

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[RSS](#) **Fall 2018****Volume 42, Number 1***President's Message*

This has been both a fruitful and a challenging year for our Appalachian Studies Association. Our gathering in Cincinnati helped “re-stitch the seams” by focusing our attention on urban Appalachians and commonalities across the Appalachian diaspora. The innovative conference was the first to be hosted by a community organization--the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition--without support of an academic institution. A team of conference organizers spearheaded by Joy Gritton, Debbie Zorn, and Omope Carter Daboiku treated us to a remarkable program outpouring that included interactive exhibits, photography, oral histories, a keynote by Appalachian teenagers, a series of themed mini-plenaries, and the organization’s first ever drag show fund-raiser. Thanks to the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Silent Auction, and the generosity of our members, we were also able to support a record number of scholarship applicants. Local community members, including schoolteachers and families with children, joined us for the day on Saturday. For all these reasons and more, I found the 2018 ASA

In another sign of growth, a team of archivists and librarians has been working to develop a new initiative within the organization. They have proposed that the current Archivist/Historian Steering Committee position be revised to include an Archives Committee. The group envisions a newsletter and programming to help showcase and strengthen the region’s many important Appalachian collections. Thanks go to Gene Hyde of UNC-A for leading this effort, and to the volunteer team that has worked with him on it.

Program Committee volunteers in many states have also been hard at work, planning excellent Appalachian Studies Association conferences for 2019 (Asheville, NC), 2020 (Lexington, KY), and 2021 (Athens, OH). We welcome suggestions for ASA 2022, which is slated to rotate back to a Southern Appalachian location. Teams interested in hosting that conference can contact the ASA office or Vice President Michele Morrone.

We have an exciting gathering to look forward to this spring, March 14-17, 2019, in western North Carolina. Our hosts invite us to *engage, sustain, and*

conference rich and inspiring.

Controversy over one conference panel, however, also tested our seams' strength. The panel focused on the terrible opioid epidemic currently ravaging so many communities in and beyond our region. It included J.D. Vance, the polarizing celebrity memoirist. Though the program committee followed the Association protocols in organizing the session, entitled "Are We Losing a Generation?", those protocols proved woefully inadequate. The unfortunate result was a chain of events during and after the session that caused great pain to many members and attendees. Everyone in the ASA leadership team, including the Steering Committee and the 2018 Program Committee, regrets and apologizes for this result. We have done our best to communicate those regrets and apologies to all members and conference attendees, and I reiterate them here.

The Steering Committee, acting on the conviction that a crisis is a terrible thing to waste, has taken concrete steps to address issues thrown into relief by recent events. Controversy is neither new to our organization nor unhealthy for it. In fact, our core commitments have always included discussing difficult issues and welcoming a variety of perspectives. Controversy is therefore part and parcel of what we do. But the session and its aftermath underscored a number of issues we need to address moving forward. After months of active listening to a variety of perspectives and concerns from our members, several things have become clear.

Our organization is growing and diversifying. This is welcome news, and speaks to the importance of our work in the region. But it also brings new challenges. To meet these, we have added several new initiatives to work already in progress. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been working for over a year to develop a code of

*innovate* in beautiful "AppalachA'ville," where we will hear from leading authors, have an opportunity to interact with the Cherokee Nation and with a group of international scholars, enjoy music and dance, explore archival collections, and draw inspiration from an Innovation Expo hosting local organizations and businesses in Asheville. Proposals have poured in, and ASA 2019 promises to be another rich and fruitful gathering.

It is a privilege to serve as your president this year. I feel fortunate to be part of the Appalachian Studies Association community, where I find much to admire among my colleagues throughout the membership, in the leadership team, and in the staff office. See you in March, when we gather again to strengthen and celebrate our beloved region.

