



# NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

January 2017

## Certifications Issued

Certifications have been granted as follows, during the period from October 1 through December 31, 2016:

**Ordained Minister:** Pamela Bollinger, Santa Barbara, California; Bonnie Crosier, LeRoy, Illinois; Debra Malison, West Allis, Wisconsin

**National Spiritualist Teacher:** Pamela Bollinger, Santa Barbara, California

**Commissioned Spiritualist Healer:** Elaine T. Calhoun, Glendale, Arizona; Stacy Kopchinski, West Allis, Wisconsin

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

## Absent Healing Requests

Requests for Absent Healing for an individual now can be made using the *Contact Us* form on the NSAC website, [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org). The form is found on the Contact menu item on the right side of the home page.

Healing requests will forward to the NSAC Healing Center. If submitting more than one name, a separate message must be sent for each name. Names will appear on the Spiritual Healing Request list for two months unless earlier removal is requested.

## Trustees Assigned

All members of the NSAC Board of Trustees each year are assigned as representatives to NSAC auxiliaries. Assignments are made by state, area, or city. This year's assignments are:

Arizona: Jim Ehrhart

California (*Monrovia*): Havivah Richards

California (*Northern*): Jim Ehrhart

California (*Sacramento*): Havivah Richards

California (*Santa Barbara*): Cosie Allen

Colorado: Havivah Richards

Connecticut: Jackie Randall

Delaware: Bunny Starr

District of Columbia: Christine Krithades

Florida: Janet Watson

Illinois: June Killmer

Indiana: Cosie Allen

Iowa: Janet Watson

Maine: Carol Luetkens

Maryland: Christine Krithades

Massachusetts: Jackie Randall

Michigan: Cosie Allen

Minnesota (Rochester): Janet Watson

Minnesota (St. Paul): Carol Luetkens

Missouri: Janet Watson

Nebraska: Janet Watson

Nevada: Havivah Richards

New Hampshire: Carol Luetkens

New Jersey: Bunny Starr

New York: Carol Luetkens

Ohio: Cosie Allen

Pennsylvania: Bunny Starr

Texas: Christine Krithades

Virginia: Christine Krithades

Washington: June Killmer

West Virginia: Bunny Starr

Wisconsin: Carol Luetkens

## Exciting Opportunity

Registrations are being accepted for the International Spiritualist Federation training event, being held in the US March 24-26, 2017. The event is sponsored locally by Serenity Guides, Crownsville, Maryland, and the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC, Falls Church, Virginia. Tutors will be ISF President Robin Hodson and NSAC's Rev. Richard P. Schoeller, ISF Vice President. Participants can choose between classes in trance mediumship and mental mediumship. There also will be demonstrations of mental mediumship on Friday evening and a demonstration of trance mediumship on Sunday, after the service at CSE at which Robin and Richard will serve. Classes are \$125 and demonstrations are each \$25. Pre-registration is required for the classes; registration is recommended for the demonstrations but you may also register at the door. For more details and to register, please visit <https://www.theisf.com/event/usa-2017>.

## Saving Our Spiritualist Churches, Report 3

See additional two-page EXTRA for SOSC Report 3. Report includes results of NSAC Convention 2016 workshop, as delegates came to the rescue, advising and commenting on questions 13 through 22. Remaining questions 23-29 will be reported in next issue of *NSAC News*.

## Did You Know . . .

That the recorded minutes of board meetings should be destroyed as soon as minutes are adopted? Adopted minutes become the official record of the meeting. It is recommended that boards adopt a rule or procedure for the handling of recordings, such as: *The recordings of meetings will be used for the sole purpose of aiding the secretary in writing the minutes, and will be destroyed once the minutes are approved.*

## NSAC Certification

This column continues the series which began in August, and appeared in August, September, and October editions. Selected questions are from *Questions and Answers about NSAC Certification*. Further information about certification should be directed to June Killmer, Director, NSAC Department of Education at [junekillmer@surewest.net](mailto:junekillmer@surewest.net).

### Q What is the best way to study for the examination?

A No one method is better than another, since each person may have different ways of reviewing information. First and foremost, review the questions and your answers from the correspondence course. Research information for each topic of the Study Guide from your written answers. Some people like to make flash cards to study. Others prefer to make a recording of the material and listen to it over and over.

**Q Where does an applicant obtain an application form for certification or ordination?**

**A** Applications are available on the NSAC website Forms page, [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org).

**Q Where does the applicant send the completed application for certification or ordination?**

**A** Submit the completed application and all required documents, together with the appropriate fee (*check payable to your church*), to your church secretary for church board review. The action of the church Board of Trustees will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. (*An approved application, with a church check, is sent to NSAC Department of Education or, when applicable, to the state association.*)

**Q What kind of examination will an applicant be expected to complete?**

**A** With all credentials or ordination, an applicant is expected to answer two pages of general questions, and write an essay consisting of a given number of words about the topics provided. The topics given have a point value to indicate the importance of the topics.

