

Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc.
Annual Business Meeting
Presidents Report
Submitted by Eve A Hargrave
October 11, 2026
Mankato, MN

Welcome to the 2026 MAC Annual Business meeting. I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the gorgeous weather we are experiencing this week. First order of business, I want to give a huge shout out to Ron Schirmer and Andy Brown and all their volunteers for hosting this wonderful conference in their hometown of Mankato. They have done a great job in arranging all the receptions, the venue, and organizing the presentations – all with an eye for making this a memorable conference. Ron will be providing a summary of the conference shortly.

I also want to thank Tyrel Iron Eyes for working with Kylie Johnson, Aaron Comstock, Amanda Butler, and Andy Brown to organize this year's Student Workshop which focuses on the significant contributions that remote sensing techniques make to our archaeological investigations. I look forward to hearing about how successful it is.

Since the papers and posters in the Student Competition will be primarily tomorrow, we will be announcing the winners of the competition at the beginning of the Saturday reception. Thank you Aaron Comstock for working out the logistics for the Student Competition this year- we look forward to hearing the results tomorrow.

Passings - Next, as most of you are aware, Lynne Goldstein passed away on April 18 of this year. She was a vital part of our MAC community and legendary in the field of archaeology for over 50 years. She only missed 2 MAC meetings ever: one was when her husband died and the second when ISAS scheduled the Champaign MAC meeting on Yom Kippur (It took a long time for her to forgive us for the second missed meeting). Let us please have a moment of silence.

Elections - Three Board members will be stepping down this year. Katy Mollerud will hand over the reins for the Secretary position to Heather Walder and Aaron Comstock will also be stepping aside for our newly elected Board Officer Melissa Balthus. I also will be stepping aside to hand the reins of the President's position to Rick Edwards. I want to thank Katy and Aaron for their great efforts on the part of the MAC Board. I also want to thank all the current Board members who have really stepped up to make the Board a wonderful, collaborative group of professionals. It has been an honor to work with you all over the past few years.

I would also like to thank the Nomination Committee – Amanda Butler, Jamie Kelly, and Liz Watts- for once again volunteering to be on the Nominations Committee. We had two nominations for the Executive Officer position. Melissa Balthus will be our new Executive Officer.

Website - Michael Betsinger - our new Webmaster - fortunately works in the same office with our previous Webmaster Angela Collins at the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. Angela has generously been working with Michael on maintaining the website and preparing the meeting website and registration. All requests for postings or questions about the website will now be in Michael's capable hands.

Initiatives - The Board is in the process of forming a Tribal Liaison Committee that will help facilitate MAC outreach and actions that benefit the Indigenous Nations of the Midcontinent, building towards more collaborative and balanced relationships among professional archaeologists and various Indigenous stakeholders. To date, we have three people who have volunteered to serve on the committee -Brendan Pelto, Alyssa Spiering, and Mary Vermillion. The first meeting is Thursday, Oct 10 and will be temporarily spearheaded by Heather Walder and Jessica Yann. I will be present as well. During this first step, the committee will establish a mission statement, define key tasks, and formalize a plan for how the committee will be structured. If anyone else would like to be involved, please contact Heather Walder.

As you may have noticed through multiple emails, we are moving forward on trying to establish a permanent Student Travel Advance Fund. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 which will be matched by a generous anonymous donor. This is to be a permanent trust fund to be used exclusively to assist students who want to attend our Annual MAC meetings but have trouble affording the ever-increasing costs of hotel, travel, and food. To date, we have reached only about \$2000- there is still a long way to go before meeting our goal. A separate link for donations to this Trust Fund is on our website under Donations- please consider taking 5 minutes to donate to this important effort. Even donations of \$25 will help lead us to reaching the total.

As I am sure most of the audience is aware, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation has dramatically scaled back the regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For more information, please check your emails where I have sent multiple links to see what is happening and the serious consequences this will have for cultural preservation. We will also add links to the MAC website soon. MAC is signed up to be one of 800+ organizations working with the National Coalition to Protect and Strengthen Section 106 of the NHPA. I have been passing on updated information from the Coalition on what is happening and suggestions on how we can help prevent this from becoming final.