Sincerely,

Kathy Newfont

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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,***

conduct that fits our organization and will help us continue to grow and diversify in positive ways. We also clearly need to build our organization's capacity. Among other things we need a more robust and up-to-date communications capacity, new protocols for handling controversial speakers, and a more sustainable financial model. Assisted by our dedicated staff in the Marshall University office, the Steering Committee has taken steps on each of these important fronts. An excellent team of volunteers, spearheaded by newly appointed co-chairs Roger May and Amanda Jo Slone, has stepped up to strengthen our Communications Committee. Meanwhile, a volunteer team within the Steering Committee is working to develop new protocols. We also welcome volunteers to work with a reinvigorated Finance Committee, now chaired by Rachel Terman, our excellent former Membership Chair, with assistance from our excellent current Treasurer, Travis Rountree. These are high-priority projects that will enable us in future to better address the membership's and the region's needs.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's recent decision to discontinue support for all conferences underscored the pressing nature of our need to develop new funding models. The ARC has been a major source of scholarship funding for our organization since 2001. The Commission's support has enabled hundreds of people to afford conference attendance, thereby making incalculable contributions to the richness and accessibility of our gatherings. We are grateful to the ARC for its generous sustained support in the past, but we can no longer rely on that funding. Here too we have volunteers hard at work to come up with new ways to keep conference attendance affordable, a keystone of our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

***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.***



We are currently encouraging submissions of new syllabi and lesson plans to be included on our website. Please send submissions to Eryn Roles at [roles1@marshall.edu](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu).



**The 42<sup>nd</sup> Appalachian Studies Association Conference**  
**Co-presented by UNC Asheville and Mars Hill University**  
**Asheville, North Carolina, March 14-17, 2019**  
**AppalachA'ville: Engage. Sustain. Innovate.**

This year's conference in Asheville invites an exploration of the Appalachian region through the development of its population centers, from rural areas and small villages to fast-growing cities. The theme raises questions: Who has a claim on Appalachia in general, but specifically on Asheville—the Cherokee who raced dug-out canoes on the French Broad River a thousand years ago, the farmers who drove pigs to market along the Buncombe Turnpike, the laborers who died building the

Swannanoa Tunnel, the Vanderbilts who changed the economy and the landscape by constructing the largest private home in the country, or Thomas Wolfe who invites us all to Look Homeward? What tensions result from efforts to maintain contemporary urban development alongside traditional rural culture? How can a growing population center provide good jobs for all residents while preserving and protecting the environment that the region values and depends on? Can a city retain its distinctive cultural identity while aggressively marketing itself as a place tourists want to visit and businesses want to set up shop?

The conference hopes to explore how communities can **engage** to be more inclusive and supportive while they **sustain** our cultural roots, our landscape, and our values. How does a city like Asheville **innovate** in ways that enhance the life of the broader region?

Bring your interests, your curiosity, your expertise and experience based on the place where you live. Together we will explore **AppalachA'ville**, the development and change in Asheville and throughout the region that has brought promise and challenges to the people and the life of Appalachia.

**We welcome you to Asheville.**

### **A FEW CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Keynote: The Importance of Place.** Readings by Ron Rash, Lee Smith, and Wiley Cash.
- **Friday Music and Dance.** Performers curated by Phil Jamison.
- **Exhibit.** An exhibit in UNCA's Ramsey Library featuring materials from WNC Special Collections & Archives.
- **Innovation Expo.** Local organizations and businesses have created ways to use local resources to contribute to the community and future of the region.
- **Community Conversations: Sustaining, Engaging, and Innovating Across Difference.** Three conversations will take place at the conference to encourage intergenerational and intersectional dialogue.

### **CONFERENCE SITE: the campus of UNC Asheville**

Asheville is in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with easy access to the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Aside from the surrounding natural beauty, Asheville is noted for its unique food scene, vibrant music, microbreweries, city architecture, and river arts district. North of the city is Madison County and the small town of Mars Hill; an hour's drive southwest is the home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. The conference offers much to explore, learn, discuss, and enjoy. Join the ASA in western North Carolina in March 2019.

