

srma

# *The Rocky Mountain* **Archivist**

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# From the President

**Hello SRMA members!**

Welcome to my very last column as SRMA president. This year has been blessedly free of financial drama, so let's just make it a few more months, 'kay? Knock wood.

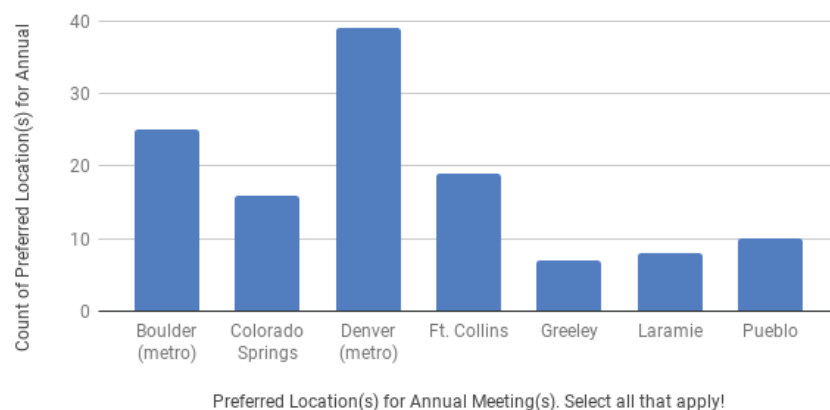
Over the last few months, we've been working on our long-term planning, using the survey sent out in February 2019, which builds upon the 2017 Programs and Events survey. There are several takeaways from both which will guide us in the development of a new long-term plan, as our current plan – adopted in 2016 – takes us through 2020-2021. Some major themes and “wants” from the membership from both surveys:

- **A once-a-year spring meeting, potentially in combination with a professional development workshop.**
- **More focused/in-depth professional development/educational opportunities (i.e. photo preservation, digital curation)**
- **More meeting location geographic diversity, with this caveat: the top 4 vote-getters for meeting locations were still on the I-25 corridor: Denver, Boulder, Ft. Collins, and Colorado Springs.**
- **Revisiting partnerships with Society of American Archivists on continuing education, particularly the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certification.**
- **Free/low cost options for professional development in membership areas of interest developed and delivered by experts in the region.**
- **Remote/digital options for professional development for members unable to travel to physical meeting/professional development locations**

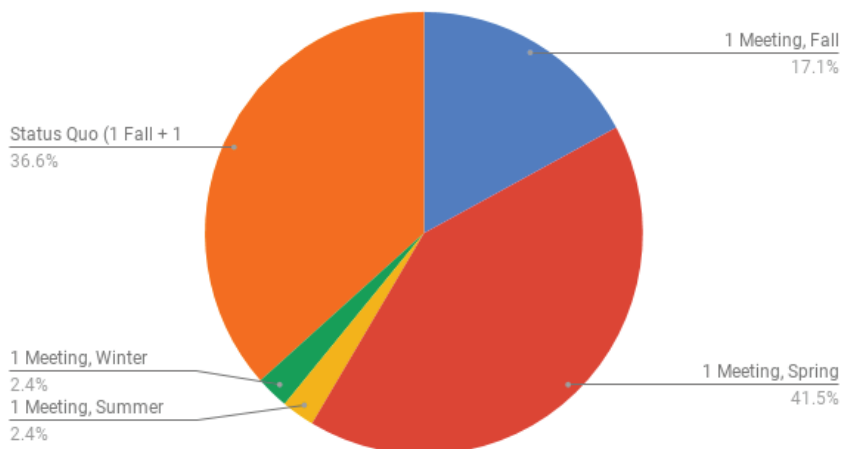
These are the high points – there was a lot of very detailed individual feedback that we will also draw upon as we develop next year's plan, budget, and long-term plan.

Given that our next year's spring meeting will coincide with the Western Roundup (which looks like it may have a brand, shiny new name for next year's conference – stay tuned), we will likely still have a fall conference in 2019, our spring meeting in 2020 (at the Roundup), and then switch to a once-a-year meeting schedule after that point. That is, however, up to our board, which is about to have a bunch of transition and new members!