Currently there is a bill in the Senate titled *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act* that includes significant changes to historic preservation review, consultation duties, review timelines and access to judicial remedies. If passed, this would have devastating impacts on the future of Section 106. I urge everyone here at the conference to attend the special session tomorrow afternoon from 3-5 pm organized by Lucy Harrington (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer) which will address each of these unprecedented threats to cultural preservation in more detail.

Future Meetings - Next year's conference will be a joint MAC/SEAC conference in Louisville, Ky. Preparations for the event are moving forward with Aaron Comstock as the MAC organizer. He has been working with SEAC over the past year to start the early planning for the conference.

To date, everything is all moving forward and they are well on track to be ready next fall for the conference.

Unfortunately, it looks like we will need a volunteer to host our 2028 Annual Conference. Cincinnati Museum was tentatively slated to host, but they need to push the date back a year or two. So if anyone is interested and willing to host this wonderful event, please contact Rick Edwards.

Eve A Hargrave
President, MAC, Inc.

October 5, 2026

To: MAC, Inc. Executive Board

From: Jessica Yann, MAC, Inc. Treasurer

RE: MAC, Inc. Treasurer's Report

Membership

2026 membership renewals were constant, with a small peak in September.

Membership Numbers (as of October 5, 2026)

Type	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Regular	117	210	206	171	207	207
Student	27	80	73	30	42	35
Retired	29	58	46	32	40	35
Joint	6	11	26	7	13	12
-Secondary	6	11	26	7	13	12
Lifetime	24	25	24	23	23	19
Total	209	395	401	270	338	320

2026 Membership Renewal Income

PayPal (fees already subtracted): \$8948.04

PayPal Fees: \$371.96

Checks: \$700

Total 2026 Membership dues income: \$9648.04

2026 Specific Expenses/Income

- We received \$3688.17 as profit from the joint MAC/Plains meetings.
- We had an issue with the University of Illinois Press not sending us invoices for about 6 months from the end of 2025 into 2026. Almost all of these have been paid, with the exception of two. They will be paid once the conference expenses have been covered. As a result, the expenses for the Press for 2026 are a bit inflated. Had we received the invoices in a timely manner, the expenses would have been more evenly divided between 2025 and 2026.

Account Summaries

US Bank Checking Account: \$14,255.76

US Bank Money Market (Savings): \$73,280.34

PayPal (as of 10/5/2026): \$11,196.99

MAC funds (as of 10/5/2026): \$98,733.09

MAC Activity 2025-2026
(January 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)

Expenses	Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025	Jan 1-Sept 30, 2026
MCJA		
University of Illinois Press	10640.24	22232.10
Independent Editor	7022	7708.01
MAC Annual Conference		
Student Paper Award	300	TBD
Distinguished Career Award	98.46	TBD
Conference Graphic Design	--	400
Conference Center/Catering (2026)	3233.08	TBD
Conference App	--	600
Hats for conference		1015
<i>Total Conference Expenses (2024)</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>----</i>
<i>Total Conference Expenses (2025)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Other Expenses		
Website Maintenance	5582.80	1955
Website/Database	5140	----
Domain Name	78.17	87.48
MailChimp/Mailgun	379.28	148.78
U.S. Bank charges	35.00	0
Taxes/State of WI Nonstock Corp annual fee	134.99	25
Mailing expenses	--	15.60
PayPal Fees	--	1286.58
Total	33444.02	35473.55
Revenue	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025	Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2026
MAC Membership dues	14603.90	9648.04
Member Donations	80	2455
Annual Conference		
Profit from 2025 Conference	--	3688.17
Registrations & Programs	--	17297+24
Vendor Tables	525	280
Conference Sponsorships/Donations	3790	9650
Tours		1000
Conference Swag	--	500
Royalties/Interest		
University of Illinois Press	9448.67	7285.38
Interest - Checking	0.15	0.11
<i>Interest – Money Market</i>	<i>269.40</i>	<i>295.86</i>
Pulled from Money Market	4000	5000
Total	32447.72	56827.70

2025 Change in Net Assets (checking): -996.30

2026 Change in Net Assets (checking): 21,354.15 (please note: many conferences expenses have not yet been paid)

Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc.
2026 Secretary's Report
Submitted by Katy J. Mollerud, MAC Secretary
October 5, 2026

Many thanks to Michael Betsinger and Angela Collins for their efforts in upgrading and training regarding the MAC email system.