**Q Will the essay section of the exam be sent automatically following the receipt of the application?**

**A** In the case of the Medium and Healer applications, the affidavits will be reviewed and approved by the NSAC Board of Trustees prior to issuing the essay section of these two exams. Upon receipt of applications for other credentials, the essay section will be sent automatically to the applicant to be completed "open book" and returned directly to the NSAC Department of Education.

**Q How much time is allowed for the essay?**

**A** All examination material leaving NSAC Department of Education is dated and is to be returned within 45 days.

**Q May an applicant have assistance writing the essay?**

**A** No, the applicant must do their own work. If an applicant is unable

to use a computer, someone else may do the word processing for them.

**Q What is the other part of the exam?**

**A** With Licentiate Minister, Medium, Healer, and National Spiritualist Teacher there is a second section (written), which is issued after satisfactory completion of the essay. The Licentiate Minister, Medium, and Healer exams are administered at the local level. The Ordained Minister and NST applicants each have an oral examination before members of the NSAC Board of Trustees. The NST also includes a written examination.

**Q How much time is allowed for the written exam for Medium, Healer, and Licentiate Minister?**

**A** The same 45-day limit also applies for the testing materials to be received, the test administered, and returned to the NSAC Department of Education. The actual written examination may take from two to three hours to complete.

**Q Who administers the exam for Medium, Healer, and Licentiate Minister?**

**A** A committee of three persons at the church level administers the exams for these credentials. It is required that the chair of the committee hold the same credential as being tested, or higher, in order to serve as the committee chair. Other committee members need not hold credentials but must be an NSAC church member.

Chair for Medium's exam: Medium, Ordained Minister, or NST

Chair for Healer's exam: Healer, Ordained Minister, or NST

Chair for Licentiate Minister exam: Licentiate Minister, Ordained Minister, or NST

## Bookstore News

A good resource for churches:

**Raising Vibrations.** An audio CD collection of 33 traditional Spiritualist hymns. The Bookstore is featuring this perfect musical accompaniment for Spiritualist religious services. Performed by a chorus at Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, this collection of hymns is recorded in an uplifting and revitalizing cadence, especially for

NSAC. Churches without a regular musician will find this CD an excellent resource for including music in services. *Raising Vibrations* also includes five inspirational harp solos performed by Carla Gee, GGSC musician. This CD is specially priced to make it affordable to everyone. It can make a perfect gift for those unable to attend services.

CDS012, \$12.00

Order from NSAC Bookstore, PO Box 217, Lily Dale, NY 14752, [nsacbookstore@nsac.org](mailto:nsacbookstore@nsac.org), 716-595-2000. Checks and credit cards accepted. If order total is \$100 or more, prepayment of 50% is required.

## 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*)

**January 31:** Mail IRS forms 1099 and W-2 to recipients

## NSAC News

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## EXTRA

### Saving Our Spiritualist Churches, Report 3

Following is Report 3 of *Saving Our Spiritualist Churches: NSAC Delegates to the Rescue*, responses to workshop questionnaire during NSAC Convention 2016 held in October, in St. Louis. 102 delegates interactively answered the 29 questions as the workshop proceeded. We are grateful to each one 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](mailto:nsacinfo@nsac.org) showing subject as *SOSC Report*.)

The next issue of *NSAC News* will carry an article reporting on the remaining seven questions including delegate comments and advice. For this January edition, questions 13 through 22 are reported. A few random comments follow question statistics. Note that each sentence is a comment from a different delegate.

#### **13. How often does your pastor or a pastoral committee member give the address (sermon) during church service?**

28 delegates responded weekly; 21 monthly; 43 other various responses. Among more than 40 additional comments: Travels a lot to other churches. Sunday for pastor; Wednesday for students; plus one guest speaker a month. Pastor spoke one time in the past year. We like diversity in our speakers. Pastor serves with sermon always. We have weekly speakers from church and neighboring area.

#### **14. If a Pastor's or Board President's ego is out of control, for example, could you suggest measures to bring it back to normal?**

This question provoked the most comments, with more than 75. Sampling of comments: Continually teach the principles of our Religion. Define ego to out-of-control board president. Mediation, checks and balances between board and pastors, pastoral committee. Ego has no place in church but it is hard to control, as they usually crash. Request mediation with NSAC missionary. A 2 x 4 works! There is no place in Spiritualism for ego! If you are motivated, one needs to step up, and reassess your true reason for being on the board or as the pastor. EGO—easing God out. Prayer. Intervention with help from state association or National. Keep loving them. Try to understand the insecurities that cause them to act this way. Divine order, this too shall pass.

#### **15. How can qualified student mediums and healers progress if they are being "held back" by their Pastor or Board?**

Delegates provided 74 comments; 8 indicated not applicable; 20 did not respond. Some comments: With the need for this, I can't imagine this happening; but would suggest that they contact NSAC Board. Have witnessed excessive over-control (*in another church*) of those trying to advance. It seemed demoralizing and excessive and punitive; and it was sad to observe; suggest remove excessive limits that exist. Board members should not have control over workers. That is a good way to kill the church; we need enthusiastic folks; and training is still important to finding a happy middle. They can't—the pastor's responsibility is to continue to encourage growth and progress of student workers. They cannot progress unless given platform time. They should not be held back at anytime if they are moving forward in the right manner. File a

grievance. Seek help from NSAC missionary and appointed NSAC Board Representative.

