Joyce Tenney

Joyce Tenney’s term as president began at the close of the Buffalo conference, but she has been serving NASIG for a lot longer than that. Joyce is one of only about five people who can truthfully say they have attended all twenty-eight conferences (and now she’s promised to come to number twenty-nine in Fort Worth!). Joyce has followed the development of NASIG since she first learned that a group wanted to create the organization while she was attending a serials conference in Crystal City, Virginia, in the mid-1980s. She says that she was thrilled to learn about NASIG, and has never looked back since that first NASIG Conference at Bryn Mawr in 1986.

Prior to her election as vice president/president-elect last year, Joyce spent a few years volunteering as the organization’s conference coordinator, helping especially with site selection. Before that, she served as secretary (2006-2009) and member-at-large (2002-2006). Joyce Tenney and co-author Steve Savage drafted the first NASIG Committee Chairs Orientation Manual in May 2005, a manual that still guides committee chairs. Her committee service to NASIG has also included chairing the Bylaws Committee, co-chairing the Conference Planning Committee, serving on the Nominations & Elections Committee, and chairing the Regional Councils and Membership.

Joyce Tenney began working in the library part-time as a student assistant at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She enjoyed it greatly and ended up working there three years while completing her bachelor’s degree in ancient studies. After graduation, she was hired as a staff member, and was pleased to work with a wonderful supervisor who encouraged her to get her library degree. (Her supervisor even handed her the application forms to fill out!) Joyce obtained her MLS at the University of Maryland’s College of Information Studies in 1983. That same year, she was appointed serials librarian at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Joyce began supervising the Circulation and Library Media Departments on an acting basis in 2008, and permanently in September 2012, as a result of her appointment as associate director. Her duties include license negotiation, acquisition and management of continuing resources, and the management of access services.

Joyce has a hard time deciding which part of her job she enjoys most because she really loves it all. She especially loves working with faculty. In her current role Joyce has lots of opportunities to interact with faculty, and she finds them both fun and challenging. She did say, though, that she really enjoys licensing—something she spends a lot of time doing—and acting as liaison to campus legal office.

How does she deal with the parts of her work that she likes the least? Joyce says she enjoys least the minutiae of system components for day-to-day operations. She is also not a huge techie, and deals with it by studying up on new tools before striking out and giving them a try. She says, “I don’t believe in not trying. Even if I don’t get it right, I will always give it a try.” (Although that’s
probably why, she says with an audible grin, the tech department sighs when she calls them.)

Newest Addition to the Tenney Family: 5-Month Old Gypsy

When asked what her favorite NASIG conference (or favorite moment at a conference) has been and why, Joyce only hesitated a moment. Overall, she says, the 2010 Palm Springs Conference was her favorite because “everything really clicked at that conference”—she was appreciative of the beautiful location, the good programming, and especially the 25th anniversary activities. All have been useful and beneficial to her, but that one has stood out.

NASIG has supported Joyce in her varying professional positions primarily by providing a network of colleagues. The conferences are important too, to provide important information on happenings in the industry and on issues that will affect us all, but the most important thing to Joyce is the network of people she can connect with. “Are you doing this? How are you doing this?” she might ask, and she appreciates the exchange, including being the one who is called. Many facets of librarianship can be isolating because there aren’t many people in any one institution doing a particular area. NASIG is important in abolishing that isolation.

Although NASIG is her first love, Joyce has also been involved at other conferences. She has led some pre-conference sessions for the Maryland Library Association Conference and hosted breakout sessions at a couple of North Carolina Serials Conferences. Most recently, Joyce presented at the Charleston Conference on establishing an e-book DDA program. She confided on her Charleston speaker profile that she will “occasionally try her hand at a Latin crossword puzzle.”

She still keeps in touch with the Classics faculty on her campus. Her other hobbies include spending time with her “wonderful hubby” and her best furry pals. Joyce describes her husband Greg as a great NASIG supporter who just happens to be a retired director of public safety. (For more on Greg, see Maggie Rioux’s profile of Joyce in the Newsletter 22:1 (2007).) Cookbooks are a favorite of Joyce’s too, although she gives her husband the credit of being a gourmet chef; she likes to point out recipes for him to try! They travel when possible, and spend as much time as they can with their dogs. Newest family member Gypsy is pictured below. Joyce is also involved in the Center for Celiac Research, co-chairing their annual fund-raising activity. She also serves on the board of the University of Maryland iSchool Alumni Chapter. “I’m an organizer,” she says, and this principle spreads from her work into her volunteer life.

What changes does Joyce see for serialists over the next five years? How can NASIG help serialists be prepared for these changes? She believes that there’s never a static time for serialists—what we do lends itself to so many changes, issues, and experimentation. The rapid rate of change will continue, enhanced because of the merging of technology with every facet of library work. NASIG can help people be prepared for these changes through networking opportunities and through spot-on conference programming. Joyce is also excited by the webinars that we have started—another educational tool to help serialists be better prepared for the future. She is grateful that folks are willing to share their knowledge.
So, is she still aiming for Baltimore to land a NASIG Conference? Joyce says that she would love to see us here someday. Be sure to tell her ‘hello’ in Ft. Worth!