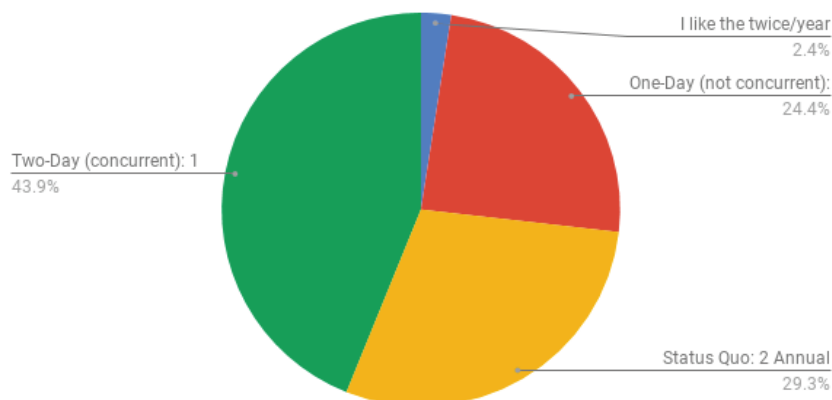
Count of Preferred Location(s) for Annual Meeting(s). Select all that apply!



Count of Preferred Time of Year for Annual Meeting(s)



Count of Structure of Annual Meeting(s) + Additional Educational Programming



I'm super-excited about our spring meeting, **"Touching History: Teaching with Archives,"** which I'm hoping many of you will be able to attend as well. I've been teaching with archives regularly since 2012, and I was pleased to see that this topic was of interest to the membership as well. We got some great proposals, and I'm so jazzed to get to experience them with all of you!

Yours in Acid-Free Boxes,

Kate



# Cover Story

## Eye of the Archive: "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?"

Anna Scott; Aspen Historical Society



### "Do you have a history crush?"

You know, that person or persons who make your heart skip a beat when you hear stories from the past of their bravery, or beauty, or brains, or even their bad ideas? Well I've been spending this off-season day dreaming about (one of) my history crush(es): the girl next door, wonder woman former proprietress of the Wheeler/Stallard house, Mrs. Ella Stallard." That was how our "Eye of the Archive" blog, authored by A.B. (personified AHS Archive Building), began as our team offered an insider's glimpse into the goings-on at Aspen Historical Society.

The portrait of Mary Ella holds great importance to AHS (Mary Ella Pattison Stallard lived in the house from 1905 to 1942) but as we have all unfortunately experienced, she went "missing" during a remodel of the historic house in 2002 and was separated from her original frame. As the Collections team was preparing for a remodel of the Archive Building in 2016, we "rediscovered" the portrait, but she wasn't in great condition. Damage to Ella's portrait included water stains, tears in the paper, discoloration and the frame was missing glass and proper backing. In 2017, the AHS collections team consulted with several conservationists and secured a contract to work with the Conservation

Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). We received a conservation grant from the Greenwood Fund at the Denver Foundation as well as a generous donation from First Western Trust to pay for her treatment.

### Treatment provided by CCAHA:

The crayon photograph was unframed, carefully and mechanically removed from the linen backing using a Teflon spatula. After testing for stability, the photograph was "gently humidified in a chamber and blotter washed on Tek-wipe in successive baths of deionized water to reduce the overall discoloration and staining." They lined the photographed with a sheet of Japanese paper using wheat starch pastes

*Continued on pg. 5*



and then dried under tension. Areas with loss of paper (mainly the edges) were filled with “acrylic toned wove paper inserts” and then painted with watercolors and pastels to match the rest of the photograph. After the photograph was carefully conserved, they constructed a seal packing consisting of ultraviolet-filtering acrylic glazing, spacers and an alkaline backing with a Marvelseal (a nylon, foil, polyethylene laminate) on the back. Once sealed, the photograph was returned to a refurbished frame and sealed again.

In the summer of 2018, AHS re-hung the portrait back in the dining room of the Wheeler Stallard Museum where she once hung in a place of honor as the longest resident of the house. To read the whole series about Mary Ella visit [https://aspenhistory.org/shall\\_i\\_compare\\_thee/](https://aspenhistory.org/shall_i_compare_thee/) or read other stories including our series on the Archive Building remodel.





