



APPALACHIANSTUDIES.ORG

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*Appalachian Studies Association
Newsletter*



FALL 2024

VOLUME 48,
NUMBER 1



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*APPALACHIAN
JOURNAL*

President's Message

Howdy ASA Members,

Hope you all are doing well. ASA has been thriving in several ways and I'd love to let you know how. It was wonderful to see so many faces at the conference in March. We had 984 folx registered for the conference at my home university, Western Carolina University, and hometown of Sylva, NC. I'd like to again personally thank those involved in the planning, particularly Rachel Adams, Conference Chair; Liz Harper, Program Chair; and Amber Albert, WCU Local Arrangements Chair. I'm also grateful to Natalie Newman and Sara Snyder Hopkins, the Sylva and Cherokee Local Arrangements Chairs. I was so happy to have Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle as our keynote speaker, as well as David Joy, Wilburn Hayden Jr., Marie Cochran, and Meredith McCarroll for our plenary. Like much of Appalachia, western Carolina is complicated, but we're so happy to call these mountains home. I'd also like to thank Western Carolina University for hosting our conference and the Town of Sylva for being so welcoming. I do love our little mountain town and I hope those of y'all who attended did too.

The Steering Committee passed the corporate sponsorship vote for the conference and the organization. If you have certain corporations who you think would be interested in sponsoring us, please do let us know as we'd like to have them involved and their financial support. We are mindful of the corporate complications in the region, so we will be vetting these very closely.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome and say thank you to the team at Tennessee Tech for next year's conference taking place on March 20-22, 2025 in Cookeville, TN. With the theme of *Rural Reimagined: A Grand Challenge for Appalachia*, we expect wonderful things from this conference. Thank you in advance to the conference team: Erin Hoover, Program Chair; Monic Ductan, Conference Chair; and Colleen L. Mestayer, Campus Arrangements Chair. I hope to see y'all in Tennessee in March!

Sincerely,
Travis A. Rountree
President, Appalachian Studies Association



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.



48th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

Rural Reimagined: A Grand Challenge for Appalachia



Tennessee Tech University is proud to host the 2025 ASA conference, and our conference theme is "Rural Reimagined." The program committee invites proposals for panels, papers, posters, roundtables, performances, and workshops that address diverse aspects of the Appalachian experience. Papers and posters must feature original unpublished work in progress. We especially seek contributions from historically marginalized individuals and groups, such as LGBTQ and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Scholarships are available. Please note, applicants may be listed as participants in a maximum of three accepted events.

Tennessee Tech University is a STEM-infused institution that delivers enduring education, impactful research, and collaboration service. This will be the university's first time hosting the Appalachian Studies Association.

Highlights of the 2025 Appalachian Studies Annual Conference include the keynote address from John Gaventa; a discussion about teaching Appalachian poetry featuring Zanice Bond and Kristine Yohe alongside Frank X Walker; a conversation between popular literary authors Neema Avashia and Ann Pancake; a guided hiking tour of Burgess Falls, focusing on the geology and civic significance of its 130-foot cascade waterfall; a group site visit to the historical DeRossett Railroad Section House and the nearby company coal mining towns of Bon Air and Ravenscroft; laboratory demonstrations from Tech's Water Center and iMakerSpace; a gallery visit and artist-led craft activity at the Appalachian Center for Craft; and a special community event featuring oral and archival histories from concerts held at Tennessee Tech's Memorial Gym, a former tour stop between Nashville and Knoxville for many country and rock musicians.

In addition to reading events accepted through the regular proposal system, we have planned two additional program opportunities to highlight Appalachian literary production.

Our Program Committee invites poets and prose writers in our community to perform their work on stage in a special Author's Showcase. Writers must be registered to attend the conference and able to be onsite on Thursday evening to participate. Literary journals based in Appalachia (whether staff is in attendance or not) are invited to submit display copies of their magazine or journal for attendees to browse in an Editors' Showcase running for the duration of the conference. Please indicate whether you wish to participate on or before March 13, 2025, by entering your information on Google forms:

- [Author's Showcase \(individual authors\)](#)
- [Editors' Showcase \(editors/literary publications\)](#)

If you have a question regarding the conference, contact any of the following:

Monic Ductan, Conference Chair (mductan@tntech.edu)

Erin Hoover, Program Chair (ehoover@tntech.edu)

Colleen Mestayer, Local Arrangements Chair (cmestayer@tntech.edu)



NEWS



LETTER FROM ASA PRESIDENT



As ASA President, I wanted to make a statement about these mountains where I live and where our conference was held this past spring. It's taken me a while because I'm still in shock from seeing the devastation. I also am feeling survivor's guilt as Sylva wasn't hit as hard as other places like Boone, Asheville, Mars Hill, Chimney Rock, or Spruce Pine. We had some flooding, but nothing near that bad, as we were in the eye of the storm. We were fortunate, but I still feel for those who continue to suffer loss from the storm.

This morning when I woke up, I heard a moaning that sounded like it was coming from the hills around my house. I knew it was a truck going by hitting its breaks on the highway, but I also knew that it was the weeping of our communities. I've read stories about a seven-year-old child found dead, an elderly couple found hugging each other after a tree had fallen on top of them, and so, so many others yet still to come. There is also the tremendous loss of communities, the entire town around Chimney Rock swept away. Water running through the streets of Boone and Mars Hill. The entire Rivers Arts District in Asheville submerged in the French Broad. The loss of community leaves us all in despair.