Routine Activities

- Completed minutes for 2025 Executive Committee and Business meetings.
- Sent email correspondence to MAC membership requesting nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Career Award.
- Sent email correspondence to MAC membership requesting proposals for the 2026 Sponsored Symposium.
- Sent email correspondence on behalf of the Nominations Committee (Amanda Butler, Jamie Kelly, and Liz Watts) to solicit nominations for 2026 Executive Committee positions.
- Eve Hargrave, Michael Betsinger, and Angela Collins organized the 2026 Executive Committee elections via the MAC website. Sent email correspondence for MAC membership reminding them to vote in the election.
- Promoted the 2026 Annual Meeting on social media.
- Posted announcements, job positions, and upcoming events on the MAC Facebook page and X (formally Twitter) account.

2026 Executive Committee Elections

An election was held in September 2026 for the Executive Officer position. Ballot notifications were emailed to membership on September 8, with reminder emails sent on September 16 and September 25. The election closed on September 25, 2026, with 30% of the membership voting (67 votes). Election results were reported to President Eve Hargrave on September 26.

Please welcome Melissa Baltus (Executive Officer) to the Board of Directors!

2026 Sponsored Symposium

A call for 2026 Sponsored Symposium proposals was emailed to the membership on April 23, 2026, with an initial deadline of July 3, 2026. The submission deadline was subsequently extended to July 24, 2026; however, no symposium proposals were received.

2026 Distinguished Career Award

A call for Distinguished Career Award nominations was emailed on May 20, 2026 and a second call on July 9, with a deadline by July 31, 2026. Two nominations packets were submitted to President Hargrave and distributed to the Executive Committee for review. Both nominees, George Milner and Bob Birmingham, were selected to receive the award.

Annual Executive Committee Schedule

Please find attached to this report the annual Executive Committee schedule.

Officer Term Table

Please find attached to this report an updated MAC Executive Committee term table reflecting the results of the most recent election.

Annual Conference Planning Committee

Served as a member of this committee and participated in three Zoom meetings over the past year, offering feedback on conference planning ideas and using past conference formats as a guide for future planning.

Social Media

MAC continues to use its Facebook page to share general announcements, job postings, field school notices, and other information and events pertaining to Midwest Archaeology. Community members also share similar information on the page. Currently, the MAC Facebook page has roughly 3,200 followers, which is the same as last year. Additionally, the MAC Facebook page recorded 790 content interactions in the last year, which includes the number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on our content, an increase over last year (619 interactions).

MAC continued using its X (formerly Twitter) feed this year, which is currently standing at 2,999 followers (a decrease of 12 users over the past year). While the same types of information shared on the MAC Facebook were cross-posted to X, MAC has decided to sunset the X feed at this year's annual meeting. This summer, MAC began transitioning its social media outreach to LinkedIn, and will continue using LinkedIn as a replacement for X moving forward. Many thanks to Heather Walder for her efforts in developing and maintaining the MAC LinkedIn webpage during this transition.

Future MAC Conferences

The 2027 MAC Conference will be a joint conference with the Southeastern Archaeological Society held in Louisville, KY.

We are looking for hosts in 2028 and beyond.

Respectfully,

Katy J. Mollerud

Secretary, MAC, Inc.

MAC, Inc. Board Annual Timeline *rev 2/24/2025*

January

- Finalize accounting for previous calendar year following reconciliation of December bank statement; Post to MAC Board files in shared Box folder (Treasurer)
- Early January: Send renewal reminder to membership (Treasurer)
- University of Iowa invoice for Webmaster time (Treasurer)
- Form Nomination Committee (President)

February

- Early February: Remind membership who have not yet renewed to do so (Treasurer)
- Student Workshop Liaison (first-year Executive Officer) initiates planning for Annual Meeting (carry through as necessary coordinating with Annual Meeting Organizer; let President know plan by September 1)
- Student Paper Competition Liaison (second-year Executive Officer) initiates planning for judges and issues first call for submissions; set submission date in coordination with Annual Meeting Organizer.