Carol Boggess  
Conference Chair

Kim Reigle  
Program Chair

## **ASA REPORTS**

## **Journal of Appalachian Studies Editor's Report**

The Journal's Editorial Board welcomes a new member to our International Board of Editors: Mike Ward of Swansea University in Wales. Dr. Ward's research focuses on education, gender and social inequality. He is the author of several articles, chapters and three books about working class masculinities and education in deindustrializing Wales.

The JAS editorial board invites the submission of abstracts summarizing a proposed article, essay, or note for possible publication in a special issue of the journal on the topic of practicing Appalachian studies in our current era of polarization.

The board will consider articles, notes, or essays that address how cultural and political polarization have impacted Appalachian studies practitioners in education, the arts, literature, film-making, healthcare, research and scholarship, activism, and any other facet of Appalachian studies practice.

Examples include: conflicts in public and higher education, science, and the media; disregard for facts, equity, human rights, climate change, the environment or public health; or examples of "motivated cognition" (e.g. when individuals or groups do not accept the veracity of facts that contradict their prejudices or threaten their identities).

The board encourages the submission of work that not only explains and analyzes practice in contexts of polarization, but also provides recommendations for effective strategies to advocate for Appalachian populations and enhance the quality of life in Appalachia in such challenging circumstances.

Those interested in writing on this topic may submit abstracts of up to five hundred words to: Shaunna L. Scott, editor ([Shaunna.scott@uky.edu](mailto:Shaunna.scott@uky.edu)) by **Monday, November 5, 2018**.

The board will notify authors of its decision no later than Monday, December 10, 2018. Should the board decide to proceed with the themed issue, authors will be given at least eight months to complete the proposed article, essay, or note.

If the board receives abstracts / proposals of sufficient quality and quantity to designate a themed issue, we will proceed with that probably in 2019 or 2020. If it does not, there will be no themed issue. Of course, anyone who wants to write a piece addressing Appalachian studies practice in polarized times is welcome to submit it for a regular issue of the journal.

To further clarify, the board is not planning to publish a third issue in the fiscal year. Rather, one of our regular (spring or fall) issues could possibly be organized around this theme.

Finally (and as always), we are seeking manuscript reviewers for journal submissions. If you are interested in reviewing submissions, please email Shaunna at [Shaunna.scott@uky.edu](mailto:Shaunna.scott@uky.edu), with your name, contact information, credentials, and a summary of topical expertise.

**Y'ALL**

Hello!

Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) is a committee within the Appalachian Studies Association. We seek to facilitate connections and relationships between young people in Appalachia, provide opportunities for professional advancement and training, as well as encourage lifelong scholarship and activism in the region. We strive to foster an inclusive environment that breaks down walls between institutions and encourages engagement, leadership, and collegiality.

One of the ways we work to fulfill this mission is through our Instagram account, @yall4asa where we feature weekly "take-overs" by young leaders and learners working in or for the region. Our community has grown to 1,343 followers with over 1,400 images shared. If you are interested in being featured in a "take-over" (meaning you would share images from your day-to-day life and work!) please let us know. We are looking for people whose lives challenge the stereotypical images of the region and feature the power of youth in Appalachia.

Y'ALL has stickers for viral visual advertising purposes. To this end, we are also considering making shirts.

Another Y'ALL initiative is the Y'ALL Book Club. The first book we will be reading is *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia* by Elizabeth Catte. We are planning to have our first official book club meeting September 13, 2018, at 6:30 pm.

We will also be holding monthly hangouts to plan for ASA 2019. Check our Facebook page for information about when these will be. We will also email you with all the details!

The Y'ALL Social Media admin/director/guru, Skye McFarland oversees all Y'ALL social media initiatives and the Instagram "take-over" program. To schedule a take-over, please visit our spreadsheet at [goo.gl/Ns23ZK](http://goo.gl/Ns23ZK). Skye will contact you when it's your time to take over!

Be on the lookout for our fall newsletter coming in October!