While I know it's true that the devastation is unspeakable, I know it's also true that communities are coming together to help each other. The other day I helped unload planes that contained supplies and food to take to community centers and shelters across WNC. We would unload the planes into vehicles that would then take them to the places of need. I went on a run to a community center where this woman told me that she was so happy to receive the supplies that she "could just hug my neck." They had over 100 people show up yesterday to help at the airport. There are students that are doing runs to Asheville today. Massive Chinook helicopters continue to show up with FEMA boxes, and those are much appreciated dispelling much of the misinformation spread after the disaster. The most help, however, comes from those who are from this area. The boxes of pampers for children from Walmart, the brooms from Sav-Mor, the paper products from Food Lion, everyone here is doing their part to help our community. From extractive industry disasters to natural ones, our communities continue to show up for one another. We are indeed #appalachianstrong.

LETTER FROM ASA PRESIDENT

Now that we're a few days in, we already see the media coverage of the event waning. Now is the hard part of continuing help and aid to those who need it. These areas will not be fixed this week, month, or possibly in the next year. We're in it for the long haul. Below are resources that can guide you for gifts of money and/or supplies. Please contribute what you can. If you're here, volunteer; if you're away and are financially able, please donate to one of these organizations. This ain't our first rodeo nor our last. Let's keep leaning on each other and sending love and help from one holler to the next. Sending lots of love and healing from up here on Possum Ridge to all y'all.

<https://www.appalachianstudies.org/huri>

Most Sincerely,
Travis A. Rountree

THE APPALACHIAN JOURNAL **WELCOMES JESSICA CORY AS** **EDITOR**

Over here at *Appalachian Journal*, we've been busy!

We're currently preparing vol. 52, no 1-2 to be released later this year. And starting in 2025, we'll be back to four single issues a year! Spring 2025 will be the release of our first-ever color issue, focused on Appalachian Visual Art. Please see the call in the CFP section if you're interested in submitting.

We'll also be at several upcoming conferences and events: the International Mountain Studies Conference Oct. 10-11 in Boone, NC; the North Carolina Writers' Network conference in Asheville, NC; and, of course, ASA next March.

Please continue sending us your poetry, scholarship, and book/media review ideas! And if you haven't, you can follow us on Instagram ([@appalachian_journal](#)) and Facebook ([Appalachian Journal](#)).

Jessica Cory, Editor



CFP: SPECIAL ISSUE ON APPALACHIAN VISUAL ART

APPALACHIAN JOURNAL (SPRING 2025)

Appalachia is home to many talented and brilliant visual artists whose work often depicts and engages with the region but is not limited by its boundaries, thematic, geographic, or otherwise. This special issue of *Appalachian Journal* seeks to highlight the importance of visual art in/to Appalachia and Appalachian studies. Content will include book reviews of visual art books (such as *Appalachian Ghost* by Raymond Thompson Jr. or *Deep Ruts* by Julie Rae Powers), interviews with artists, series features, transcribed roundtables or event panels, scholarly articles that analyze an artist's (or artists) work, and ekphrastic poetry.

This special issue will coincide with the annual Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition and the Center for Appalachian Studies and *Appalachian Journal* will be collaborating with the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts to host a panel of interested contributors.

We are especially interested in content that:

- Pushes back against common Appalachian stereotypes
- Works to unsettle the region or thinks decolonially
- Challenges typical depictions of landscape
- Engages with stories and other forms of expression through visual art
- Reclaims space and resists boundaries
- Considers the politics of joy and pleasure as revolutionary acts
- Highlights specific cultural markers, including language, spirituality, and relationships to place

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2025 (Scholarly article drafts due Nov. 1, 2024 to allow time for peer review)

How to Submit:

All materials should be emailed directly to coryjs@appstate.edu, though what you send depends on the genre.

CFP: SPECIAL ISSUE ON APPALACHIAN VISUAL ART *APPALACHIAN JOURNAL* (SPRING 2025)

Poetry: Send up to five poems in one document.

Series feature: 5-10 images in a single series plus artist statement and bio.

Scholarly article (4-8k words): Send abstract. Please note that due to the peer review process, the due date for scholarly article drafts is earlier than the general deadline.

Book reviews, interviews, or roundtables: Send a brief email including the name of the book, person to be interviewed, or event to be transcribed along with a few sentences of justification for inclusion in *Appalachian Journal*.

Technical Information:

Artwork included in this special issue will be printed in full color. Images should be 300 DPI with 3000 pixels on the long side.

For scholarly articles and poetry, please see our [Writer's Guidelines](#).



Appalachian Studies Association Announces New Organizational Membership Level

What Is Organizational Membership?

Organizational Membership is intended for college and university programs and departments, research institutions, and organizations that have a particular focus on Appalachian studies, Appalachian culture, or the Appalachian region. The 2024 membership year runs from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Some benefits occur in 2025.

Why Organizational Membership?