March

- Prepare and submit MAC, Inc. corporate tax return (due April 15) (Treasurer)
- Early March: Remind membership who have not yet renewed to do so (Treasurer)
- Notify Membership of Nomination Committee makeup and solicit nominations (Secretary)

April

- April 1: Solicit proposals from membership for the Annual Meeting Sponsored Symposium (June 30 deadline) (Secretary)
- Early April: Remind membership who have not yet renewed to do so (Treasurer)
- Late April: Student Workshop Committee to identify and preliminarily contact professional participants/presenters for workshop as conceptualized (first-year Executive Officer)
- Publicize Student Paper Competition and finalize judging committee (second-year Executive Officer/Annual Meeting Organizer/Webmaster/Secretary)
- Remind membership of Nomination Committee makeup and solicit nominations (Secretary)
- Promote fall annual meeting in national and regional publications, via social media, and through list serves (Annual Meeting Organizer/Secretary)
- Send information on Book Reviews - # added online and # books ready for review (Book Review Editor)
- Corporate taxes due April 15 (Treasurer)

May

- E-990 Electronic Filing for Tax exempt status (Due May 15) (Treasurer)

MAC, Inc. Board Annual Timeline *rev 2/24/2025*

- May 1: Solicit Distinguished Career Award nominations from members (July 31 deadline) (Secretary)
- Develop MAC website annual meeting online registration forms including abstracts for papers and posters; send annual meeting “save the dates” reminder including membership renewal reminder (Webmaster/Annual Meeting Organizer/Treasurer)
- Early May: Remind membership about Annual Meeting Sponsored Symposium applications (Secretary/Webmaster)
- Remind membership of Nomination Committee makeup and solicit nominations (Secretary)

June

- Non-Stock Corporate reporting to State of WI due June 15 (Treasurer)
- Early June: Final reminder to membership about Annual Meeting Sponsored Symposium applications to membership (June 30 deadline) (Secretary/Webmaster)
- Early June: Remind membership about Distinguished Career Award nominations (Secretary)
- By June 30: open online registration for annual fall meeting via MAC website; send information to membership (Webmaster/Annual Meeting Organizer/Treasurer)
- Remind Membership of Nomination Committee makeup and solicit nominations (Secretary)

July

- July 1: Select the Annual Meeting Sponsored Symposium from submitted proposals (all Board); President notifies applicants in early July
- Early July: Final reminder to membership about Distinguished Career Award nominations (July 31 deadline) (Secretary)
- Promote meeting registration via email and social media (Annual Meeting Organizer/Secretary)
- Remind Membership of Nomination Committee makeup and solicit nominations (Secretary)

August

- Finalize Election ballots (Secretary/Webmaster)
- Domain name/DNS renewal (Treasurer)
- Early August: Select Distinguished Career Award Recipient and request that John Doershuk order the plaque(s) (All Board/Secretary); President notify nominators and arrange Annual Meeting award plan
- MAP Editor/Publisher and President confer re Dissertation Prize winner; arrange Annual Meeting award plan
- Promote meeting registration and send deadline reminders via email and social media (Annual Meeting Organizer/Secretary/Webmaster)
- Send information on Book Reviews - # added online and # books ready for review (Book Review Editor)

MAC, Inc. Board Annual Timeline *rev 2/24/2025*

September

- Run 30-day election (timing as appropriate to the Annual Meeting dates—election must begin no later than 30 days prior to Annual Meeting) (Secretary/Webmaster)
- Send reminders to membership to vote in MAC election (Secretary)
- President notifies candidates of election outcome and invites winners to Board lunch at Annual Meeting
- September 1: Student Workshop Committee notifies President about the workshop topic/theme, and provides final list of professional participants (first-year Executive Officer)
- Promote meeting registration and deadline reminders via multiple emails and social media throughout the month (Annual Meeting Organizer/Secretary/Webmaster)
- President receives MAP/Publisher Dissertation Award information and coordinates for Award Ceremony (\$500 prize from MAC); Treasurer prepares check
- Prepare Officer reports (President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor)
- President prepares draft Board meeting agenda; Secretary circulates to current and incoming Board members for corrections/additions
- Board Annual Timeline circulated by Secretary to current Board members for additions/corrections; Secretary compiles update for distribution at Board lunch meeting

