



NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsan.org

August 2017

Annual Convention 2017 October 22-27



Planning is underway for NSAC's Annual Convention 2017, hosted this year by New Beginning Spiritualist Church and by Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association NSAC of Wonewoc. Its theme will be *Strength in Spiritualism*. The Convention will be held October 22-27 at Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport hotel.

Information on the Convention appears in *The National Spiritualist Summit* and will appear on the NSAC website in the next few days. To access the Convention pages, click on News & Conventions in the upper-right corner of the home page.

Online registration with payment by credit or debit cards can be made on the NSAC website, including registration for the workshop on Monday. For registration mail-in with payment, download and use the PDF fill-in Registration Request form. The form also will appear in the TNS magazine for September-October.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling 414-764-5300. The rate is \$109 per night plus tax, for one or two persons per room. This rate includes two breakfast buffets each day, free wi-fi, and free parking. Be sure to use the reservation code "NSAC Convention" to obtain the contracted rate.

An alternative to the Milwaukee airport is flying into Chicago and taking CoachUSA to the Milwaukee airport. Chicago fares may be cheaper. web.coachusa.com/CoachUsaAssets/files/105/Airport%20Express.pdf

NSAC Treasurer Mid-Year Report

The increased level of activity for the Treasurer is such that I want to make this report now, since the Convention report is centered primarily on financial data.

Due to the unexpected withdrawal of the secretary for reelection at election time and the turnover of office personnel, I took up the task of reconciling Convention funds for NSAC and with the host church. A breakdown was prepared for posting.

Since becoming Treasurer, this work has increased with the task of reviewing each auxiliary's annual report. That involves receiving inquiries regarding how to record financial data and follow-up with auxiliaries when there are errors and omissions. The good news is that there has been a 30% improvement in the reports filed between 2015 and 2016. We are hoping this year for an acceptance rate of

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70-80%. I believe people now know there is someone at NSAC they can call for help about recording and reporting the financial data.

This year NSAC moved its accounting records to QuickBooks from older problematic software. My business experience with QuickBooks came to the rescue. I spent three weeks in Lily Dale in April helping with this enormous task. It included internal auditing and general "cleanup" of many accounts. We found several "hidden" accounts which would otherwise have gone unnoticed. Follow-up on most of these was passed to NSAC Secretary Carol Leutkens. We spent many 10- to 12-hour days working to complete most of the project before Spring Board Meeting.



Treasurer Janet Watson, Secretary Carol Luetkens, and Administrators Bobbie Caswell and Pamela Reinhoudt at NSAC Headquarters

Returning home in May, I have continued to work with the office, helping when needed. The new system enables me to have remote access and has made this activity much more efficient. Routine regular work of the Treasurer includes approval, review and preparation of bill paying, and posting of investment fund activity. The NSAC accountants now are preparing their yearly report. Next, I will prepare the annual reports for Convention. In addition to transparency I hope to make reports easier to read and understand.

This has been the busiest year of my work as NSAC Treasurer. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and to be of assistance to those who contact me for help.

—Janet Watson, Treasurer

Dealing with Church Bullies

Last month, we listed nine traits of church bullies. We now move from descriptive to prescriptive. How do we deal with church bullies? What can we do to prevent such bullying? Here are some suggestions:

1. Seek to have a small group to preserve the unity of the church.

This informal group could be appointed to assist the church board, pastor or pastoral committee in dealing with conflict, complaints, dissension.

2. **Encourage members to speak and stand up to church bullies.** Bullying thrives in a church where the majority remains in silent fear of church bullies. Bullies tend to back down when confronted by strong people in the church. We just need more strong people. Address this via a letter or from the platform, if necessary.
3. **Make certain the church board does not become a useful instrument to church bullies.** Many churches have ambiguous structures and lines of accountability. Organization is weak and ill-defined. Bullies take advantage of the ambiguity and interpret things according to their nefarious needs.
4. **Be willing to exercise church discipline.** Church discipline is a forgotten essential of many churches. Bullies need to know there are consequences for their actions, and church discipline may be one of them.
5. **Have a healthy process to put the best-qualified persons in positions of leadership in the church.** Bullies often are able to push around less qualified people who have found themselves in positions of leadership. There should be a spiritually and strategically designed process to choose and encourage strong people for key leadership positions (*church board, pastor or pastoral committee*).
6. **Have a healthy process to hire church staffs if size of church membership warrants.** For example, an egregious mistake would be the church's hiring of a senior staff member without the enthusiastic support of the pastor. If the pastor and new staff member do not have good chemistry, a church bully can quickly pit one against the other. A unified church staff—including church board, pastor or pastoral committee—is a major roadblock for a church bully.
7. **Encourage a celebratory environment in the church.** Joyous churches deter bullies. They like somber and divided churches. Suggest receptions, dinners, and other social celebratory events often.

Church bullying is more widespread than we often like to admit. We hope these suggestions can help keep the bullies out of your church.

—Portions of this article were originally published at www.ThomRainer.com on April 1, 2015.

Student Participation at Convention Service

A student service is held at NSAC conventions to help students gain affidavits needed when applying for credentials. NSAC members who are MPI students may apply to work as student healers or mediums at this service by submitting the Student Service Participation Request, included in the monthly mailing for August. The form also is available on the NSAC website Forms page under Convention, www.nsac.org/member-pages.

Annual Reports Due August 31

Annual reports from each chartered auxiliary (*church, camp, school, and state association*), including payment of all fees, are due NSAC post-marked no later than August 31. Report forms are included in the monthly mailing for July or may be downloaded from the NSAC website Forms page, www.nsac.org/member-pages.

The form includes a single statement for notary witnessing of both the president and secretary signing at the same time. If this needs to be done separately, download the file with alternate pages 3 and 4 of the annual report, which provides two notary statements. Alternate pages 3 and 4 are not PDF fill-in enabled.

Reminders

August 1: *Credential Renewal Application* due to church secretary from Ordained Ministers, National Spiritualist Teachers, and NSAC Missionaries

August 11: Birth date of Andrew Jackson Davis

August 13: Spiritual Science Day

August 22: Proposed Bylaw amendment filing deadline

August 31: *Annual Report and Convention Delegate Credential* forms from each auxiliary due at NSAC. Check for earlier due date if member of state association

September 24: Observe NSAC Day.

September 27: Anniversary of NSAC founding in 1893.

October 22-27: NSAC Convention 2017, Milwaukee

Bookstore News

Featured this month . . .

Convention Workshop DVD's:

Best Practices for Using Parliamentary Procedure, The Reverend Marguerite Gutt, NST

DVD 020, \$10.00

Conflict Resolution, The Reverend Christine Krithades, NST

DVD 010, \$10.00

Roles of Pastor / Minister / Board, The Reverend Ann Otzelberger, NST

DVD 012, \$10.00

Saving Our Spiritualist Churches, The Reverend James Ehrhart, NST and The Reverend Christine Krithades, NST

DVD 018, \$10.00

Yes, You Can! An Overview of Fundraising, The Reverend Rosemary Calderal, NST

DVD 022, \$10.00

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

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