



NSAC Website Has A New Look

The NSAC website will appear with a new look in mid-December. Reworking of the website has been underway for some months. Changes include a redesign of the home page to show more color and vibrancy; it features a large splash of sunflowers. Menu reorganization should make it easier for users to explore and navigate the site.

The reworked website was unveiled at the Annual Convention in St. Louis in October. Delegates were given the Internet address of the work in



progress and asked to comment. The address later appeared in NSAC News so others also could view and comment. Comments were received through November 10 and needed adjustments are being made.

The site now includes password-access, members-only areas, which contain forms, documents, and other information for NSAC members. To obtain the password, simply email nsacinfo@nsac.org, Subject: Website Access, and state your name and name of the church or camp at which you are a member in good standing.

Former Employee Returns

Pamela Reinhoudt has returned as a member of the NSAC Headquarters staff. She worked at NSAC from 2011 to 2014, when her relocation made it necessary to leave NSAC. Pamela and her husband recently returned to Lily
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SOSC, Report 2

Following is Report 2 of *Saving our Spiritualist Churches: NSAC Delegates to the Rescue*, interactive responses to a workshop questionnaire during the NSAC Convention held in early October, in St. Louis. The complete results with extensive comments, will be available by email as a PDF document, nsacinfo@nsac.org. Show subject as *SOSC Report*.

Look for additional responses in *NSAC News*. Questions 6 through 12 are reported here. Each sentence is a comment from a different delegate.

6. Does your church have a pastor or pastoral committee?

49 delegates stated they have a pastor; 39 a pastoral committee; and 11 stated they have both.

Comments: President of board acts as pastor. No pastor or pastoral committee; board runs it.

7. Do your church members vote to appoint position of Pastor or Pastoral Committee members?

49 delegates responded that they vote directly for pastor; 11 do not. 23 delegates responded that they vote

**Major conflict of interest!
This practice has to stop!**

directly for members of their pastoral committee; 17 do not. Five delegates reported that they do not know; two stated the pastor and pastoral committee are appointed by their board president; one delegate responded *haven't a clue*.

Comments: Appointed by president. Members vote for pastor; pastoral committee appointed at annual meeting. No voting on pastoral committee; this is board business. No, pastor appointed by board without member vote.

8. Does your pastor or member(s) of your pastoral committee also serve on the church board of directors (trustees)?

70 delegates responded yes that their pastor or members of their pas-

toral committee also serve on their church board; 25 responded no.

Comments: Too much overlap. Board functions essentially as pastoral committee. Yes on board but pastor does not have a vote. Major conflict of interest! This practice has to stop!

9. At your annual meeting, do you elect officer board positions (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, others); or does the board elect these positions after election to the board?

87 delegates responded that members of their church directly elect board members to specific positions. 14 do not.

Comments: Pastor tells everyone who to vote for! Also is sect and wants to be in control of the money also. "Ego." Members are given proper notice of annual meeting and elections; subject matter or important meeting to attend. Board fills vacancies. Members elect people to serve; elected people decide who will serve in which position. They intimidate anyone who runs or wants to run against anyone they want in that position.

10. In your church, is the Pastor or member of the Pastoral Committee also the President of the board of directors (trustees)?

6 delegates responded yes; 75 no.

Comments: The pastor is our secretary. President is member of pastoral committee.

11. Many NSAC churches are lacking a Pastor. Could you suggest how this may be remedied? Traveling ministers, missionaries, etc.?

Among 48 comments: Mentoring program to build leadership. More dynamic educational programs including a variety of teaching and learning opportunities. Perhaps helping to fund the traveling ministers and missionaries could be alternative and fill-in. Get your members trained via MPI and classes. "Circuit riders" a la original Methodism, by qualified NSAC member. The pastoral committee works well. Make MPI Course less on-

erous. Make Pastoral Skills more available. Occasional phone contact from the missionary would be nice. They should have to report to membership at convention if NSAC funds pay for them to visit auxiliaries. Encourage students to take MPI course and get credentialed. Mentoring, we need to train our people with everything we know. Make the examination process easier. Encourage the use of MPI students to work platform. Do not have non-MPI students or others running the show. Getting the egos out of the congregation's board and have everyone on the same page. Stop the fear of the board of directors that if they appoint a pastor; then the pastor will have control and the board won't. Promote church members who seem qualified.

12. In your opinion, who really "runs" your church?

41 delegates responded that their pastor "runs" the church; 20 said the pastoral committee does; 32 responded that their board president "runs" the church; 35 responded that a combination of pastor, pastoral committee, board president do so. Respondents had more than one choice for this question.

Among 30 comments: Pastoral committee and board. One person on our pastoral committee bullies others. Most work together. Pastor with president's approval. We all do! Collaborative combination: spiritual = pastor; board = business. Pastor (*platform*); board president (*church*). Very cooperative. The OM who "owns" the church.

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Dale. She is thrilled to be able to rejoin NSAC and looks forward to 2017 being a year of love and light for our office and all of NSAC.

ISF Events in Maryland-Virginia Area

The International Spiritualist Federation will present events in the USA (*Maryland-Virginia area*) on March

24-26, 2017 at Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, 1540C Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716. The events are sponsored locally by Serenity Guides, Crownsville, Maryland, and the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC, Falls Church, Virginia.

For more information and online registration, visit www.theisf.com/event/usa-2017.

Transition

The Reverend E. Ann Otzelberger made her transition to the spirit side of life on December 6, 2016. Ann is a well-known minister and teacher in NSAC with her very active forty-five-year membership. She served on the Board of Trustees from 2005 through 2011. As a National Spiritualist Teacher, Ann worked diligently to help those who wanted to learn about Spiritualism and progress to earn their credentials.

Ann also held certification as a Medium and Commissioned Healer, and served many times in both capacities at NSAC annual conventions. Her love of Spiritualism was evident in all her undertakings. She authored two publications for the religion, one on Natural Law and the other on Platform Decorum. The four service clubs benefited from Ann's leadership for many years, as did the NSAC departments of Education and Missionaries.

As the founding pastor of The New Vision Spiritualist Center in Orlando, Florida, Ann was dedicated to carrying on her tradition of teaching and helping students progress, while demonstrating devotion and sincere caring for the needs of her congregation. Ann was an inspiration to all.

A memorial service for the Reverend Otzelberger will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at the Spiritualist Church of Awareness, NSAC, 3210 North Chickasaw Trail, Orlando, Florida.

Receipts Discontinued

In the interest of economy and efficiency, NSAC will discontinue prepa-

ration and mailing of receipts for purchases paid by check or by credit card. This change does not apply to loan payments or donations. In any instance where there is a special need for a receipt, it must be requested at time of purchase or by email from nsacaccounting@nsac.org. Be sure to state what was purchased, date of purchase, name of purchaser, and address to which receipt should be mailed.

Reminders

January 25: Observance of Founders Day honoring Andrew Jackson Davis and the founding of the Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum

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

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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.