



NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

November 2017

Six Receive Rite of Ordination at Convention 2017

The Rite of Ordination was given to the following six candidates after evening services at Convention 2017: the Reverend Denise Finegan, Church of Eternal Life, New Jersey; the Reverend JoAnn Santonocito, Attunement Spiritualist Chapel, western New York; the Reverend Lorraine Radice, Church of Spiritual Growth, Burlington; Massachusetts; the Reverend Jennifer Priel Neumann, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora, East Aurora, New York; the Reverend Rosemary Jane Bouch, Bristol, England; and the Reverend Stacy Kopchinski, First Spiritualist Church of West Allis, West Allis, Wisconsin. Congratulations and blessings to these newly ordained ministers.

Three Trustees Relected at Convention

The annual trustee election took place at Convention 2017 on Friday afternoon, October 27. The Credentials Committee confirmed 125 voting delegates. Janet Watson was reelected to the Treasurer position. The Reverend Havivah Richards and the Reverend Bunny Starr also were reelected to Trustee positions. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Spiritualism.

Book Launch: NSAC Spiritualist Manual

The 20th Edition of the NSAC Spiritualist Manual was launched during the 2017 Convention week last month in Milwaukee.

This revised, expanded, 315-page edition was presented before Convention delegates and others by Editor James Ehrhart, who read his Foreword thanking hands-on assistance from Manual Committee members Lelia Cutler and Valerie Miller. Also

thanks was given to Joe Owen, for his contribution of overall design, print production, and oversight. Professional editor Frank Kotowski, Jr. and Mary J. Franklin were thanked for their proofreading and crosschecking. Much gratitude to Marilyn Awtry who contributed more than words with her knowledge of Spiritualism's history and research. This new, 20th Edition is dedicated to the itinerant peddler who started it all. Charles B. Rosna, 1812-1843.

The new edition of the Manual can be ordered from NSAC Bookstore, nsacbookstore@nsac.org, 716-595-2000.

Concluding paragraph from the Ehrhart Foreword: *Each reader of the Manual—whether entire, just a topic, or a page—will realize that they are contributing to their spiritual enlightenment as expressed in Spiritualism's motto: "As the sunflower turns its face to the light of the sun, so Spiritualism turns the face of humanity to the light of truth". May it ever be so.*

Milwaukee Convention Draws 130 Delegates

NSAC Convention 2017 was held October 22-27 at Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport, hosted by New Beginning Spiritualist Church and Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association of Wonewoc, Wisconsin. Over 130 delegates from around the States came together for *Strength in Spiritualism*, the Convention theme.

Sunday morning, the First Spiritualist Church of West Allis invited Convention attendees to their morning service. A beautiful united service was held with workers from Summerland's Lakeview Spiritualist Church, Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association, Spiritualist Chapel in the Woods, Christabelle Spiritualist Church, and First Spiritualist Church of West Allis. An inspirational address was given by the Church Pastor, the Reverend Debbie Malison. The church

was in high vibration and packed with many delegates and members. Lunch was provided and a period of fellowship followed. Later, Charvonne Carlson presented an informative, educational talk on the history of African Americans in Spiritualism.

The official opening reception of the Convention was held at the Crown Plaza later Sunday afternoon. Delegates enjoyed a delicious spread of food, the "Taste of Wisconsin." Yes, there were cheese curds! It was a wonderful time as old friends reunited and new friends were made. The Sunday evening service was chaired by our President, the Reverend Christine Krithades. The sermon and spirit greetings were given by Mavis Pittilla, a world-renowned Medium and a Tutor at The Arthur Findlay College in England. Evening religious services continued Tuesday through Friday.