This Program offers a way for organizations to benefit from, as well as to support, the variety of programming and services offered by the ASA. Benefits include:

- 2025 Conference Registration/Membership for one director or their designee
- Two directed social media posts during 2024 - 2025 to be posted on all ASA Social Media accounts
- Sponsored Session at the 2025 Annual Meeting (conference)
- Listing of Organizational Members in the Final Conference Program and on the ASA website
- Two 2025 Student Conference Registrations/Memberships
- 15% discount on the first ad; full-page package ads only (2025 Conference)
- 25% discount on first full exhibit table at 2025 Conference
- And more! See the website for more details on the above and the rest of the benefits!

Cost of Organizational Membership: \$1,250 annually

Learn more on our website.



Anthology of Appalachian Writers

Call for Submissions!

The *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* is a publication that encourages a long-established tradition of storytelling, love of language, and creative expression associated broadly with the region of Appalachia. Though the principal mission of the anthology is to provide a venue for publication of Appalachian writers, it also provides a collection of literature and scholarship that contributes to an understanding and appreciation for the region. For consideration and inclusion in Volume XVII, **original unpublished fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and essay submissions should relate in some respect to the work or ideas of WV Poet Laureate Marc Harshman, writing which concerns the environment, class, social justice issues, as well as the everyday lives of the people and values of West Virginia and Appalachia.** For an understanding of Harshman's work, see the current AHWIR Marc Harshman website resources link at [Marc Harshman - Home | 2024 Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence \(shepherd.edu\)](#); click on the essay about Harshman's work, "Poetry All Around Us." The anthology is supported by the [Shepherd University Foundation](#) and **The West Virginia Center for the Book.** *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers* is part of the **Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities program series.**

Submission Deadlines: Literary submissions due by December 1, 2024; photography submissions due before 12/15/24.

Editorial Board of Anthology of Appalachian Writers: Senior Managing Editor, Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Appalachian Heritage Writers Project Director and Director of Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities; Senior Editors David O. Hoffman, Ellen Wade, Eizabeth Alfred, and 2024 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and WV Common Read Author Marc Harshman.

Submissions: To submit any original, unpublished work of fiction, poetry or nonfiction to the Harshman volume, send an electronic copy, along with the information below, to Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt, sshurbut@shepherd.edu. All submissions must follow the submission format noted below:

- Name
- Title of Submission
- Address
- E-mail
- Phone
- Brief Biography (limit 100 words)

Format for Submissions: No page numbers, double spacing, Word documents only, no identifying information on actual submission, 5000-word maximum literary limit.

Photo Submission Details: You may submit up to 20 entries and submission is FREE! Photography submissions should be sized/cropped to 9.25" x 13.25" and saved as a JPEG with a resolution of 300dpi. **Name files as your last name and title of image** (example: smith_untitled.jpg).

JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES



The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* seeks potential book reviewers for our interdisciplinary journal. We publish book reviews from the many fields that contribute to Appalachian studies, including literature, history, sociology, geography, communication, psychology, education, public health, environmental studies, and more. Reviewers should be critical, strong writers and up to date on relevant literature. Emergent scholars interested in publication and participating in academic dialogue are especially encouraged. Scholars from any field related to Appalachian studies are invited to enter their information in [this Google Sheet](#) to be considered for inclusion on our book review team.

Committee Reports



Communications

Communications Committee Members: Krystal Carter, Yndiana Montes-Fogelquist, and Jordan Lovejoy, chair.

The Communications Committee continues to work to expand ASA's reach on social media and grow our online networks as they help us share the work of our larger Appalachian studies community.

The Communications Committee chooses the e-Appalachia award winner, which 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 2023 winner of the e-Appalachia award was **Read Appalachia**, represented by Kendra Winchester. *Read Appalachia* spans multiple media sources in order to provide community insight and service, including a website, a TikTok account, an Instagram account, and a podcast. Beginning in late fall, the Communications Committee will seek nominations for the 2024 e-Appalachia award.

The Communications Committee is actively seeking new members who may be interested in serving on the Communications Committee and becoming more involved with the Appalachian Studies Association. Any interested members can email Jordan Lovejoy, Communications Committee Chair and *Appalink* Editor, at jlovejoy@unc.edu.



Committee Report

Silent Auction

Call for Howard Dorgan Silent Auction Contributions and Volunteers

*Contribute items to the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction!
Support scholarships for those who otherwise could not attend!*

We are currently seeking contributions for the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction for the 2025 Appalachian Studies Conference. The silent auction welcomes Appalachia focused swag and experiences including books, clothing, food, music, and craft bundles. Please start brainstorming now!

To help us promote the 2025 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction, please send photos and descriptions of your items using this [FORM](#).

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



Special Collections

Special Collections Committee Members: Emil Asanov, Tim Binkley, Marc Brodsky, Jeff Dey, Katherine Everhart, Julie Fox-Horton, Liz Harper, Gene Hyde, Sarah Insalaco, Jacob Johnson, Kimberly Larmee, Stewart Plein, Scott Sikes, Jeremy Smith, Kopana Terry, Jinny Turman, and Jed DeBruin, chair.