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# Touching History: Teaching with Archives

SRMA Spring Meeting 2019  
May 24, University of Denver

## SRMA Spring Meeting

Archives and museums are rich educational resources. A letter, photograph, recording, or artifact add a new dimension to learning. Join us to explore ideas for integrating archival and museum content into teaching and learning to connect with your communities and bring history alive.

**Friday, May 24**  
**University of Denver, Anderson Academic Commons**  
**Room 290**  
**9:00AM-4:00PM**

[Schedule and Speakers](#)

[Register Here NOW!](#)

Registration is due by **May 15th.**



# SRMA Ballot 2019

**It's time to get out and vote for your new SRMA Board.**

**Voting will be live until May 15th.**

**Please go to the [SRMA Spring 2019 Election Ballot](#) to cast your vote!**

## **Vice President**

Megan Friedel

## **Treasurer**

Jamie Wagner

Patty Rettig

## **Member-at-Large**

Erin McElroy

Nathalie Proulx

## **Preservation Member-at-Large**

Aaron Ramirez

## **Get to Know Your Candidates!**

### **Vice President**

#### **Megan Friedel (Head of Archives, University of Colorado Boulder)**

Over the past 17 years, I've been an archivist at three state historical societies/museums (Massachusetts Historical Society, Oregon Historical Society, and History Colorado) and two academic archives (the University of Alaska Anchorage and now the University of Colorado Boulder, where I am Head of Archives). During this time, I've watched the profession go through monumental and necessary changes, especially in terms of expectations about processing standards, providing access to our materials, and our responsibilities as archivists to document and promote diversity within our collections. I also lived through the 2008-2009 recession, during which I was one of thousands of cultural heritage professionals around the country who lost my job because archives and history weren't "valued" as commodities in our economy. I learned a tough lesson then, as we all did, that archivists can't be passive protectors of history – and we can't silo ourselves in the sub-basements of our predecessors.

Organizations like SRMA are vital for connecting us to our shared resources and knowledge, consolidating advocacy for the work we do, and providing opportunities to keep pushing the profession in new directions. I'm passionate about moving SRMA forward to keep pace with the profession and provide more educational and collaborative opportunities for Rocky Mountain archivists. When I'm not at work in my (literal, windowless) sub-basement office in the CU Boulder Archives, I'm at home in the mountains with my musician husband, one year-old son, and our menagerie of dog, cat, and chickens.

## Member-at-Large

### Erin McElroy (Circulation Librarian/Archivist, Iliff School of Theology)

My name is Erin McElroy and I am thrilled to be considered for the Member-at-Large position. I graduated with my MLIS degree in 2018 from the University of Denver and currently have a mixed librarian/archivist role at the Iliff School of Theology. As a “lone arranger” at Iliff, I have to take ownership and responsibility for all aspects archival. I enjoy the accountability and want to grow even more by being a part of the SRMA board.

I believe I am a great fit for the Member-at-Large position for multiple reasons. While receiving my MLIS at DU, I was the Event Coordinator for the Society of American Archivists chapter and responsible for planning quarterly, archival events during the 2017–2018 academic year. Although this position will require more day-to-day involvement, the skills I acquired as the event coordinator are fundamental to the success of the role. For example, during my position at DU I displayed initiative, extreme attention to detail, and strong organizational skills in order to successfully plan events for the SAA chapter. I was able to utilize my professional network to secure host(s), manage scheduling between host institution(s) and chapter members, as well as market the events on social media. I believe my experiences as the event coordinator will prove invaluable for the Member-at-Large position.

Along with the required practical skills, I recognize that the Member-at-Large role entails a significant investment of time and energy. As demonstrated by my passion for the archival field and my enthusiasm to be more involved in our community, I promise to commit to the position and the work it requires. Thank you for your consideration!

### Nathalie Proulx (Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library Archivist, University of Denver)

Hello! I’m Nathalie Proulx and I have been a part of SRMA and the University Denver Special Collections and Archives since 2014. After obtaining my MLIS in 2015, I became the Reference Archivist for the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library, a special collecting area at DU. I love being able to work in all sorts of different capacities in this position. From planning events, creating documentaries and exhibits, and collection management, I get to wear many hats! I currently serve as the Newsletter Editor for SRMA but would love to expand my duties to include developing programs and workshops. SRMA has the opportunity to serve archivists as well as a variety of cultural heritage professionals and through programming, I hope to engage our peers and these communities. Thank you for your consideration.