Highly successful and educational workshops were sponsored by the NSAC Service Clubs on Monday. Over 140 attended, including new people who were introduced to our organization. The morning workshop was titled, *The Whole Medium: Theory into Practice*, presented by Mavis Pittilla. In the afternoon Vicky Homann presented *The Religion of Spiritualism in Natural Law*. Both presenters did an amazing job in educating us more in the Religion, Science, and Philosophy of Spiritualism. Following the workshops we had the pleasure of attending a "Heart to Heart" conversation with Mavis Pittilla, in which she shared her 50 years of experience and answered questions. The Santa Barbara Church of the Comforter hosted this event.

The Banquet Monday evening started with a reception at 6:30. After seating, Convention Co-Chair and NSAC Secretary Carol Luetkens made the introductions of the NSAC Board of Trustees and guests, guest Mavis Pittilla, and the Host Committee. President Christine Krithades welcomed delegates and guests and presented

the NSAC Awards for the year. The Lifetime Service Award was given to the Reverend June Killmer from Circle of Love Spiritualist Community in Auburn, California. The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Joe Owen from Golden Gate Spiritualist Church in San Francisco, California. Mavis Pittilla also made a few remarks to the delegates and guests. Once dinner ended, the dancing began. People brought their dancing shoes.

The business session opened Tuesday morning and continued through Friday. Reports were given, recommendations discussed, and planning arranged to support and grow Spiritualism. Two presentations were made during our business session: JoAnn Santonocito presented a *Direct Mailing* presentation for increasing church attendance and getting the word out to people about your church. James Ehrhart presented a workshop titled *Shop Talk*. This workshop provided an opportunity for interaction among the delegates and to learn what has been practical in strengthening Spiritualist churches spiritually and financially. (See report on trustee election elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We had a break from business on Thursday afternoon. Thirty delegates took this opportunity to visit the Harley-Davidson Museum. They enjoyed a traditional Wisconsin lunch at the Motor restaurant. Then they went on a tour of the museum and saw the growth of what started as hobby and small business turn into a huge corporation for free spirited Harley riders. Some of us were even able to sit on and get our pictures taken on all ages of motorcycles.

The Student Service was held on Thursday evening. Many student healers and mediums worked at this service. Their participation and service to Spiritualism is encouraging and a great service to Spiritualism. It is through support of students that Spiritualism grows.

The Convention was called to a close Friday afternoon. We thank all of those who came, helped, and supported this year's convention. With this success it shows that there is Strength in Spiritualism.

On a post-Convention trip Saturday, a group of us went to the town of Whitewater, site of the original Morris Pratt Institute. An outstanding presentation was made to the group by the Whitewater Historical Society on the life of Morris Pratt. A tour of the Milton House in Milton, part of the Underground Railroad, followed. This very educational trip was appreciated by all who added the extra day to their stay.

Next year's convention is scheduled in Milwaukee again. Based on favorable reports about Convention 2017, even more are expected to attend Convention 2018.

—Stacy Kopchinski
Convention Co-Chair

TNS Rate Increase Effective January 1

The Board of Trustees has approved the following rate increases for The National Spiritualist-Summit, to be effective January 1, 2018:

- Single subscription rate, increases from \$30 to \$33 per year
- 5 Copy bundle rate, increases from \$100 to \$115 per year
- 10 Copy bundle rate, \$230
- 15 Copy bundle rate, \$350
- Listings for certified workers, \$30 per listing
- Listing for auxiliaries, \$30 per listing

Reminder

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)

Bookstore News

The NSAC Bookstore has an inventory of Deepak Chopra books available for your winter reading enjoyment. These volumes are both insightful and inspiring. They each cover material intended to help the individual live a life of creativity, passion, and unimagined success.

The Soul of Leadership, A "how to" book on unlocking your potential for greatness. BKS 959, \$20.00

The Book of Secrets, Fifteen keys to live a life of meaning and purpose. BKS 957, \$15.00

Way of the Wizard, Twenty spiritual lessons on how to create a new and better life. BKS 78, \$17.00

Seven Spiritual Laws of Success, An altering perspective on the attainment of success based on Natural Law. BKS 77, \$16.00

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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