



AMIA the association of moving image archivists

**2002 Dan & Kathy Leab Award Winner:
Dick Fauss, West Virginia State Archives**

Dick is one of the long-time members of AMIA who works very hard, much of it behind the scenes carrying on the work that needs to be done and with very little fanfare. He is a reserved person, so he is not someone who would toot his own horn about his work. Certainly, he is under-recognized by the moving image archive community, as is much of West Virginia's history. He has been working to change that, but he is working in a large organization with a limited budget for his own division and fills another role as microfilm archivist.

Dick joined the West Virginia State Archives in 1982. WWSA holds news and documentary footage from five commercial television stations and West Virginia Public Broadcasting. The collection also contains films from both amateur and professional filmmakers that are illustrative of the history and culture of West Virginia.

While a graduate student, he compiled A Bibliography of Labor History in News Film, Vols. 1-4 (published by the Division of Social and Economic Development, Center for Extension and Continuing Education, Institute for Labor Studies, West Virginia University, 1980). This publication is quoted by many as one of the leading resources on labor history on film. The awards committee feels that this is a special project which proved important to the nominee's institution or the field as a whole.

He joined FAAC/TAAC in 1987 and then AMIA when it was created. Dick has been on AMIA's Elections Committee since 1999 and was its chair in 2000. He has been a member of the Local Television Task Force Steering Committee since its inception, participated in the LC TV/Video Preservation Study, and has done a tremendous amount of work for this initiative.

This year Dick's work at WWSA will include selecting videotapes (some relatively unknown) from the Archives' collections to be cataloged on the West Virginia Union Catalog and made available for viewing in the Archives and History Library. Dick is extending the a/v archives service hours for improved public access to these collections.

Dick presented a paper at the Society of American Archivists D.C. meeting in 2001, "Working Within a Larger Institution to Promote Access" on the panel "Marketing and Promotion: Raising Community Awareness of Moving Image Archives." He also obtained funding from NFPF to preserve five films documenting various West Virginia communities in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, two of which are included in the Treasures of American Film Archives DVD.

Dick Fauss is always willing to volunteer his time and expertise. For his service to the archival community, Mr. Fauss receives the 2002 Dan & Kathy Leab Award.