

# *Guild* BUILDERS

1976-2016

*In honor of our fortieth anniversary, this is the first of an ongoing email series from the Guild, AFSCME Local 2910, that will explore the history of our Library of Congress workplace from the unique perspective of its professional employees. Artifacts, anecdotes, personalities and events have all helped to shape our collective past.*

## 1976 Guild Officers Election Ballot Box

Since the Guild is the democratic voice of staff in the LC workplace, it is most appropriate that we begin our historical email series with the following gem:



This modest-looking wooden ballot box was recently unearthed in the Manuscript Division and is believed to be the one used in the initial election of Guild officers in 1976; it was also used in important internal balloting in subsequent years. The ballot box is currently on display inside the front doors of the Guild Office, LM-G41.

## Guild Builders: The First Forty Years

The United States' bicentennial year saw the birth of the Guild, on June 1, 1976. Through the subsequent decades and via the power of workplace democracy—polls, referendums, elections, and representation—the Guild has created a meaningful internal dialogue among professional staff and managers at the Library, and has become a force for change.

The Guild is no more nor less than its members. Together we share a strong sense of professionalism along with pride of public service, all while working at the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, the Library of Congress.

If you have any interesting LC workplace memories that you'd like to share, please send them our way!  
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*From the Guild Builders Editorial Committee, whose members believe that history is a bond of fidelity with the past.  
Contribution this edition by David Fernández-Barrial.*