The Special Collections Committee (SCC) met for our Spring Meeting on Friday, March 8, 2024 in person and via Zoom at the Annual Conference at Western Carolina University. The major meeting items included:

- A presentation on the completed reprocessing of the ASA records (more below under “Project 1”),
- An update on the ASA records management schedule (more below under “Project 1”).
- Organized sessions and presentations at the Annual Conference by SCC members including Emil Asanov, Savannah Bennett, Jed DeBruin, Katherine Everhart, Liz Harper, and Jacob Johnson,
- Special shoutout and appreciation to Liz Harper and the rest of the Western Carolina University organizing committee who organized and hosted the conference in Cullowhee – well done!

The SCC is also pleased to announce that we are growing, and since the SP24 progress report, the following members have joined: Greta Browning (Appalachian State University) and Savannah Bennett (East Tennessee State University). Many thanks to Ann Bryant for sharing the call for new membership on social media and to the current SCC members for their tireless recruitment efforts!

The SCC’s Fall Meeting has not been scheduled yet, but the meeting will take place via Zoom. Please email Jed DeBruin (jdebruin@jsu.edu) if you are interested in attending this meeting and are not already a member of the SCC.

The SCC continues to work on several projects, and here are the updates on these projects:

Project 1: ASA Collections Management

- The reprocessing portion of the project has been completed by Lori Myers-Steele and Wes David (both of Berea College), and the collection is ready for researchers. The finding guide can be found at [this link](#).
- Gene Hyde and Jinny Turman are working on updating the ASA records management schedule and will work with Ann Bryant on preparing a document to ensure consistency year-to-year.

Special Collections (con't)

Project 2: The *Appalachian Curator*

- The most recent issue – Volume 4, Issue 3 Winter 2024 – was published in January 2024. Please see <https://libjournals.unca.edu/appalachiancurator/> to read this issue.
- Please send any requests for help with projects, updates on collections, or introductory information about new members to Gene Hyde (genehyde@gmail.com) for inclusion in the Curator. Especially with the project requests, provide as much information as you can including contact information, project specifics, project needs, and any other relevant information.
- Submissions are needed and welcome! Please direct any questions and ideas for new articles to co-editors Hyde (genehyde@gmail.com) and Liz Harper (harpere@email.wcu.edu).

3. Grouping together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region

- The *Archives of Appalachia* at East Tennessee State University are working to group together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region. If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact Jeremy Smith, who is the Director of the *Archives of Appalachia* (smithja14@etsu.edu).

4. SCC Visibility and Outreach

- Jed DeBruin is working with Ann Bryant on creating a list of names and contact information for archivists working at institutions in Appalachia and/ or working with Appalachian collections. Please send Jed (jdebruin@jsu.edu) your name, title, institution, and contact information if you would like to be included. The plan is to make this document available on the ASA home page.
- Ann Bryant reported that she got good responses from the posting about updating the resources about archives and library listings. The page has been expanded and tested, and Ann and Jed are following up with some institutions on updating the contact information and website links. The listings can be found at [this link](#). There will also be some further updates for readability and accessibility in the near future.

5. Recruitment

- As a number of our longtime members are retiring in the coming years (all who have agreed to continue on with the SCC), the SCC is looking towards recruiting new members, especially students, early career researchers, and institutionally unaffiliated members. Please direct any interested parties to Jed DeBruin (jdebruin@jsu.edu).

Respectfully submitted by:
Jed DeBruin

Education

Education Committee Members: Kathryn Engle, Zachary Greene, Joy Gritton, Carly Pugh, Sylvia Shurbutt, Tim Thomas, Leah Vance-Berg, and Ted Olson, chair.

The Education Committee is working on the following four projects:

1. Given the limited institutional funding support for K-12 teachers to attend the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, the Committee has helped to arrange a reduced one-day ASA conference rate for K-12 teachers.
2. The Committee is currently encouraging nominations for the Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching competition (held in two categories: K-12 and Postsecondary). The Fisher Award honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. The committee emphasizes that these awards are open to outstanding educators of any age who meet the criteria. Preliminary nominations are due by November 15, 2024.
3. The Committee is planning to organize and sponsor education-themed panels and workshops for the 2025 ASA Conference.
4. As the ASA revises and upgrades the website, the Education Committee intends to be involved in updating, enhancing, and promoting the teaching resources available on the website.

The Education Committee would welcome and appreciate input from ASA members regarding the above projects.

Ted Olson
ASA Education Committee Chair



Scholarship

Summary

A general registration scholarship covers registration for the conference and includes membership. In 2024, we pre-awarded* 30 out of the 58 eligible applicants—22 students, and 8 non-students (including 11 Berea Students). We had \$4,008.63 to award, see Chart 1. Those applicants who were declined a scholarship, received notification in time to pre-register for the conference at the lower, pre-conference rate.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference. Of the pre-awardees, 29 of 30, utilized the award and attended the conference including:

- 18 students, (100% of student awardees)
- 11 non-students, (87.5% of non-student awardees)
- One of the thirty recipients did not attend (1 non-student) and therefore did not utilize the award.

The final amount awarded in registration scholarships, for the 29 recipients who attended, was \$3,995.00 leaving \$13.63 carry-over to the 2025 conference.