We are planning workshops, meetings, and general happenings for ASA 2019, so if you want to be involved or have an idea and need support, we're here for that! Please contact us at [yall4asa@gmail.com](mailto:yall4asa@gmail.com). We are hoping to get another concert going, we'll definitely have another meet and eat, and we're discussing other potential workshops and sessions for a great conference in Asheville!

Hope to hear from y'all soon!

Y'ALL Co-chairs

Jacob Meadows and Korick Sisomphone

## **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

**Please join the ASA in thanking all of our scholarship supporters!** Our supporters included the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition (UACC), the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction, and numerous individuals. Their efforts made it possible for ASA to make initial awards to all scholarship applicants and to take late applications. And, we have funds left

over to be used for future scholarships thanks to UACC's stipulation that any unused funds from their support be retained for future scholarships.

We received a total of 282 scholarship applications for the 2018 conference. Two hundred and twenty-six were received by the deadline and an additional fifty-six applications came in late. We ended up with 246 awardees attending the conference for a total of \$30,100.00 in registration fees leaving us with \$1,937.01 to roll over for future scholarships.

Scholarships cover registration for those that receive the award and **attend** the conference. The award includes entrance into the conference and membership in the Association, including a one-year subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and our newsletter, *Appalink*.

Mary K. Thomas  
Executive Director

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## **CALL FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

### **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, by December 1, 2018.

### **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 19, 2018. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by December 1, 2018, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due January 31, 2019.

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, by November 19, 2018. 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 by January 15, 2019. 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. 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, 2019.

#### **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 or its people, accompanied by 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, 2019.

#### **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. One award is given annually to recognize the best film, video, radio, television, or other media presentation on Appalachia or its people.

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be made by January 31, 2019 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 made to [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@marshall.edu); Attention: Communications Committee Chair, with "e-Appalachia Award" in the subject line, by January 31, 2019.

#### **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 2018.

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 December 1, 2018. If copies will be delayed, the nomination letter must specify the expected delivery date. For further information, visit [www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford](http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford) or visit the ASA website.

#### **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 2019 – 2020 academic year and presented at the 2020 conference. Members of the Appalachian Studies Association who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited institution within the past seven years are eligible to apply. Please send applications to Mary Thomas at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu) by December 31, 2018. For more information about the award and details on the application process, please visit the ASA website: <http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/#dykeman>. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee chair and may be contacted at [althea\\_webb@bera.edu](mailto:althea_webb@bera.edu).

# APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION 2018 CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

Submitted by Brittany Means Carowick, Awards Chair

Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award - Michael Maloney

Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award - Kentucky Homeplace

Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award - No winner

e-Appalachia Award for Outstanding Website - George Brosi and Jillean McCommons for Appalachian Mountain Books <https://apmtbooks.com/>

Jack Spadaro Documentary Award - Ted Olson for *Big Bend Killing: The Appalachian Ballad Tradition*

2018-2019 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship - Lauren A. Hayes

Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies - Tina Hanlon, post-secondary winner  
Selena Hillenberg and Jessica Salfia, co-K-12 winners

Gates-Carawan Artist Award - No winner

2018 Weatherford Awards:

Non-fiction - *James Still: A Life* by Carol Boggess

Fiction - *The Last Ballad* by Wiley Cash

Poetry - *Palindrome* by Pauletta Hansel

## 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 and 2022 Conference Chair is a four year term. This person chairs the nominating committee (2019-2020) and negotiates for conference support at the region site including: Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi. During the second year as the 2020-2021 President, this person presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, serves as a spokesperson, and serves on the Steering Committee. This person

becomes the 2021-2022 Conference Chair, and remains on the Steering Committee for an additional year as Past Conference Chair (2022-2023).

