

Contact person: Jennifer Fauxsmith
Name of Organization: New England Archivists
City, State: Boston, MA
E-mail: nea_press@newenglandarchivists.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New England Archivists Establishes New Award for Audio/Visual Professional Development

New England Archivists (NEA) announces an exciting new professional development award. An anonymous donor was inspired to fund this new award after experiencing the dedication and enthusiasm of the Spring 2014 Meeting, held in Portsmouth, NH, in March. The Audio/Visual (A/V) Professional Development Award, a disbursement of up to \$500, will be given annually for the next three years by NEA to promote increased advancement, education, and participation within this specialized area of the archives field.

Archivists work with a wide range of materials and media: audio and video tape, motion picture film, digital recordings, and more. The challenges and practices of preserving and making these records accessible are evolving as constantly as the formats themselves. Continuing education is vital for archivists caring for these materials.

Individual members of NEA are eligible to apply for the award. Applicants might propose participating in an educational program or workshop, preparing a paper for publication or presentation, attending a professional meeting, or some other activity supporting professional work with A/V materials. Recipients will report on their experience by writing for the *NEA Newsletter* or giving a presentation at the NEA Spring meeting. Submissions will be reviewed and recipients selected by the A/V Professional Development Award Committee.

Fostering professional development for NEA members is a core value of NEA's mission. NEA Vice-President Colin Lukens notes that the "generous donation establishes an award to assist members in navigating a quickly changing and complicated aspect of the work we do. I hope the success of the A/V Professional Development Award will move others to support the vital work of growing NEA scholarships and awards through donations of their own."

The first A/V Professional Development Award will be presented at the Spring 2015 Meeting in Boston and details will be available by December 1st. For further details, keep an eye on the Awards page on the NEA website at www.newenglandarchivists.org/.

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About New England Archivists

Founded in 1973, New England Archivists is the premier professional organization in the field of archives and special collections in the New England region. Archivists are professionals who collect, arrange, describe, and provide access to historical documents. With approximately 600 members, the organization connects the archival community through meetings, workshops, and online resources. NEA facilitates professional development by offering a number of workshops and meetings per year.

NEA is committed to increasing public awareness of archival work and to informing historians, genealogists, students, and journalists, among others, about archival resources that might be of use to them. NEA also works with individuals in related professions, such as records managers, librarians, and town clerks, to promote the sharing of information among the larger community of information professionals.

For more information about NEA please visit the New England Archivists website at www.newenglandarchivists.org.