October

- Secretary forwards agenda, reports, and timeline to current and incoming members of the Executive Board (timing as appropriate to the Annual Meeting dates; typically, one week beforehand, if possible)
- Annual Meeting
 - Board lunch meeting (typically Friday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm but can be adjusted)
 - Annual Business Meeting and Award Ceremony (typically Saturday just before the evening banquet/reception)
- Update website and MAC letterhead with new board member contact information (Secretary/Webmaster): “elect” positions on website but not letterhead

November

- Update website with Annual Meeting award photographs and winner names (Webmaster/Secretary/President/Annual Meeting Organizer)
- Pay outstanding bills from Annual Meeting/transfer funds as appropriate (Annual Meeting Organizer/Treasurer)
- Prepare minutes from Annual Business Meeting (Secretary)
- Send thank you letters to Annual Meeting sponsors (Annual Meeting Organizer provides list; Secretary prepares, President sends)
- Update website as needed (Webmaster)
- Send information on Book Reviews - # added online and # books ready for review (Book Review Editor)

MAC, Inc. Board Annual Timeline *rev 2/24/2025*

December

- Send membership renewal reminder/instructions for next calendar year (Treasurer)
- Finalize annual meeting accounting (following reconciliation of November bank statement); report to Board (Annual Meeting Organizer/Treasurer)
- Post printable MAC membership renewal form for the coming calendar year to website for those preferring dues payment by check (Treasurer/Webmaster)

Midwest Archaeological Conference, Incorporated
Executive Committee October 9, 2026
Terms begin and end at annual conferences

Office	Name	Period (Yrs)	Term	Next Election year
President	Edwards, Rick	2	2026-2028	Term ends 2028
President Elect	n/a	1	n/a	2027
Secretary	Walder, Heather	3	2026-2029	Term ends 2029
Secretary Elect	n/a	1	n/a	2028
Treasurer	Yann, Jessica	3	2026-2029	Term ends 2029
Treasurer Elect	n/a	1	n/a	2028
Editor	G. Logan Miller	3	2025-2028	Term ends 2028
Editor Elect	n/a	1	n/a	2027
Exec Officer	Iron Eyes, Tyrel	2	2025-2027	2027
Exec Officer	Baltus, Melissa	2	2026-2028	2028

2026 MCJA Editor's Report – Logan Miller

As we embark on the second half-century of MCJA, I want to start by thanking all of those directly involved in the continued success of MCJA over the past year including authors, reviewers, guest editors, editorial assistant Mary Lou Wilshaw-Watts, the Editorial Board, and journal staff at University of Illinois Press. Thanks also to Angela Collins and Mike Betsinger for promptly posting pre-press materials to the MAC website. With the publication of Volume 51 at the start of 2026, MCJA welcomed a slew of new Editorial Board members including Sarah Baires, Metin Eren, Christina Friberg, Michael Strezewski, Christopher Watts, and Alice Wright to serve alongside continuing members Jane Baxter, John Doershuk, T.R. Kidder, and William Romain. I extend my deepest thanks to Editorial Board members whose terms of service concluded at the end of 2025 including Susan Alt, Christopher Ellis, Duane Esarey, Robert Jeske, Neal Lopinot, George Milner, Michael Nassaney, Timothy Pauketat, and Mark Schurr. These individuals combined to provide over 100 person-years of service to MCJA while committing to the highest scholarly standards in maintaining MCJA as the premier peer-reviewed, academic journal on the archaeology of the midcontinent

Authors submitted 10 articles to MCJA since the MAC 2025 meeting. Seven of these were accepted for publication, one is currently in revision, and I desk-rejected two as unsuitable for publication in the Journal as submitted. Many thanks to the authors and reviews for their work on these. That number of submissions does not include the nine articles dedicated to a two-part special issue on Stuart Struever, Kampsville, and lower Illinois River valley archaeology guest edited by Jane Buikstra (Volume 51 Issue 3 and Volume 52 Issue 1). My thanks to former Editor Rob Cook for initially coordinating these guest edited issues.