2. Two At-Large Members (2019-2023) of the Steering Committee for four year terms. The Steering Committee transacts any necessary business, forms standing committees, and approves the annual budget. The Steering Committee meets twice a year for face-to-face meetings and has several additional meetings as needed by telephone.
3. One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2019-2021) 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.
4. Program Chairperson Elect/2022 Conference Program Chair is a four year term (2019-2023). This person recruits and assembles program committee members and local arrangement committee members for the 2022 conference. In the second year of office the Program Chairperson leads the conference program organizing for his/her conference and assists the President with negotiations for conference support. In the third year the Program Chairperson Elect becomes Program Chairperson of the 2021-2022 conference and in the fourth year, serves as Immediate Past Program Chairperson. It is recommended that the program chair-elect is affiliated with the host of the 2022 conference.
5. Four At-large Program Committee Members (for 2021 conference in Athens, Ohio) serve a two year term (2019-2021) and help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2021 conference program.
6. The Secretary (2019-2022) records the minutes of all meetings of ASA and the Steering Committee; posts approved minutes to the electronic archive; and maintains a copy of the ASA bylaws, articles of incorporation, and Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **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 Michele Morrone, ASA Vice President/President Elect: [morrone@ohio.edu](mailto:morrone@ohio.edu) by December 15, 2018.

## SUPPORT THE 2019 HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in the late 1990s, this annual fundraiser has supported student and community-member participation at ASA conferences.

My name is Tiffany Arnold, I am from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio and have taken on the role of Silent Auction Chair for the upcoming ASA conference. It is my hope to inspire you all to donate to this worthwhile cause. All silent auction proceeds go towards funding scholarships for students and community members to attend our conference each year. It is in our best interest to keep our membership strong so that we have continued support along with

scholarship and activism in the region. This is where you can help!

Your silent auction donation will help ensure the continued success of the conference and our association, as well as make the auction a really fun experience for all involved! Who doesn't love a silent auction? So in order to be a part of this great cause, please email me as soon as possible to let me know that I can count on you for a donation of items such as: crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, home-canned goods, spirits, event tickets, music, art, getaway opportunities, gently-used and new books, or anything else you are able to give!

I look forward to hearing from all of you soon at [arnoldt2@ohio.edu](mailto:arnoldt2@ohio.edu) and see you in Asheville!



## From the ASA Headquarters

### Greetings ASA Members!

I hope everyone is having a fabulous fall as you receive this issue of *Appalink*. Here at the ASA headquarters, on the beautiful campus of Marshall University, the ASA staff is busy with finalizing the latest issue of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, this issue of *Appalink*, and helping our amazing 2019 conference group in the preparations for AppalachA'ville, among many other things.

One of the things we do here at the office is communicate with you, our members. Below are some of the questions that are on the minds of many of our members right now, and the answers to them. We are hoping to make this article part of an ongoing series in *Appalink* to help our membership know what is current with ASA's headquarters.

#### 1. How does ASA work?

Volunteers. Volunteers. Volunteers! We could not exist if not for our volunteers. Along with our volunteers, currently ASA employs two full-time staff members at the ASA headquarters at Marshall University, and their jobs are discussed next. With the exception of the two staff members, everyone that keeps ASA going, puts on the Conference, works on the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, serves on the Steering and other Committees, are all volunteers, generously giving of their time, and paying membership to ASA to be a part of this organization.

## 2. What does the ASA staff do?

The two full-time staff members are Mary Kay Thomas, the Executive Director, and Ann E. Bryant, the Office Manager. We also currently have a graduate assistant, Dee Nguyen, who has been with ASA as a GA for several years now. Here is snapshot of what the office staff does for ASA.

Mary oversees all the operations of ASA, including recording, reviewing, and managing the finances of the organization, in coordination with the finance chair, treasurer, and other members of the ASA leadership. She also works with our accountant to ensure that the annual taxes are completed and filed by their deadlines. She also oversees and maintains the ASA membership records. Mary is the managing editor of both of ASA's publications, *JAS* and *Appalink*.

ASA applies for an annual grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to help fund scholarships for the conference. Every year Mary updates the application, co-writes the report with the conference chair to submit to ARC on how the grant was utilized, and ensures the funds are distributed correctly. If you have ever worked on a grant, you know how many hours this entails. Mary also assists the Scholarship chair and committee with reviewing applications and making award decisions. Mary assists with other grants as well.

