers, artists, writers, and members of Appalachian-oriented organizations, agencies, and communities. Our preliminary program is distributed to over 5,000 people!

Please accept this invitation to exhibit during the **2026 Appalachian Studies Conference**, to advertise in the preliminary and/or the final conference program, to purchase social media ads, and to sponsor a break, and/or reception. Special receptions are available by arrangement if space and time permit. This year the exhibit hall will be in the *Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room*.

EXHIBIT TABLES

Exhibitors will be provided with two chairs and one six-foot table, (table size may vary depending on the location). No table covering is provided. You may bring your own table covers.

Additional tables are available for purchase at a discounted rate, and a special shared exhibit rate is offered for community organizations, artists, and small presses. With your shared space you will receive half of a table for your exhibit.

Exhibits should be contained to the vendor's purchased table(s) and should not be so tall or so arranged that other exhibits are blocked physically or visually. When completing your order, please ensure that you purchase sufficient tables for your exhibit.

The exhibit fee includes conference registration for two people per vendor. ASA membership, and

ticketed activities are not included but may be purchased separately. The exhibit hall is open to the public. Vendors are welcome to have additional people staff their tables (only two chairs are provided), but these workers must pay the registration fees if they wish to attend conference sessions or other conference events not specifically open to the public.

Additional exhibitor guidelines and information may be found on our website at:

<https://www.appalachianstudies.org/about-1>.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ads may be reserved for both the digital preliminary and the digital final program as part of a package deal or just the final digital program only. The preliminary program is distributed to over 5,000 people via email, on our website, and on social media platforms.

Ads should be 300 resolution (DPI) and may be in color. Both a JPEG and a PDF file are preferred and should be sent electronically. To be included in the preliminary program, ads must be received by **November 21, 2025**.

Optional: To accommodate screen readers, we will be providing a Word document version of the preliminary and final programs. Advertisements will not be in this version, unless you submit a text version of your ad, to be added to the Word/Screen Reader version.

SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES ADD-ON

You may add-on social media features to exhibit and/or advertisement purchases. These may be either a photo/flyer and/or a video. All social media features will be posted to ASA's Facebook and Instagram platforms. Please provide a brief paragraph to accompany each social media feature, and provide the account handles you wish to have tagged in your post(s).

You may purchase:

- photos/flyers at **\$30** each (or 4 for **\$100**)
- and/or, videos at **\$55** each (or 4 for **\$200**)

SPONSORSHIPS: BREAKS, RECEPTIONS, AND/OR OTHER EVENTS

You may sponsor a conference break for **\$550**. Special receptions may also be arranged. Contact the ASA office at asa@marshall.edu or (304) 696-2904 to discuss pricing and options.

THE PUBLISHERS' BOOK SIGNING RECEPTION

We are pleased to announce that **West Virginia University Press** will be sponsoring the Publishers' Book Signing Reception! They invite you to be their guest at this event that highlights Appalachian publishers/presses and will feature books and authors!



Publishers, presses, and authors may attend the event to sign and sell books without cost thanks to the generous sponsorship of **West Virginia University Press**. Food and drink will be provided.

Space is limited and first come, first serve. Contact Ann E. Bryant at mullins88@marshall.edu to reserve your space.

ADVERTISING BUNDLES

Ad Bundle - \$700 - Savings of \$75

- 1 Full-page ad in Preliminary and Final programs
- 1 Social Media photo and 1 video
- 1 Full-page ad in *Appalink* for one year (2 Issues)

The Works Ad Package (Best Savings) -

\$1,250 - Savings of \$300

- 2 Full-page ads in Preliminary and Final programs
 - 2 Social Media photos and 2 videos
 - 2 Full-page ads in *Appalink* for one year (2 Issues)
-

**FOR RATES TO RESERVE AN EXHIBIT TABLE, ADVERTISEMENT,
SOCIAL MEDIA ADD-ON, OR SPONSORSHIP SEE THE ENCLOSED FORM*.**

SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE EARLY!

Return the form to the address below by **November 21, 2025**.

All fees are due by **January 31, 2026**, and are payable to the Appalachian Studies Association.

Visit our website for further exhibitor guidelines and information.

***REFUND POLICIES**

Exhibitors: The purchase of exhibit space for the
Appalachian Studies Association, Inc., conference is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Advertisers: The purchase of advertisements for the
Appalachian Studies Association, Inc., conference is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Sponsors: The purchase of sponsorships for the
Appalachian Studies Association, Inc., conference is non-refundable and non-transferable.

For more information, contact Ann E. Bryant:

Appalachian Studies Association
One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755
Phone: 304-696-2904; E-mail: asa@marshall.edu



Call for Participation
49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference
Power of a Place, Power of Its People
Marshall University, Huntington, WV
March 19-21, 2026

DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATIONS

Conference Proposal Deadline: October 7, 2025

**Conference Proposal Notifications: will be sent beginning in November from
asaconferencenoreply@gmail.com**

Pre-conference Registration rate Deadline: March 5, 2026

Late/On-site Registration rate begins March 6, 2026

***Last Day to request a Refund: March 5, 2026**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN 12/01/2025

****General Conference Registration Scholarship Deadline: February 10, 2026**

****BIPOC Conference Registration Scholarship Deadline: February 10, 2026**

Scholarship Notification Deadline: February 19, 2026

**REMINDER: YOU MUST PAY REGISTRATION OR RECEIVE A REGISTRATION
SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.**

*Conference registration for the ASA conference includes membership in the Association.

The membership portion is non-refundable. Only the portion for the conference registration will be refunded if requested by the date listed on the form and online portal.

** The award of a scholarship by Appalachian Studies Association, Inc., is only to receive registration to attend the annual ASA conference (membership is included). Scholarships: may only be used for conference registration; are non-transferable; and have no cash value.

PLEASE NOTE: IN THE EVENT THE CONFERENCE CANNOT BE IN-PERSON DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WILL MAKE THE SWITCH TO VIRTUAL AND DETAILS WILL BE SHARED AT THAT TIME.

