

OUR 2009 CONFERENCE:

TRAILBLAZERS: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

After years of planning and working to assure a Conference that would meet the needs of as many members of the ACWR Organization as possible, the days at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, seem like a long ago memory. However, the Conference from September 17 through the 20th was a magnificent success. Even the weather cooperated on the days we gathered.

In spite of the lagging economy 137 attendees from throughout the United States and including a guest from the Ukraine received the speaker's talks with enthusiasm and responsiveness. Many expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to network with others facing the same challenges and concerns. As the meeting ended participants were very faithful in completing evaluations which were most favorable, but which also included ideas for forthcoming conferences and ways that ACWR can be helpful in the everyday lives of the archivists who are trying to maintain records in a safe and available manner.

The accommodations at the Clarion Hotel were most comfortable. The staff was welcoming and always responsive to requests and concerns. The management was also extremely helpful in assisting the Conference planners to keep costs at a minimum. Many said the meals were excellent but some commented there was too much food. However, having a number of meals included in the conference package was welcomed by the great majority. Some have even suggested that the next conference return to the Clarion.

From the evaluations it appeared that each of the presentations met the needs of some of the participants. Many of the presentations created ideas and questions for further study or things which can help the archivist. Members are searching for more information on preservation, digitalization, legal and ethical issues and help for the beginning archivist. Members enjoyed the history of the organization and having two of the founders, Sisters Mary Serbacki, OSF and Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU present, was an added bonus.

As requested by many members, Sister Gertrude Foley's inspiring and encouraging talk: "*Ministry of the Archivist: Sign of the Times*" is available here on the website. Her talk can also be downloaded.

As planning begins now for the next Triennial Conference, members of the Board express their gratitude to all who took the time to complete the evaluations and to offer suggestions for future programs. These will provide a foundation for the planning sessions to come. Know that suggestions from members are most welcome. The spring board meeting will be held in Kentucky in late April. Please send any suggestions for the 2012 Conference to one of the officers.

Photos of the Conference follow. Many thanks to S. Mary Jeremy Buckman, RSM, for catching so many good photos of attendees during the Conference. Enjoy the memories.

By S. Louise Grundish, SC, past-president