Mary coordinates and facilitates the Faces of Appalachia endowments and fellowships including the ASA Wilma Dykeman fellowship and the MU Sarah Denman fellowship.

She also remains a fount of knowledge for all of our members and volunteers on the history of ASA, and is the source of institutional memory for ASA.

Ann assists Mary with all of the above, and is also in charge of keeping ASA in compliance with the many state laws and requirements for non-profit organizations, tax regulations, and charitable registrations that allow for any fundraising to be conducted. Each state has its own laws, regulations and requirements, many of which have annual deadlines, and the laws can change from year to year requiring continued research to keep up-to-date on the requirements. Ann also manages, reviews, and renews all the necessary insurance policies for ASA. She is also the assistant managing editor for *JAS* and *Appalink*.

Dee is the accounting and human resources expert, and is so helpful to Mary and Ann with tracking accounts payable and accounts receivable, along with membership records, and overall document management for ASA. She is our conference registration wiz, and expertly helps to manage the exhibitors and vendors, the nametags, the meal orders, and conference registration information.

Mary, Ann, and Dee also work with the Conference Committees for every upcoming conference, helping set deadlines, working on the Preliminary Call for Participation, Call for Participation, Preliminary Program, and Final Programs. At any given time, the staff is working with three conference groups to plan the upcoming ASA

conferences.

### 3. I am on the Steering Committee now, what does that mean?

Steering Committee members need to be current members of ASA, so make sure your membership is up-to-date. You will also need to participate in the fall teleconference, the spring meetings at the ASA Conference, and attend/participate in the summer retreat. Also from time to time you will need to participate in reviewing issues and voting on those issues as needed. If you are a committee chair you will need to submit a report for each of these meetings. There are several documents on the Association's website or available upon request from the ASA office, that will help you become more familiar with the workings of ASA including the bylaws, handbook, and Steering Committee orientation guide.

### 4. Why the ASA Conference rates are what they are, and how is ASA funded?

The current rates to attend the ASA annual conference are: \$150.00 for nonstudents and \$100.00 for students. Both include membership. Approximately 75 percent of ASA's operating funds are raised from the Conference. Without the funds gathered from registration and vendor/advertiser fees from the annual Conference, ASA would not have sufficient funds to operate, and could not continue to exist. ASA does recognize that funds are tight all around, and that is why we offer scholarships to cover registration costs. The ability to offer most of the scholarships came from the generosity of the ARC. Unfortunately, ARC is no longer funding conference scholarships, and is not likely to do so in the future. Thus, it is imperative for ASA to work on long-range financial plans for the future so as not to be so reliant on the conference for operating costs and to replace ARC funds as well as any other funding sources that we have relied on. Last year we were very fortunate to receive additional donations to the Scholarship fund, and we remain very grateful for this generosity that helped so many people to attend the Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Additionally, we are very grateful to our host, Marshall University, for housing and hosting ASA's headquarters. This cuts down on operating expenses for the Association, but we still remain on a very tight budget and need all the revenue from the Conference to keep ASA open and operating.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Forty-second Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 14-17, 2019, University of North Carolina - Asheville  
Asheville, North Carolina  
AppalachA'ville: Engage. Sustain. Innovate.  
Carol Boggess, Conference Chair, cboggess@mhu.edu

Kim Reigle, Program Chair, [kreigle@mhu.edu](mailto:kreigle@mhu.edu)  
Daniel Pierce, Local Arrangements Chair, [dpierce@unca.edu](mailto:dpierce@unca.edu)

## Forty-third Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

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

## Forty-fourth Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

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

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**Our mailing address is:**

One John Marshall Drive  
Huntington, WV 25755

[www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org)

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Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and/or news. Email submissions to Eryn Roles at [roles1@marshall.edu](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu). Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors include - Eryn Roles, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann Bryant.

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