All 2024 awardees who utilized the award by attending the conference received membership in the association with a 2024 electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and the ASA newsletter, *Appalink*. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

*To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference

2024 General Scholarship Funders – Chart 1

Silent Auction Funds	\$1,062.56
Berea Earmark	\$1,265.00
2023 Carryover	\$354.65
Scholarship Royalties ¹	\$326.42
OU Donation	\$1,000.00
Total available for 2024:	\$4,008.63

Scholarship (con't)

2024 ASA BIPOC REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Summary

The BIPOC Membership Scholarship was extended to include conference registration beginning with the 2022 conference*.

All scholarship award recipients who attended the 2024 ASA conference will receive an ASA annual membership, a one-year electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, and the ASA newsletter, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

We had a total of \$5,710.00 in funds available for BIPOC conference registration scholarships that include access to the conference and membership in the ASA.

In 2024, we had twenty applicants, five students and fifteen non-students. We pre-awarded** all twenty BIPOC conference registration scholarship applicants.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees **must attend the conference**. Of the pre-awardees, **four students and eleven non-students utilized the award by attending the conference** for a total of \$2,385 out of the \$5,710.00 available for the 2024 conference. That leaves \$3,325.00 to carryover for the 2025 conference.

Additional funds collected from the non-student membership fee will be added to the roll-over once the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year is closed in late October***.

*On August 30, 2021, the steering committee voted, beginning with the 2022 conference, to extend the BIPOC membership scholarship to include conference registration.

**To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference.

***Beginning in August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, \$5 of every non-student membership was earmarked for the BIPOC Membership Scholarship fund, which changed on August 30, 2021, to include conference registration.

Membership

This year, I would like to encourage every member to recruit two (2) members of their faculty/campus community to join ASA and in doing so, seek out people that would be active, engaged members with the organization. This is a great opportunity for senior faculty at member institutions to recruit new faculty members who are looking to establish their service records and scholarship opportunities. We have such a kind, welcoming, and knowledgeable group of members, and I think our culture translates well to newer faculty who are looking for an organization to join that provides so many service and scholarship opportunities.

In addition to a more personalized and individualized membership recruitment effort, the ASA is also pleased to announce a new organizational membership category. This membership category is intended for college and university programs and departments, research institutions, and organizations that have a particular focus on Appalachian studies, Appalachian culture, or the Appalachian region.

The 2024 organizational membership year runs from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Some benefits occur in 2025. The cost for an organizational membership is \$1,250 annually for full membership.

Why consider an organizational membership? The organizational membership program offers a way for organizations, departments, and programs to benefit from, as well as to support, the variety of programming and services offered by the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA).

There are a variety of benefits to an organizational membership including:

- 2025 Conference Registration/Membership for one Director or their Designee which includes membership voting rights to elect Steering Committee officers and to vote at the 2025
- Annual Business Meeting. Information regarding both appears in Appalink. Institutions shall have one vote; to be cast by their designee.
- Marketing on behalf of the program, including highlighting of events, degrees, or alumni includes One promotional advertisement on the website for one month during the 2024 membership year.
- Two directed social media posts during 2024 -2025 to be posted on all ASA Social Media accounts

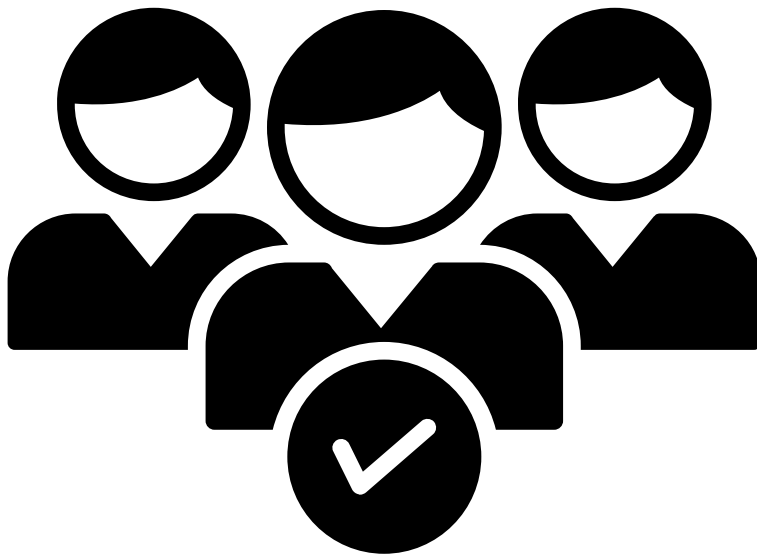
See our website for more information about organizational membership. [Membership | ASA \(appalachianstudies.org\)](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/membership)

Membership (con't)

As members, we all play an important role in the sustainability of the organization and we can do our part by helping recruit more active members to the organization as well as reach out in a larger and more meaningful way to our institutions and those organizations with ties to Appalachia.

I look forward to helping our organization grow and thrive in the coming year!

Eliot Parker
Membership Chair



Treasurer/Finance

An Update from The Treasurer of the Appalachian Studies Association Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW

I became Treasurer of the Association in March of 2020 – right after the Association was forced to cancel our annual gathering due to the threat posed by COVID-19. In those first few weeks, I won't lie, it was touch and go. We had no idea if the Association would be able to recover from the loss of the meeting. You see, beyond being a great time for us to get together and share, the conference also serves as one of the major revenue drivers of the Association. A successful conference provides us with the resources to advance the goals of the Association, to have office staff and a journal. We are thankful for our partners who make the conference a success every year – the Appalachian Studies Association would not be able to do all we do without your support!

