



NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

November 2016

Who Is Signing Our Checks?

This is not a very important question to find on the top of your to-do list, but it should be. Each auxiliary should review the appointment of its authorized signers at least once a year, and definitely when an authorized signer is changed. Bank account signers continue as valid until cancelled in writing by a majority of members, by auxiliary board vote, and, after notification is given in writing to the bank.

An authorized signer does by law assume a fiduciary duty to the members and all that means under the law. But, with a nonprofit organization like all NSAC auxiliaries, authorized signers also assume a separate legal liability to protect the interests, and INTENT of all donors, past and present.

Each auxiliary should review the appointment of its authorized signers at least once a year, and definitely when an authorized signer is changed.

If funds of a nonprofit are misappropriated in any manner causing injury to the members or the donors' intent, the auxiliary board members, and the signer can be held personally liable for resulting costs. Those costs could result in the signer sharing personal liability for any IRS fees or fines incurred, late fees, or other financial loss to vendors or mortgagors/land lords.

I advise all auxiliaries to have no more than two authorized signers on any account. I also strongly recommend that the person responsible for reconciling the account statements be a designated bookkeeper and NOT a signer. Finally, I recommend each auxiliary check with their banker and determine what their policies are regarding the limits and extent of a

signer's authority under the rules of that bank.

—Jeffrey Lucas, NSAC Counsel
Attorney at Law

Saving Our Spiritualist Churches, Report I

Saving our Spiritualist Churches: NSAC Delegates to the Rescue, was the title of the Thursday morning workshop during Convention 2016, held in October in St. Louis. Delegates were given a Questionnaire handout to complete, interactively, as the workshop proceeded. NSAC President Christine Krithades and Trustee James Ehrhart conducted the workshop. More than 115 attended and 102 completed and returned questionnaires. A 90%+ return is significant. Some delegates did not answer all of the questions. We are grateful to each delegate who came to the rescue. The complete results, with extensive comments, will be reported to NSAC Trustees and available as a PDF file to any member who wants a copy. (Request copy by email to nsacinfo@nsac.org showing subject as *SOSC Report*.)

Future issues of *NSAC News* will carry a series of articles with Questionnaire responses. For this issue questions 1 through 5 are reported. Comments have been summarized for questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Who are you?

13 delegates stated they were a member of a church only.

Seventy-six stated they were members of a church, also serving their church as follows: 24 Ordained Ministers; 16 National Spiritualist Teachers; 6 Licentiate Ministers; 18 Certified Mediums; 10 Commissioned Spiritualist Healers; 40 non-credentialed mediums; 49 non-commissioned healers; 19 pastors; 17 pastoral committee members; 51 church board members; 21 serving on various committees in their churches.

2. How often do you attend your church's religious services?

77 reported they attend weekly; 8 twice a month; 4 monthly; and 9 seldom.

3. What advice can you suggest that may encourage you or others to attend more frequently?

Responses were for better or improved Music: 50; Religious Service Speakers: 53; Platform workers (mediums and healers): 39; Chairpersons: 5; Ushers or Greeters: 19.

There were 47 comments. Following is a brief summary of suggestions: Music—Need for a revised hymnal,

Get excited about our religion. Promote a better, Spiritualist atmosphere in our churches . . .

with lively, energy-filled hymns, removing Christian-based hymns. Speakers and Platform workers—Higher standards for those speaking and for mediums; better, more-educated platform workers. Other suggestions to this question included—Get excited about our religion. Promote a better, Spiritualist atmosphere in our churches as people can sense negative energy. Let's conform to NSAC standards.

4. Do you, a church member, have ideas for the better education of our lecturers, speakers, mediums, healers, and teachers? Could you share your ideas in a few words?

There were 62 comments on the topic of education. What follows is a brief summary:

Emphasis on core Spiritualist teachings so as not to be led away by new age thinking. Ongoing opportunities for workshops and seminars for platform workers, including training with up-to-date information. Use prayer and meditation so Spirit can teach us for the benefit of both sides of the veil.

Those serving on the platform must be better trained in platform decorum. Everyone should have a better

understanding—through education—of the teachings of Spiritualism—follow the NSAC teachings for best practice for healers and mediums.

