



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4198 • Internet: secaelca.org
Telephone 773.380.2800 or 800.638.3522 • Telefax 773.380.2977

Office of
the Secretary

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Dear MAC Friends and Colleagues:

Being MAC President is humbling because so many great people have served in this position. I am thankful to each and every one of them and honored to be in the job currently. Of course I cannot miss this opportunity to thank one past president in particular, Steve McShane, who ably served us for the past two years. You are a prince, Steve!

I will also mention our other outgoing elected officer, Secretary Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, and Council members Kathy Marquis and Tanya Zanish-Belcher. Menzi's two terms as secretary were in the finest MAC tradition of that office. I do not get to serve on Council with Menzi, Steve, Kathy, or Tanya, but I know they will continue to work for MAC in other capacities in the future. In fact, Kathy has agreed to be Nominating Committee chair for this coming year. I encourage everyone to participate in that process, to identify candidates to lead MAC, keeping it a strong and vital organization.

What a wonderful time it was here in Chicago, as the MAC spring meeting returned to the place that has often hosted the MAC "rites of spring." Thankfully, we have a lot of energetic MAC members in Chicago, led by Kathy Koch and Susan Rishworth, who provided wonderful local arrangements services. Chicago Area Archivists also supplied one of the Program Committee cochairs, Janet Olson, who with John Straw led some equally energetic folks in providing a terrific program lineup that made coming back to Chicago that much sweeter. I was also pleased to hear Chicago author Sara Paretsky's plenary address invoking the important concerns of freedom of information, speech, and the press.

I thank all the committee members, presenters, and countless other contributors—from those donating items for the Motley Scholarship auction to those making sure the PowerPoint presentations worked. You all make a MAC meeting the professional, enriching experience that it is. I also invite you to read more, elsewhere in this issue, about how MAC rewarded excellence at the spring meeting, with the President's Award to Ralph DuPae and the Emeritus Member Award to Valerie Gerrard Browne.

On quite another matter, like many archivists, I was distraught to hear the news that the National Archives grant-funding agency, the National Historical and Publications Records Commission (NHPRC), was slated for *zero* funding in FY 2006. MAC Council's resolution regarding this action was shared widely with members of Congress and appeared on the MAC Web site in April. At this writing, we are hopeful that funding for NHPRC will be restored to the budget. We applaud the fine work accomplished through NHPRC for so many years, along with the staff of the agency who made it work for many of us.

Finally, as a result of a Members' Meeting vote, we welcome Kentucky archivists to officially join MAC. Your state is now the 13th to officially call MAC *your* archival organization. We invite Kentuckians and all members to begin planning for the fall meeting in Bloomington, Indiana (just a short trip from Kentucky)—your next MAC meeting chance to be enlightened, delighted, and sustained.

Until next time,

Elisabeth Wittman
President, Midwest Archives Conference

Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.