

Archives Committee Report – December 2021

This Archives Committee Report is submitted by the Committee Chair in advance of the Winter Assembly held virtually on December 11, 2021.

- Area Website Archives Committee Service Pages. Archives committee chair (Jeff K) is currently working with our Webmaster (Earl N) to get the Archives Committee service pages up on the Area's website. The content is based on materials considered by our Committee over the past few months. The full content should be in place before the end of the year and will provide a foundation for the Committee to build on and improve in years ahead. The Committee greatly appreciates our Webmaster's assistance and encouragement. Thank you very much, Earl!
- Recap of Committee Chair activities. Since this is the final Committee report from your outgoing Committee chair, here's a quick summary of main activities by the chair over the past two years:
 - 2021 Illinois State Conference – Served as panelist/speaker on the archives panel titled "Archives Our History & Preserving It" at the State Conference held virtually August 28, 2021 (hosted by Area 21). Also assisted the ISC planning committee with content for the digital/virtual archives area considered for the Conference.
 - 71st GSC Agenda. Committee met virtually March 21, 2021, to discuss two (2) Archives Items on the 71st GSC Final Agenda, focusing mostly on the Item re a *proposed book on AA history*. The chair sent a written report to our Area Delegate on March 25 and reported to the full Area Pre-GSC Workshop on March 27.
 - Area Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management. Committee chair participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management chaired by the Area Secretary (Christy B) during 2021. One item initially discussed was how (or whether) to set up digital access to materials in the Area Archives collection. This item was essentially tabled for the time being.
 - 2021 DuPage County Open. Archives chair prepared material for an Archives display shown at the 2021 DuPage County Open held virtually on February 20, 2021. The theme was "Four DuPage County AA Districts – Working Together for 40 Years" and materials from Area and districts' archives showed how Districts 40, 41, 42 and 43 have cooperated in service work since their beginning in 1982 when former District 4 was subdivided.
 - 2020 Illinois State Conference. Archives chair assisted the Area 19 State Conference planning committee re archives topical areas in the Conference held virtually in August 2020. Materials from Area archives were shared to provide content for the "Virtual Archives Room" at the Conference. Archives chair also served as moderator for the Archives panel included in the Conference program.
 - 70st GSC Agenda. The committee held a virtual meeting on April 21, 2020 to discuss the two archives items on the GSC agenda; a written summary of those discussions was sent to our Area delegate and a report was given at the Pre-GSC workshop held May 2, 2020.
 - 2020 Spring Conference. From early January through mid-March 2020, Archives chair worked with the Spring Conference planning committee on set-up and operation for an archives display room at the Conference. Unfortunately, the Conference was cancelled in mid-March due to Covid-19. However, the Spring Conference Planning Committee's final

report included a detailed summary of the archives room set-up plans to help guide archives display planning at future conferences.

- Area Archives (Hard Copy) Collection. In January 2020, Committee chair met with the Area Archivist (Cheryl V) and the past Area Archivist (Ray M) to review in person the Area archives hard copy collection at the Elgin storage facility. We had high hopes for getting better acquainted with and improving the collection, but those went on hold after we entered the Covid-19 pandemic in March.
- Districts: There have been no recent requests for assistance from any of our District archives committees on specific projects or workshops. The Committee hopes the new Archives service pages on the Area website will help our Districts' archives committees, especially those just getting started. Here is a summary of District-level archives activities the Area Committee has reported over the past 2 years:
 - Districts 28 & 90 working to set up their collections;
 - Districts 40 dealing with inventory, classification, and retention policies;
 - District 64 working to convert cassette audiotapes to digital audio;
 - District 43 has done a comprehensive document scanning project;
 - District 73 working on group histories and presentations;
 - Several Districts received materials from Area to assist with archives-related workshops and projects such as digitizing audio files from older formats;
 - District-level workshops reported previously include an archives workshop/panel on 12/8/20 by D.43 archives; panel discussion on how the pandemic impacts AA service work (9/8/20, D.43) and "long-timers" panel (7/25/20, D.42 archives).
- As always, the Area Archives Committee remains committed to carry out its service responsibilities by assisting and supporting the Area Archivist as needed; by facilitating Area-wide archives committee meetings & communications; by hosting Area-wide archives-related panels and/or workshops; by helping District archives committees with local archives related panels and/or workshops; and by continuing to be a go-to resource for District archives committees.

IN CLOSING:

Archives reminds everyone to consider AA Archives before you toss out any of that old AA stuff! Old flyers for long-ago AA-related events or workshops; AA meeting directories from days of yore – these and similar items may be useful for Archives. So please get in touch with your local District or Area archives committee before deciding what goes to the trash or recycle bin.

Gratefully submitted,

Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA20

December 10, 2021