Use prayer and meditation so Spirit can teach us for the benefit of both sides of the veil.

Religious service sermons or talks should be about Spiritualism and speakers should acquire better skills in doing so.

Those who serve on the platform are the face of the religion of Spiritualism and we must present ourselves with dignity and professionalism. Better oversight and regular assessment by pastors, pastoral committees, missionaries, and NSAC Department of Education, of students who serve on the platform: especially speakers, Spiritualist healers, mediums. Encourage enrollment in the Morris Pratt Institute course; it provides a firm foundation for Spiritualists.

5. Does your church's religious service follow typical NSAC order of service? Explain and advise.

95 delegates answered *yes* to this question; and 5 answered *no*. A summary of 15 comments submitted follows:

A few churches include Christian prayers as part of their service, leaving attendees confused. Same comments about blatant Christian hymns, with excuse that *we have always used them*. Inappropriate reading of biblical passages, having no relationship to Spiritualism.

Spiritualist healing should take place in front of congregation or in another appropriate place which can be monitored by chair of healing service. Healers and mediums should be corrected when they act inappropriately. Study the Spiritualist *Healers and Mediums Do and Don't*.

Missionaries Appointed

NSAC Missionaries are appointed annually by the Board of Trustees at their post-convention meeting. We are pleased to welcome three new appointees this year: The Reverend Rosemary Calderalo, The Reverend

Bonnie Darby, and The Reverend Nancy Ryall.

Re-appointments for the 2016-17 year include the following ministers: Marilyn J. Awtry, Graham Connolly, Lelia Cutler, Maureen Eslick, Kevin Folsom, Vicky Homann, and Jennifer Neumann. Each member of the Board of Trustees also serves as a Missionary.

The main goal of the Department of Missionaries is to promote the general interest of NSAC by strengthening relationships and establishing working contacts between NSAC and its auxiliaries.

The NSAC Department of Missionaries is looking forward to a productive year. During a lunch-hour meeting at the recent NSAC Annual Convention in St. Louis, members of the Department met to brainstorm ideas

Spiritualism cannot grow if we do not have healthy and active churches and camps.

and goals, so as to be of even greater service to auxiliaries.

This year, we will continue to focus our efforts on creating an *active communication network* between the Department and *you*. Our number one job as Missionaries is to reach out, ask you what you need, and do our best to provide you with necessary resources. Spiritualism cannot grow if we do not have healthy and active churches and camps.

Regional missionary assignments will be finalized and announced in the near future, and the Missionary to be assigned to your area will be reaching out to establish contact. Please welcome communication from them. We are also pleased to announce that the Department will be partnering with the NST Club this year to provide a pool of teachers and workers who are available to assist with the educational needs of our auxiliaries.

If at any time you have any pressing questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Department directly. I am always available to speak with you and assist in any way.

—Jennifer Neumann, Director
Department of Missionaries
77 Kirby Avenue, Lower Rear

Lackawanna, NY 14218
716-860-1077
justjen114@yahoo.com

Thank you, Micheline



Kathy Riley, Micheline Corbin, and Carol Luetkens in a selfie on Micheline's last day at NSAC Headquarters.

Bylaws Not Republished

As no amendments to NSAC Bylaws were considered at Convention 2016, the Bylaws edition published in 2015 (*showing an adopted date of October 14, 2015*) remains current through Convention 2017 and will not be reprinted.

Reminders

January 31: Renewals of Credentials for LM, CM, and CH due at NSAC. (*file with church secretary; payable to church; church secretary forwards as group to NSAC Headquarters; OM holding CM and CH credentials are exempt from this filing*)

NSAC News

Published monthly by the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, 13 Cottage Row, PO Box 217, Lily Dale, New York 14752. 716-595-2000, www.nsac.org, nsacinfo@nsac.org.

To subscribe, make a request by email (Subject: NSAC News Request) from the address to which you want *NSAC News* sent. Your request must include: your name; and your church or camp name. A monthly email notice will contain a link to the NSAC website page from which a PDF copy can be viewed and downloaded.