The NSAC Healing Center maintains and publishes an Absent Healing Request List which is distributed monthly to auxiliaries. Local auxiliaries may use this healing list in their church services and healing meditation classes to send healing to those requesting it.

The Spiritualist Benevolent Society honors members who have given so much to Spiritualism and the NSAC by providing monthly stipends to elderly or disabled credentialed members needing financial assistance.

NSAC has maintained a continuous record of its history in the archives of the Research Library at the NSAC Headquarters. Material in the Research Library includes convention minutes, early Spiritualist publications, and current NSAC publications, as well as other publications and books related to Spiritualism.

Spiritualist and NSAC Publications

The NSAC Bookstore at the Headquarters maintains a large inventory of Spiritualist and NSAC publications. The book catalog is available online through our NSAC website, www.nsac.org.

A periodical is published by the NSAC and available by subscription from the website:

Spotlight – *(The NSAC Lyceum Spotlight)*

This bimonthly magazine is a simple way to bring an understanding of Spiritualism to the young of all ages.

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Spiritualism and NSAC

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Modern American Spiritualism

Modern American Spiritualism traces its beginning back to the middle of the 19th century, in western New York State. By the end of the century, it had spread across the United States and around the world. Its followers numbered in the hundreds of thousands. Despite this phenomenal growth, opposition arose to the fact that mediums could prove that life is continuous after so-called death. Strong attempts were made to discredit Spiritualism and this understanding.

Spiritualists Organize

To protect from government interference and control, Spiritualist began to organize and eventually realized the need to establish their religion in terms which would preclude government regulation. Thus, was born a national organization of Spiritualists, recognized as a religion under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The National Spiritualist Association, later renamed the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC), was incorporated as a religious organization on November 3, 1893, in Washington, D.C. NSAC is recognized as the oldest and most respected Spiritualist Church organization in the United States. Whenever the legal position of any independent Spiritualist society comes into question, a comparison can be made between that society and what NSAC represents. NSAC is not a Christian-based organization.

Objectives of Spiritualism

The mission of the Religion of Spiritualism as represented by the NSAC is, in part, as follows:

- **To teach** the truths and principles expressed in its *Declaration of Principles* and in the definitions of Spiritualism, a Spiritualist, a Medium, and a Spiritualist Healer.
- **To teach and proclaim** the Science, Philosophy and Religion of Modern Spiritualism.
- **To encourage** lectures on all subjects pertaining to the spiritual and secular welfare of humanity.
- **To protest** against every attempt to compel humanity to worship God in any particular or prescribed manner.
- **To advocate and promote** spiritual healing, and to protect and encourage Spiritualist teachers and mediums in all laudable efforts in giving evidence to humanity of continued communication between the living and so-called dead.
- **To encourage** every person to hold their beliefs always open to examination as growing thought and investigation reveal new understanding of truths, thereby leaving every individual free to follow the dictates of reason and conscience in spiritual as well as secular affairs.

NSAC Churches, Camps, and Associations

NSAC has over seventy affiliated auxiliaries *(churches, camps, and state associations)* across the United States. Some Predate the founding of NSAC. Many were chartered as NSAC auxiliaries following its founding in 1893, and others were founded as independent churches which later chose to affiliate with NSAC. All report to the NSAC Headquarters in Lily Dale, New York.

NSAC Ministry

Church ministry includes Ordained Ministers, Licentiate Ministers, Certified Mediums, Commissioned Spiritualist Healers, Missionaries, and National Spiritualist Teachers.

Credibility for the NSAC and Spiritualism is dependent on the education of the ministry. Spiritualist education in preparation for these positions is available through the Morris Pratt Institute, which offers both correspondence and classroom courses. Following successful completion of required courses, students through their church may apply to the NSAC for ministry examinations. Upon successful examination completion, the NSAC confers ordinations, certifications, commissions, and degrees.

NSAC Organization

Delegates at annual NSAC conventions are the highest level of authority in the organization. National Spiritualist Association of Churches bylaws establish policy and direction for its Board of Trustees and for the functioning of its auxiliaries and the ministry.

In addition to a staff at the NSAC Headquarters, operations are organized in departments or committees which include Education, Endowments, Lyceum *(Spiritualist Sunday School),* Missionaries, Phenomenal Evidence, Public Relations, and Publications. In addition, the ministry may participate in ministerial service associations.

A suggested format for religious services is provided by NSAC for use by its churches and camps.