



NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

November 2019

NSAC Awards Presented

NSAC Awards were presented at Convention 2019 to the following recipients:

Teacher Award: Frank Kotowski

Literary Award: The Reverend James Ehrhart

Lifetime Service Award: The Reverend Lelia Cutler

Congratulations to these recipients.

New NSAC Secretary

JoAnn Santonocito was elected NSAC Secretary at Convention 2019.

She was ordained as an NSAC minister in 2017 and helped charter a new church, Attunement Spiritualist Chapel that same year. The Reverend Santonocito serves as pastor of the Hamburg, New York church.



Prior to helping organize the new NSAC church, JoAnn was a member of First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora for 14 years. During this time, she served as President, Vice

President, and assisted the secretary and the treasurer. She also was a member of the Pastoral Committee.

JoAnn has been employed as a heavy-equipment operator for the past 18 years, working as a safety trainer for 14 of those years.

JoAnn has AAS degrees in Business Administration and in Construction Technology and Architecture. She also earned a BPS in Architecture.

Her hobbies include kayaking and fishing. She resides with her cat, Bogy, whom she rescued at one day old from a golf course on which she was working.

A native of western New York, the Reverend Santonocito lives less than an hour from Lily Dale and expects to be at NSAC Headquarters on a frequent basis.

Thanks

Two members of the NSAC Board of Trustees ended their terms of service at Convention 2019: The Reverend Carol Luetkens and The Reverend Jacquelyn Randall. Sincere thanks to these individuals for their service to the organization, and best wishes in the time ahead.

Headquarters Activity

NSAC's staff has worked since the Convention to make sure all donations are accounted for and credited to the proper designated fund. After receipt of outstanding pledges, hopefully by next month, a summary will be reported in the *NSAC News*.

All payments received have been reviewed and deposit made of any checks not previously deposited. Thanks to everyone for their patience. If you or your auxiliary discovers outstanding checks not cleared, please let us know at nsacsecretary@nsac.org or 716-595-2000.

Credentialed workers not having received their Travel Card following this year's renewal also should contact NSAC at the email or phone above.

We want to be responsive to changes in auxiliary and credentialed-worker listings. If a listing has changed or does not appear, let us know by email at nsacsecretary@nsac.org. Remember, your renewal must have been filed and all fees due paid by cutoff time for the *NSAC Yearbook* or for periodic group changes prepared for website update. Individual updates to website listings cannot be accommodated.

Activities and responsibilities at NSAC Headquarters are being reviewed. After completion, we plan to report findings, needs, and action recommended or taken, including announcement of staff openings.

Presently, contractors qualified for roofing work and for tree removal are needed. Should you want to refer

someone nearby, please let us know by November 23.

Long-Range Planning Finally Launches

The NSAC Long-Range Planning Committee's effort finally launched on Wednesday, October 2, at Convention 2019. LRPC Chair Steve Vogel and LRPC member Rosemary Caldero recruited nine of the attending delegates to facilitate nine voluntary small-group processes that brainstormed answers to seven timed questions in turn:

1. What don't you like about the organization or are angry about?—5 minutes
2. What is it about Spiritualism that drew you to it?—5 minutes
3. Why did you join a Spiritualist church?—5 minutes
4. What do you think of as strengths of the organization?—5 minutes
5. What are the things/offerings you think would draw in more people?—10 minutes
6. What do you think would help NSAC the most?—15 minutes
7. As a group, prioritize what five items feel the most important, ranging from most important as Number 1, second important Number 2, etc.—10 minutes

The LRPC then collected all the flipchart papers and posted them by group on two walls of the convention hall for delegates to study and photograph.

