

May 26, 2004

Ms. Lisa C. Mangiafico
Chair, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference
8233 Old Courthouse Road
Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182

Dear Ms. Mangiafico:

I received your letter of May 17th expressing concern regarding recent staffing changes in the History Center's Library and Archives and your kind offer of assistance to us from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. Please be assured that neither the care for our collections nor access to them has been hampered by these changes. The elimination of several mid-level management positions occurred to ensure the History Center's ability to uphold our mission as an educational organization dedicated to preserving and presenting regional history through the core functions of exhibits, publications, library and archives, and public programs.

We have nearly 100 professional staff at the History Center, and among them well-qualified professional staff in positions caring for the collections and providing public access to them. Among the professional staff in the Library and Archives are three with Masters of Library Science degrees, three Certified Archivists, and three with degrees in history. The qualifications of the senior management at the History Center remain unchanged. We will continue to adequately serve our patrons through services that are at a significantly higher level than most specialized libraries in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The ability of our Library and Archives staff to share their professional expertise and participate in professional associations continues. Through participation as grant reviewers, attendees and presenters at professional conferences, continuing professional education, and opportunities to publish, Library and Archives staff carry out this work.

Any help you can provide in identifying funding sources that may be of assistance to us would be most helpful. I appreciate your concern and want to reassure you and the Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference community that our professionalism remains intact and our archival operations follow best practices in the field.

Sincerely,



Andrew E. Masich
President and CEO