I was, of course, thankful to the leadership of the Association for assisting in transitioning me into the role of Treasurer then. For the last several issues of this column, I have talked about the work of the Association to turn the corner on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our finances. While our rainy-day fund has not yet been replenished, we are able, as an Association, to complete budget planning without the constant fear of mid-year cuts. Additionally, thanks to moving our endowment from a non-interest-bearing account to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, we are beginning to see returns and additional investments from both individual and state funds. At our annual review of the endowment, we were thrilled to see growth in the overall value of the endowment, and the recommendation was made to continue our investment strategy.

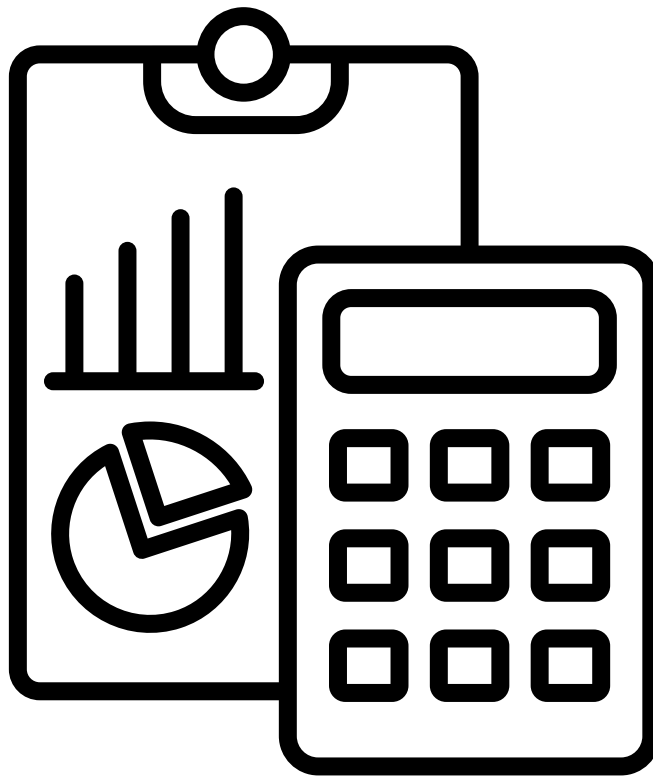
While the endowment provides a safety net for the Association, it does not provide funding that is easily accessible. Indeed, we have not yet reached the level of funding to see usable returns on the principle to spend. We are still building the principle to that level, and the investment returns will accomplish this aim.

So, where does that leave the financial situation of the Association? As I mentioned in previous columns, we can keep the status quo. However, we lack the financial resources to expand, take on new activities, and be as responsive to all activities, as many of you would like. The recent development of the Organizational Membership Category, the re-invigoration of the Development Committee, and increased efforts in fundraising are all in response to bridging the gap between surviving and thriving. Right now, the Appalachian Studies Association is surviving. But we want an

Treasurer/Finance (con't)

Association that is thriving. While we have not yet had to cut any offerings, we do have to be increasingly, as a Board, conscientious on what expenses we approve and what we may have to consider ending.

To that end, we as a Board welcome your ideas and suggestions as we continue to identify new revenue sources for the Association and advance our collective work.



FROM THE OFFICE

The fall semester is under way at Marshall University, where ASA is headquartered. We are busy with lots of new and exciting things happening and more plans on the horizon.

We have expanded the website resources just in time for the semester! Be sure and check out all the many valuable tools under “ASA in Action” for both you and your students. These include videos from the 2021 virtual conference, listings of Appalachian libraries and archives, and the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* table of contents, just to name a few!

We now have an Appalachian Jobs Posting Board on the website! Be sure and bookmark that page! And if your Appalachian group has a job to share, you can use the button on the page to share it with us. <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/appalachian-job-postings>.

We launched a new membership category for organizational membership, so be sure and share with your institution and other groups! It offers some great perks and helps support ASA. <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/membership>.

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* celebrated its 30th issue with the special issue, *Black Appalachia*, with guest editor Wilburn Hayden, Jr. Learn all about the issue here: <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/jas-30th-anniversary>.

In the office, we welcomed a new intern, Haley Elkins, from the MU school of Journalism and Mass Communication. Haley will be assisting with social media campaigns and website expansion. We also welcome back our previous intern, Raithlyn Godfrey, who will be assisting us with data entry and other duties. Many of you will remember her from the registration desk at the 2024 conference.

As ASA continues to grow our online presence, we hope that you will help us do so! Be sure and follow our social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Invite your friends and family to do so as well. Also, please like and share the posts to help spread the word about ASA, the conference, and the journal! We currently have 4,300 followers on Facebook and 2,600 on Instagram. We would love to make it to 5,000 on both platforms, and we need your help to do so!

We are also excitedly working with the fabulous team at Tennessee Tech for the upcoming conference. We had such a wonderful time in Cookeville in July touring the campus. We thank them for their hospitality and can't wait to visit again for the conference! And all that while still riding high from Western Carolina University! Again, we congratulate the team there for their stellar performance. The conference was a true success, and it was thanks to their dedication and hard work!

