National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

October 2016

## I I 5 Delegates AttendSt. Louis Convention

NSAC Convention 2016 was held in St. Louis October 9-14 and attended by 115 delegates. Others were present at evening services, many of whom were members of host church, Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis.

The Sheraton Westport Chalet proved to be an ideal venue for the Convention. It was located at Westport Plaza, in the Maryland Heights section of St. Louis, and offered a good variety of restaurants and clubs about the easily-walkable Plaza, adjacent to the Chalet. The weather allowed convention attendees the opportunity to take advantage of outside seating at some restaurants.

Many opted to attend Sunday services at Fifth Spiritualist Church, nearly filling the sanctuary. Pastor Marilyn Kalna presided, with Convention Host Committee Chair, Kevin Folsom, delivering the address. Attendees were invited to a social hour following the service. Hospitality of church members was everywhere present.



Gateway to Spiritualis

Back at Westport Chalet, delegates enjoyed the first event of the Convention, the Welcome Reception. This was followed by a

religious service on Sunday evening. Religious services continued Tuesday through Friday evenings. Services this year were shortened to one hour, ending at 8:30, to allow attendees more time for meetings and for earlier dining and socializing after the service. The Rite of Ordination took place following the service on Thursday for Pamela Bollinger, Spiritualist Church of the Comforter, Santa Barbara, California.

The Student Service, previously held during a break in the business session, was scheduled to take place as one of the evening services, on Thursday. The change seemed welcomed and allowed more time for business during daytime sessions.

Monday Workshops included a morning presentation by Brandon Hodge on planchettes and other early spirit communication devices. Jean Kerr Lerch presented the afternoon presentation, *Catch the Spirit*.

The Convention Banquet on Monday evening began with the 6:30 reception. After seating, Chair Kevin Folsom introduced his Host Committee members, followed by members of the NSAC Board of Trustees. NSAC President Christine Krithades welcomed attendees and presented the remainder of the evening's program, which included presentation of NSAC Awards for 2016 (see article elsewhere in this edition).

Following dinner, a performance by Show Me Arts Academy students captured the attention of attendees. This song-and-dance group showcased a talented group of local youths from Ferguson. After dinner, the local Griffin Underground Band provided music for dancing.

Convention presentations and workshops scheduled during the week included: Best Practices for Using Parliamentary Procedure, by Marguerite Gutt on Wednesday; Yes, You Can, An Overview of Fundraising, by Rosemary Calderalo on Wednesday; and Saving Our Spiritualist Churches, by James Ehrhart and Christine Krithades on Thursday. PDF copies of the handouts are available by email request to nsacinfo@nsac.org. The file on fundraising is a large file, approximately 4.5mb.

Proposed amendments to bylaws could not be considered at this convention as they were not mailed 45 days ahead of convention date, as required by bylaws. Delegates voted to postpone consideration to Convention 2017.

The resolution passed last year adding a New Business item to the Convention agenda took effect this year. Reports resulting from resolutions submitted at Convention 2015

were received under New Business and voted, as necessary, following delegate comments. These covered establishment of a Council for the Presentation of Spiritualism, report of the Fee Review Committee, and report of the Convention Committee. The next step for these resolutions will be for the Board of Trustees to draft and submit proposed bylaw changes in 115 Delegates continues on 2

### NSAC Awards for

## 2016 Presented

NSAC Awards for 2016 were announced by President Christine Krithades on Monday, October 20 at the Convention 2016 Banquet in St. Louis. Awards were presented to the following members:

#### **Teacher Award**

Susan Blessing, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, East Aurora, New York

James Ehrhart, Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, California

#### **Literary Award**

Bonnie Darby, The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana

#### **Outstanding Achievement Award**

Elaine Calhoun, Church of the Living Spirit, NSAC, Glendale, Arizona

#### Lifetime Service Award

Louise Peruch, Spiritual Science of Life Church, NSAC, San José, California Elizabeth Simpson, Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Spiritualist Church, NSAC, Bangor, Maine

#### **Auxiliary Achievement Award**

First Spiritualist Church of West Allis, West Allis, Wisconsin

Awards are based on nominations submitted by auxiliary members and voted by members of the NSAC Board of Trustees. The Auxiliary Achievement Award was created this year in recognition of the extraordinary community service provided to the homeless by members of the West Allis church during a bitter cold spell in southeastern Wisconsin.