Due to an unavoidable delay, the final issue of 2025 (50:3) was not finalized until early 2026 but the first issue volume 51 was shipped out directly on its heels. Issue 2 should have arrived in most mailboxes at the end of summer while issue 3 is currently with the Press for printing and distribution. The Journal is in healthy shape for the future as we are currently populating articles into Volume 52 Issue 2. To maintain a healthy pipeline of manuscript submissions, there is a standing call for submissions for MAC members, their students, and fellow researchers to continue submitting their work to MCJA. Plans to continue the recent tradition of reserving one issue per year to a special theme by working with a guest editor are in preliminary stages for Volume 53.

Annual Report of the Editor
Midwest Archaeological Perspectives
October 8, 2026

Submitted to:

Eve Hargrave, President, Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc.
Wendi Schnaufer, Senior Acquisitions Editor, The University of Alabama Press

I am pleased to report that the *Midwest Archaeological Perspectives* book series is moving in a positive direction with The University of Alabama Press.

Since last year's meeting, the MAP Series Editor has worked with The University of Alabama Press to line up the authors carried over from the move away from the last publisher. Below is the status of those manuscripts.

Author 1 (Kate Frederick): Her book is the first to be published and having been released will be available for sale at this year's MAC via ordering form. There will be a copy available for inspection.

Author 2: Submitted a prospect and has signed a contract at the end of summer. This suggests the possibility of a second book being available for the next year's meeting in Kentucky.

Author 3: This person was preparing to submit a prospectus at the end of September, but called to ask the editor to be allowed to submit at the end of October, which, of course, was agreed to.

Author 4: Our last author brought over from the previous press plans to submit a prospectus in Spring 2027. The series editor urged consideration for submission at the end of 2026 to get a contract signed before the holidays in order to have time away from that work.

As reported previously, a factor facing authors is not the prospectus process so much as the challenge of transforming a dissertation to a proper book that emphasizes findings (which seems to involve stripping out much of the dissertation parts and reordering the work) and having a narrative flow.

There will not be a Dissertation Award to announce at this MAC meeting. Only a few dissertations were nominated. Despite broadly circulating announcements via MAC social media channels, nominations remain low. Between the pandemic and a long transition between presses, there seems not to have been many dissertations produced in that period of time.

Even if submissions remain low, the pipeline for book manuscripts will continue to grow. For one, permission has been secured to accept edited volumes. The University of Alabama has a high standard for those, requiring each chapter be of high quality and able to stand on its own. Also increasing the potential for more proposals is that the SAAs next spring will be in the Midwest (Indiana) which should provide a larger pool of archaeologists to talk to than the MAC. Both the MAP Series Editor and The University of Alabama Press Senior Acquisitions Editor, Wendi Schnaufer, will be in attendance to promote the series and talk to prospective authors. Lastly the meeting next fall will be in Kentucky as a joint conference with SEAC which will also expand opportunities to promote the series and solicit prospectus submissions.

The work of reviewing, quick turnaround times, and insightful analysis, is carried out by the five members of MAP's editorial board deserve mention for their contributions to MAC:

- Thomas E. Emerson
- Gayle Fritz
- Edward Henry
- George Milner
- Sissel Schroeder

Finally, looking to the future:

- The Editor will continue to work with Alabama and current authors on moving manuscripts to publication, as we are now positioned to release two, possibly three books in the next few years.
- The Editor will look also work with Alabama to solicit additional, non-prize related manuscripts for inclusion in the series via attendance at the SAAs and next year's joint conference.

Submitted with all due respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gaff', written in a cursive style.

Donald Gaff, Ph.D.

Editor, *Midwest Archaeological Perspectives*