We look forward to being together again in March!

AWARD WINNERS

2023 Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching (Post-Secondary):

Emily Satterwhite of Virginia Tech

2023 Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching (K-12):

Leia Davis of Sullivan County (Tennessee) Schools

2023 Special Memorial Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching:

Travis Stimeling

2023 Carl A. Ross Appalachian Undergraduate Student Paper Award:

Emilyn Slemmons
“Catalyst: Memories of the Life of Helen Matthews Lewis”

2023 Carl A. Ross Appalachian Graduate Student Paper Award:

Jed DeBruin
“In Their Own Words: Black Farmers in Appalachian Kentucky in the 21st Century”

2023 Carl A. Ross Appalachian High School Student Paper Award:

Molly Mazarky
“The History of the Rabun County Cross”

AWARD WINNERS

**2023 Jack Spadaro
Documentary Award for
Best Short Film:**

Reclaiming
Clara Haizlett and Talcon
Quinn

**2023 Jack Spadaro
Documentary Award
for Best Feature-
Length Film:**

O Pioneer
Clara Lehmann and
Jonathan Lacocque

**2024 Appalachian
Foodways
Practitioner
Fellowships:**

Bea Sias, Jim Embry,
and Mehmet Öztan

**2023 e-Appalachia
Award for
Outstanding Media
Source:**

Read Appalachia

**2024 Cratis D.
Williams & James
S. Brown Service
Award:**

Dr. Art Van Zee, Sue
Ella Kobak, and
Sister Beth Davies

**2023 Helen M.
Lewis Community
Service Award:**

Russell Chisholm

AWARD WINNERS

**2024-2025 Wilma
Dykeman “Faces of
Appalachia” Post-
Doctoral Research
Fellowship:**

Jillean McCommons

**2023 Weatherford
Award (Fiction):**

Daughters of Muscadine
by Monic Ductan

**2023 Weatherford
Award (Nonfiction):**

*Appalachia on the
Table*
by
Erica Abrams Locklear

**2023 Weatherford
Award (Poetry):**

Blood Root
by Bill King

River, Amen
by Michael Garrigan

WILMA DYKEMAN FELLOW REPORT

I am honored to receive the Appalachian Studies Association’s 2023-2024 Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-Doctoral Fellowship for my research project, “The Queer Appalachian Hills and Hollers of Youth Literatures and Cultures.” As a born-and-raised Central Appalachian who has navigated many academic and advocacy spaces outside of Appalachia, I felt a homecoming and affirmation when I joined and found support for my work in this association.



My current project, which analyzes the representation of LGBTQIA+ identities and issues in Appalachian youth literature, finds its genesis in my dissertation research on queer geographies and spaces in young adult road trip novels. In the road trip novels I studied, I noticed a stigma toward rural spaces that queer characters traversed while traveling on the road. While rural spaces admittedly can be sites of violence towards queer and trans people, the depiction in these novels of cities as violence-free havens with unconditional acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people creates a false dichotomy. Having lived as a queer person in West Virginia and other rural areas, I knew that these stories perpetuated an ongoing erasure of queer and trans people—adults and youth alike—in rural spaces within the United States. As I honed my research focus on the intersections of rural Appalachia and queerness, I also observed this same stigma about Appalachian cities.

The Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-Doctoral Fellowship offered me the resources to center queer Appalachian youth literatures in my research and specifically focus on these authors and stories who remain largely absent from popular and critical discourses. My initial findings have identified at least thirty-three middle grade and young adult titles that feature canonically queer main characters in rural Appalachia, though this number grossly underreports these portrayals because of the definitional challenges of the region, particularly when including fictional locations.

Russo, and Phil Stamper, who have become essential authors in understanding the development and future of queer Appalachian youth literature that gives voice and representation to young, queer Appalachians who continue to be erased and marginalized in popular narratives of the region. These authors make fundamental advancements in the field, yet their representations often expose the complicated intersections of queerness and Appalachia. For example, I presented a portion of my research on Ash Van



Otterloo's *Cattywampus* at the forty-seventh annual Appalachian Studies Association conference as part of the panel titled, "Gender and Queerness in Appalachia." This paper, "Cattywampus and Queer: Representing Intersex Identity and Queer Magic in Appalachian Youth Literature," examines and celebrates Van Otterloo's sensitive and honest depiction of an intersex main character, yet their novel resorts to negative stereotypes of Appalachians that remain uninterrogated in the novel, such as relying on eye dialect to stigmatize Appalachian English and portray Appalachians as uneducated and illiterate. As of this writing, Van Otterloo's *Cattywampus* is the only middle grade novel with an intersex protagonist. This limited representation creates a need for new work offering a more multifaceted treatment of Appalachia that explores the nuanced relationship between young, intersex people and Appalachia. Other authors, such as Julia Watts and Phil Stamper, often include the dominant narrative of Appalachia only to challenge it alongside the queer representations they offer, and their works create templates for developing this body of literature in ways that mirror the experiences, concerns, and realities of young, queer Appalachians.