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2017 to establish the Council, propose fee changes, and propose changes to convention scheduling.

The result of the resolution last year directing revision of the NSAC website was presented with notice to delegates of the address of the work-in-progress. Enter *nsac.secretcheese. com* into your browser to visit the site. Delegates were asked to comment by email to *nsacinfo@nsac.org*. Comments from delegates and others can be considered if received by November 10. The revised site is expected to be active by the end of the year.

A report on NSAC Convention 2017 was made by Carol Luetkens. The Convention will be in Milwaukee at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport hotel. The dates will be October 22-27, a week later than this year.

For the first time at this convention, NSAC missionaries met as a group in a meeting called by Jennifer Neumann, Director of the Department of Missionaries. Experienced ordained ministers who can travel and are interested in serving as missionaries should advise the NSAC Secretary as soon as possible by email to *nsacsecretary@nsac.org*. A phone number should be included.

Resolutions passed at this year's convention include establishment of an NSAC Social Media Policy and of a Headquarters Office Review Committee, and distribution to all auxiliaries of the NSAC Church Bylaws Model, with the requirement that auxiliaries within two years come into compliance with those articles, sections, or paragraphs required to be in each auxiliary's bylaws.

Due to the large cost of shipping NSAC Bookstore inventory to and from each convention, a new procedure was put in place for this convention. Only a display copy of each title was available. Those ordering books at the Convention received a 10% discount. Books shipped to their homes avoided luggage-weight concerns. It is expected that this plan will provide a saving not only to purchasers but to NSAC as well.

At the election for members of the Board of Trustees on Friday afternoon, Micheline Corbin withdrew from candidacy for NSAC Secretary. Carol Luetkens was elected Secretary. Luetkens is a founder and pastor of the New Beginning Spiritualist Church in Wonewoc, Wisconsin. She also is director and secretary of the Western Wisconsin Camp Association, known as Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp. Cosie Allen was re-elected as NSAC Vice President and Jacquelyn Randall as Trustee.

Local tours for Convention attendees took place on Thursday afternoon and on Saturday. Arranged by the Convention Host Committee, these showed the consistent good planning experienced by attendees at Convention 2016. A big thank you goes to each member of the St. Louis Host Committee.

#### **Certifications Issued**

Certifications have been granted as follows, during the period from July 1 through September 30, 2016:

Licentiate Minister: Debra Malison,

West Allis, Wisconsin

#### **Commissioned Spiritualist Healer:**

Colleen Cushman, Brooklyn, Wisconsin

Congratulations to these members for this achievement. They have continued their Spiritualist education and, applied for and been granted certification.

#### **NSAC** Certification

This column continues the series which began in August, and continues in subsequent editions. Selected questions are from *Questions and Answers about NSAC Certification*. Further questions about certification should be directed to June Killmer, Director, NSAC Department of Education at *junekillmer@surewest.net*.

## **Q** Where does one find the Affidavit forms for Healers and Mediums?

A Affidavit forms are available on the NSAC website Forms page, www.nsac.org. The forms should be readily available at each church. The church secretary should have copies. (Each church should announce from time to time that student mediums and student healers are required to obtain affidavits in order to apply for certification. Location of affidavit forms at the

church should be part of church announcements.)

# Q When making application for Mediumship or Healer certification, should the applicant submit only the required six affidavits?

A It is recommended that several additional affidavits (not to exceed twelve) be submitted with the application. By providing extra affidavits, if any are not acceptable, the applicant may not need to be contacted for more. (The examination process cannot continue until six affidavits have been approved by the NSAC Board of Trustees.)

## **Q** What is meant by "being well prepared for the examination?"

A Each NSAC certification has a Study Guide of topics for that examination. It is extremely important that the applicant study for the exam prior to making application. Once the application has been received, each examination section has a scheduled completion time, and it is assumed that the applicant can move forward without delay.

## $\mathbf{Q}$ Where does one obtain the Study Guides?

**A** When an application is received, the appropriate Study Guide is mailed, together with the Essay Examination. One may request a specific Study Guide from the NSAC Department of Education.

## **NSAC News**

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