#### **16. When guest workers are invited to serve your church as a platform worker, class or workshop teacher, who makes the "spiritual" decision? Are these guests vetted? Does their teaching and platform decorum conflict with NSAC guidelines and our Spiritualist Philosophy? Please answer as concisely as you can.**

Overall 30 delegates responded that either the pastor or pastoral committee made the "spiritual decision" to invite a guest worker. Equally, 30 delegates responded that it was a combination of pastor and/or pastoral committee extending invitation and that church board had to approve. Not every delegate responded to this question. 25 out of the 60 respondents indicated that the invited guest worker was vetted (*checked out before serving church*). 16 guest workers were not. Remainder did not answer question. 22 delegates indicated that the invited guest worker's teaching and platform decorum was in conflict with NSAC guidelines and our Spiritualist Philosophy. Some churches issued disclaimers if it was known that guest workers were in conflict with NSAC guidelines and Spiritualist Philosophy

#### **17. During the past 2-5 years, has a person or persons, without any NSAC Spiritualist credentials, "wiggled" their way into your church and attempted to wrest control and impose non-NSAC teachings? How did your church take care of this? Explain or advise how others may stop this infiltration?**

30 delegates answered *yes* to this question (*attempts to wrest control were made*). 45 stated *no* to any at-

tempt to take control of the church. 4 delegates stated they did not know or were unaware. Others did not answer question. 29 delegates offered suggestions on how they handled attempts. Among the 47 comments: Ethics complaints, resulting in NSAC Board intervention that removed insurgent leadership and most of their followers left with them. Yes, the church is afraid to deal with it because of a fear of losing members and therefore Spiritualism gets diluted. I left that church. Yes, twice, National was contacted and put a stop to it. Guest speakers are vetted and when this happens these folks are uninvited or confronted by leadership. We notified NSAC and received guidance. Be firm in asserting the rules of what is required in the church.

**18. Over the past year, how many persons without NSAC Spiritualist credentials served your church: how many/how often?**

Non-credentialed Speakers: 36, serving once or twice a year; often (*sometimes weekly or monthly*); 90-95% of the time. Non-credentialed Message Bearers: 96 total, serving at half of church services; often; at every service. Non-credentialed Spiritual Healers: 150 total, serving one or two times a year; often; at every service. 76 delegates responded to above statistics, and 12 responded with none; 10 were unsure or didn't know, 4 responded with the word "students." Among the 21 comments: Trained by us or we don't use them. Went

through platform decorum at our church and follow NSAC guidelines. Countless non-NSAC credentialed speakers. Non-credentialed speaker on Sunday only. Every Sunday we have non-credentialed workers as a speaker, message bearer, or spiritual healer. 25 non-credentialed speakers serve our church annually. Most of our workers are not credentialed but are members of NSAC and some are trained by other Spiritualist organizations in England.

**19. Are any of those in question 18, above, paid by your church for serving?**

All: 20 paid. Few: 14 paid. Some: 18 paid. None: 43 not paid for serving. Among the 29 comments: Not paid but usually small donation to special guests traveling to church. Pastor and visiting workers stipend. Speakers only an honorarium, very basic. All speakers are paid. Pastor receives housing allowance and stipend. Guest events: visiting guest do a 70/30 split of proceeds. Only if they do a workshop.

**20. Does your church permit non-NSAC credentialed workers to advertise their services on your website, social media, church bulletin, or fliers or business cards displayed at church? If yes, explain.**

15 delegates responded *yes*; 69 responded *no*. 6 responded "don't know." Some of the 26 comments follow: Yes, selectively. If deemed appropriate they can be posted on bulletin

board at church. If an event held at church it's posted in our newsletter. Business cards only if they do not conflict. Yes, on a separate table, very limited. No advertising. Overall no, we have a bulletin board for use—must be approved by board.

**21. Does your church sponsor or participate in mediums days or psychic fairs? If yes, explain.**

66 delegates answered *yes*; 27 answered *no*. Among the 61 comments: They are trying to bring in tarot and numerology. Yes, using certified (*NSAC*) mediums and our advanced student mediums. Yes, all profit goes to church. Yes, mediums days are our primary bread and butter. No psychic fairs; but we do have mediums days as well as a healing Saturday. Two mediums fairs annually, using only NSAC mediums and MPI students (*they receive no money*). Not anymore. Yes, but only at our church so we don't break rules. We do this as a fundraiser; but no psychics.

**22. If yes to 21 above, do you post a disclaimer in a prominent area stating NSAC does not endorse the use of tarot cards, crystals, pendulums, Ouija board, palmistry?**

31 delegates responded *yes*; 36 responded *no*; 3 didn't know. Among the 20 comments: No, but now we will. Sometimes. No, explained it verbally. Disclaimer always posted. We put NSAC disclaimer in our flyers. Not done at my church. No, only use NSAC mediums and student mediums. We will.