The initial findings and analyses of my project suggest that much inquiry remains in this area for creative activity and critical research. Scholarly investigations of Appalachian youth literature remain scant, and studies of queer Appalachian youth literature are nearly nonexistent. Recent considerations of rural studies in the fields of education and library science will hopefully make this statement obsolete in the coming years. Given this dearth of work and the research that indicates West Virginia has the highest percentage of trans and gender-diverse teenagers in the country (Kann 2018; Kidd et al. 2022), we need more research on the stories told to and the stories told about young, queer Appalachians.

Jason Vanfosson

References

Kann, L. 2018. Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2017. *MMWR. Surveillance Summaries*, 67. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6708a1>.

Kidd, K. M., G. M. Sequeira, M.J. Mann, M. L. Smith, B.R. Benton and A.L. Kristjansson. 2022. The prevalence of gender-diverse youth in a rural Appalachian region. *JAMA Pediatrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.2768>.

CALL FOR AWARD 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 15, 2024**. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by **December 1, 2024**, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due **January 31, 2025**.

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 15, 2024**. 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, 2025**. 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.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

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, 2025**, 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, 2025**.

HELEN M. LEWIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

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

Send nomination materials to Dr. Julie-Shepherd-Powell, Appalachian Studies, Living Learning Center, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or to shepherdpowellja@appstate.edu by **January 31, 2025**.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

JACK SPADARO DOCUMENTARY AWARD

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

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be made by **January 31, 2025** through Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/JackSpadaroDocumentaryAward>. Email questions to Tom Hansell at hansellts@appstate.edu.

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 2024.

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, 2024**.

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 that the books 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>.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

WILMA DYKEMAN "FACES OF APPALACHIA" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2025-2026)

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, 2024**. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee Chair and may be contacted at althea_webb@berea.edu. The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified early in the Spring 2025 semester. Award winners will be announced at the March 2025 ASA conference awards ceremony.

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

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, 2025**.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2025 APPALACHIAN FOODWAYS PRACTITIONER FELLOWSHIP

We are so excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for our 2025 Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowships! Follow the link to learn more! Many thanks to Mid Atlantic Arts and Central Appalachia Living Traditions program for making this fellowship program possible!

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 5, 2024 and are due **October 31, 2024 by 5pm EST.**

<https://growappalachia.berea.edu/appalachian-foodways-fellowship-program/>.

Estamos muy emocionados de anunciar que ya estamos aceptando solicitudes para nuestras Becas de Práctica de las Tradiciones Alimentarias de los Apalaches 2025! ¡Sigue el enlace para obtener más información! ¡Muchas gracias al programa @centralapplivingtraditions de @midatlanticarts por hacer posible este programa de becas!

Los becarios pueden incluir, entre otros, cocineros y panaderos caseros, protectores de semillas, agricultores, ancianos de la comunidad, guardianes de recetas y conocimientos sobre las formas alimentarias tradicionales, cazadores y recolectores, que hayan realizado contribuciones significativas y a largo plazo para sostener y apoyar las formas alimentarias de sus respectivas comunidades.

Las solicitudes de becas se abren el 5 de septiembre de 2024 y vencen el 31 **de octubre de 2024 a las 5:00 p.m. EST.**

<https://growappalachia.berea.edu/appalachian-foodways-fellowship-program/>.

ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT
(2024-2025)

Travis Rountree



VICE PRESIDENT
(2024-2026)

Sophia Enriquez

Y'ALL (YOUNG
APPALACHIAN LEADERS
AND LEARNERS) STEERING
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(2024-2026)

Wen Juan (Helen) Mo



ELECTED POSITIONS

AT-LARGE STEERING
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(2024-2028)

Stephanie Burdette



AT-LARGE STEERING
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(2024-2028)

Annalee Tull Lanier

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:

Treasurer (2025-2028) of the Steering Committee to serve for three years.

The Treasurer provides financial oversight of association funds, accounts, and policy through the administrative office, presents the annual statement and an assessment of the financial condition of the association at each annual meeting, examines the books and provides regular reports to the steering committee, works with the association's Executive Director and CPA; and chairs the finance committee.

One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2025-2027) 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.

Secretary is a three-year term (2025–2028).

The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the steering committee, as well as post approved minutes to the electronic archive; and shall maintain a copy of the Association bylaws, articles of incorporation, and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

President (past President) is a four-year term; two years as President (2025-2027) and two years as past President (2027-2029).

The President presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, works with conference chairperson to negotiate the conference location, serves as spokesperson, and serves on the steering committee. As past president, this person will manage ASA policies and bylaws as well as assist and mentor the president.

Send your nomination(s) by December 11, 2024

to Sophia Enriquez, ASA Vice President, at sophia.enriquez@duke.edu.

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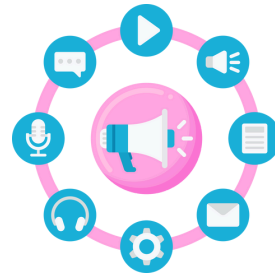


CONFERENCE CHAIR: MONIC DUCTAN
PROGRAM CHAIR: ERIN HOOVER
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAIR: COLLEEN MESTAYER



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***Appalink* Statement**

Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of ASA. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor, Mary K. Thomas, at mthomas@marshall.edu for rates. Email submissions to Jordan Lovejoy at jlovejoy@unc.edu. Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Jordan Lovejoy, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann E. Bryant



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