## Treasurer

### Jamie Wagner (Project Archivist, University of Colorado at Boulder)

My name is Jamie Marie Wagner. I received an MLS with a concentration in Archives and Records Management in Spring 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I also received a Masters in Film in 2013. While my primary interest is in audio-visual archiving, I am very happy to be working now as a Project Archivist at the University of Colorado-Boulder, where my duties have included appraisal, arrangement and description, reference, instruction, and curating digital collections. Passionate about joining the professional archives community



**Jamie Wagner (cont.)**

here in Colorado, I would be proud to serve as Treasurer of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists. As an avowed planner and organizer, I excel at and enjoy keeping clear records, while balancing the needs for transparency and communication with the imperative for privacy of personal and financial information.

**Patty Rettig (Head Archivist, Water Resources Archive, Colorado State University)**

I have not served on the SRMA board for a number of years, but I know from experience it is always a rewarding experience. Now seems like a good time for me to contribute by serving as treasurer. I loved my high school accounting class and all those columns of numbers (yes, on paper), and I almost became a business major in college. Instead, I went down a path that led me to archives, where I can apply my attention to detail (with paper and digitally), with far fewer numbers involved. I feel it is important for SRMA to have an experienced and conscientious person keeping its accounts in order and protected, and I would be diligent in all duties required of the treasurer. I would also look forward to contributing ideas and knowledge to board meetings.

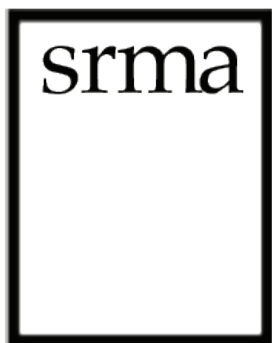
**Preservation Member-at-Large**

**Aaron Ramirez (Librarian Archivist, Rawlings Library Pueblo)**

My name is Aaron Ramirez, and I work as the Librarian Archivist for the Pueblo City-County Library District, at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Library. I'm a new professional, eager to learn and get involved. Before moving to Colorado, I worked at a small university archive in northeastern Texas as an archives assistant. I am fortunate to be in a career that allows me to work with unique materials, and serve others in the discovery and use of these treasures. I want to serve this organization and greater communities as the next Preservation Member-at-large. The photo preservation kit program is a great development tool for individuals and organizations, and I want to help continue and expand this service.



**VOTE**



# Governance

**President: Kate Crowe**  
Curator of Special Collections & Archives  
University of Denver

**Vice President: Heather Bowden**  
Director of Special Collections, Archives,  
and Preservation  
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

**Past President: Jamie Seemiller**  
Acquisitions Archivist/Librarian  
Western History/Genealogy Dept.  
Denver Public Library

**Secretary: Laura Hoff**  
Lead Archivist & Digital Librarian  
National Center for Atmospheric Research

**Treasurer: Laura Uglean Jackson**  
Archives and Special Collections Librarian  
James A. Michener Library  
University of Northern Colorado

**Member-at-Large: Emily Knigtigh**  
Communications and Student Services  
Specialist  
University of Denver

**Program Director: Lisa Dunn**  
Research & User Interface Librarian  
Special Collections Manager  
Arthur Lakes Library,  
Colorado School of Mines

**Preservation Member-at-Large:  
Nicole Becwar**  
Technical Services Librarian and  
Archivist  
Western State Colorado University

**Membership Coordinator:  
Mary Elizabeth Ruwell**  
Archivist  
US Air Force Academy

**Society Archivist: Katie Rudolph**  
Archivist/Librarian  
Western History/Genealogy Dept.  
Denver Public Library

**Newsletter Editor: Nathalie Proulx**  
Reference Archivist  
Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library  
University of Denver

**Continuing Education Coordinator:  
Amanda Stow**

**Electronic Resources/Website  
Coordinator: John Major**  
Reference Librarian  
Bud Werner Memorial Library

**Need to renew your  
membership?**

Contact Mary Elizabeth Ruwell  
mary.ruwell@usafa.edu

**Do you have any interesting projects  
or collections to feature in the next  
issue of *Rocky Mountain Archivist*?**

Contact Nathalie Proulx at  
nathalie.proulx@du.edu