On Friday, the LRPC reported its initial analysis of their top 45 priorities back to the delegates:

1. Outreach and Advertising—10 mentions
2. Modernizing and Technology—8 mentions
3. Improvement in Leadership—8 mentions
4. Education—7 mentions
5. Four-way tie: Families/Finances/Communications/Member Involvement—3 mentions each

The LRPC then outlined its ambitious plan of action as follows:

- Transcribe all the group papers and post the digital transcriptions on the NSAC website.
- Analyze the content of all the group papers to identify first-level themes and priorities; post these data on the NSAC website.
- Use this core information to develop a refined set of questions.
- Distribute this refined set of questions to auxiliaries and members *via* both the monthly NSAC mailing and SurveyMonkey, with a 30-day window for responses.
- Conduct a detailed analysis of all survey data to develop new digital transcripts and common themes, recommendations, and priorities.
- Convert these first- and second-returns into Goals, Objectives, and Actions of a Preliminary Long-Range Strategic Plan for the NSAC for 1-, 5-, and 10-year targets.
- Submit Preliminary Plan to the NSAC Board of Trustees at their Spring Meeting.
- Apply Board feedback to produce a revised Long-Range Strategic Plan.
- Submit Committee report and revised Long-Range Strategic Plan to Convention 2020 delegates for review and adoption.
- NSAC Board of Trustees begins to implement revised Long-Range Plan at its Post-Convention Meeting.

Watch for our new follow-on survey during November 2019. The NSAC/LRPC very much looks forward to receiving your input. Please forward ideas, questions, or comments to Steve Vogel, LRPC Chair at steven.j.vogel@earthlink.net or 703-241-3763.

A Note from the Department of Missionaries

The Department of Missionaries continues to keep active, moving Spiritualism forward and onward. Due to the bylaw change adopted at Convention 2019, missionary appointments now will be made at the NSAC Spring Trustee Meeting. Current missionary positions will remain as appointed until then.

With deepest gratitude, we give our thanks and love to the Rev. Bonnie Darby and the Rev. Marilyn Awtry and wish them each a successful retirement from the Missionary Department. And heartfelt congratulations to the Rev. JoAnn Santonocito on her election to the position of NSAC Secretary. We are sincerely grateful for their past work as Missionaries and heartened as they continue to serve Spiritualism.

If these Missionaries were appointed to your state, know that the Missionary Department is here for you. Please contact me at 650-773-6743 or pjobollinger@gmail.com if help is needed.

We will keep you informed of further appointments or any other changes in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, let us take this time of Thanksgiving to give our gratitude to Infinite Intelligence and count all the many blessings in our lives.

—*Pamela Bollinger, Director
NSAC Department of Missionaries*

New MPI Happiness Course A Bestseller

The Morris Pratt Institute's 27-lesson, *Spiritualism: A Religion of Happiness* course was launched last month at NSAC Convention 2019. The first printing sold out during the Convention!

A new supply now is available from MPI.

The *Happiness* course is based on H. Gordon Burrough's 1962 Spiritualist classic, *Becoming a Spiritualist*.

The new course was originally designed for ministers and teachers as facilitators in a classroom setting; but also can be used for individual spiritual study. Either way, this course brings enlightenment and a greater understanding of what it means to be a Spiritualist in the 21st century.

Order now! Contact Morris Pratt Institute at info@morrispratt.org or 414-774-2994. In addition to other payment options, MPI now accepts payments through PayPal. If you would like to pay this way, please email your order and you will be sent an invoice through PayPal.

Don't forget to like MPI on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Americaspiritualistcollege/.

Transition

Alice Jane Fanslau

Alice Jane Fanslau, LM, CM, Pastor of Spiritual Science & Philosophy Church, NSAC made her transition on October 17, 2019. She was considered a mainstay of the Omaha church.

Gratitude Corner

Thank you to all those who stepped up and stayed after convention to inventory and box up all the ways-and-means items. Your efforts made the work easier.

Thank you to the Rev. Cosie Allen who came to Lily Dale to spend over a week organizing file drawers and making some sense of the stacks of paperwork.

Thank you to Jan Watson who is at the NSAC Headquarters assisting in corrections of accounting records.

Are there members in your church or camp who deserve special recognition for their continuing service in helping build and support your auxiliary? Gratitude Corner is a place where they can be introduced and publicly thanked.

To express appreciation to these members in this column, simply contact NSAC with details at nsacsecretary@nsac.org or 716-595-2000.

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