

of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 38 Number 4

March 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plan to attend this year's annual meeting. It should be interesting. In addition to the usual financial and program reports, election of officers and opportunity for feedback and discussion, we'll be voting on significant changes in the Society's operations and governing board. These changes are the result of discussion at the November 13, 2005 Executive Board meeting in Syracuse and difficulty in finding someone to be both Secretary and Treasurer as required by our Constitution. The more important proposed changes are:

Changing our fiscal year to the calendar year. At present our fiscal year starts May 1 and runs through April 30 of the following year. If the amendments pass, financial reports and a budget will be needed for the period beginning May 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006 to conform our financials to the calendar year. Since the current fiscal year for dues also ends April 30, 2006, an interim dues schedule also will be needed if the amendments pass.

Fixing of annual dues by the Executive Board rather than by-law provision. By removing the need to amend the By-Laws in order to change our annual dues, the Executive Board has greater flexibility in managing our finances.

>Separating the positions of Secretary and Treasurer to make it easier to find members to take these jobs. Under the current rules one person is required to hold both positions and the Executive Board is limited to 12 members. If the amendments pass, the Executive Board will likely increase to 13 members.

Removing the requirement the annual membership meeting be held the first Sunday in May and allowing the officers to set the date anytime within the first six months of the calendar year. If the amendments pass, the Executive Board will make every effort to schedule our annual meeting in conjunction with a major stamp show.

Opening up and simplifying the procedure for nomination and election of Society officers. To be elected under the current By-Laws a member needs three nominations in writing delivered to the Nominating Committee approximately 1-1/2 months prior to the annual meeting. If the amendments pass, a member need only be nominated before or at the annual meeting and receive a second at the annual meeting before being eligible for election. Members will be able to nominate themselves.

(continued on page 3)

Published quarterly by the Empire State Postal History Society <http://www.esphs.org> APS AFFILIATE #28

Officers:

President: Alan Parsons ('08)

Vice President: Dr. Joseph Rowbottom ('08) Secretary/Treasurer: Maris Tirums ('06)

Directors:

('06) vacant, Bill Hart, vacant

('07): John Nunes, John Cali, Drew Nicholson

('08): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, Gerald Wiley

Auction Manager & Dealer Representative:

John Nunes 80 Fredericks Rd. Scotia, NY 12302

Publications:

ESPHS Bulletin (quarterly)

Glenn A. Estus, editor

PO Box 451

Westport, NY 12993-0451

(518) 962-4558

email: gestus@esphs.org

Regional Representatives:

Northern: Gerald Wiley

Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums

Mohawk: vacant Lower Hudson: vacant NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite Leatherstocking/Catskill: vacant

Central: Bob Davidson West Central: vacant Southern Tier: Alan Parsons

Western: Jim Littell

Excelsior! (semi-annually) Drew A. Nicholson, editor

18 Valley Dr

Pawling, NY 12564-1140

(845) 855-3387

email: dan.ddn@suscom.net

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Sunday, May 7, Canastota, NY, 11 am

The 2006 annual meeting of Empire State Postal History Society, together with voting on proposed amendments to the Society's Constitution and By-Laws as set forth on pages 6 through 11 of this Bulletin, will be held Sunday, May 7 at Graziano's Casa Mia Restaurant in Canastota, NY. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, doughnuts, socializing and cover hunting. There will be an Executive Board meeting at 9:45 a.m. and the membership meeting will start at 11 a.m.

The Casa Mia Restaurant is located just off exit 34 of the Thruway. Take a left onto N. Peterborough St. at the end of the toll booth access road and drive 100 feet; the Restaurant is on the right, next to the Mobil Station. There is plenty of parking on the side and in the back. (President's Report--continued)

Even though there is no provision for paid Life Memberships in the Constitution and By-Laws, the Society has had them since 2000 and at least thirteen of our members to date have become paid Life Members. The proposed amendments will place this category of membership in the By-Laws and add the word "Honorary" to the Life Membership (unpaid) now permitted under the By-Laws.

Before leaving the subject of amendments to our governing documents, I want to thank Glenn Estus for doing the work of integrating the proposed changes into our current Constitution and By-Laws, making it possible to find, in one document, both the proposed deletions (lined out) and the proposed additions (boldface italics). Without Glenn's help it would have been much more time-consuming and difficult, if not impossible, to see the proposed changes in context.

At the beginning of my message in the previous Bullletin I urged you to complete and return the Membership Survey enclosed with that Bulletin. If you haven't already done so, PLEASE do it now! The Society needs your input!

On a personal note, I plan to attend Washington 2006 (May 27—June 3) for the duration and hope to greet many of our members there. ESPHS will not have a booth or table at the show, so I'll probably be found visiting dealers, viewing exhibits, attending meetings or helping out with USSS or AFDCS. If I don't recognize you, please introduce yourself. I'll be wearing an "identity badge" (name, rank and APS), and would like to meet you or get reacquainted!

In spite of my emphasis in this message, the annual meeting is not all work and no play. As many of you know, our members, both dealers and non-dealers, bring covers to sell or trade. In effect, we have a mini-bourse, which may no longer be possible if we hold our annual meeting in conjunction with a stamp show. I mention this because May 7, 2006 may be the last chance you'll have to participate in an ESPHS ANNUAL MEETING MINI-BOURSE. If you've never been to one, it's worth the trip! And don't forget the free coffee and doughnuts!

Al Parsons alatholleyrd@aol.com

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR MEMBERSHIP SURVEY!!!!

(from Dec. 2005 Bulletin)

LAST CALL FOR ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN ESPHS FRAME AT WASHINGTON 2006

ESPHS will have a single-frame exhibit to showcase NY postal history and promote the Society at Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition May 27—June 3, 2006 at the Washington Convention Center in our nation's capital.

If you are planning to attend this international philatelic event – a show of this magnitude occurs only once every ten years in the U.S. – please take the time to view our 16-page exhibit.

If you have representative NY postal history material you would like to loan for this exhibit, and haven't yet contacted the exhibit's coordinator, Drew Nicholson, TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

"Representative material" should not include rarities, but simply covers and other postal history items in the economic range of the average collector. Send photocopies or scans to Drew Nicholson, 18 Valley Dr., Pawling, NY 12564-1140, phone: (845) 855-3387, email: dan.ddn@suscom.net, a.s.a.p.



Washington 2006 will be visited by thousands. Here's your chance to show off some of your covers without preparing a full exhibit, and help the Society at the same time!

New York State Discussion Group Created

Are you interested in exchanging ideas and information about New York State Postal History. I have created a Yahoo! Group for that purpose. If so, open your web browser and type in "http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nysph". That will lead you to the group. At the present time you need my permission to join the group. This is a security precaution to make sure that spammers, etc. don't access the group. Currently (March 29), we have 4 ESPHS members participating.

Glenn Estus

REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN ALBANY AND BUFFALO

Our first regional meeting of 2006 was held in Albany February 18 in conjunction with Cover Mania, the annual two-day bourse presented by Society director John Nunes. Attending were Bill Bauer, Bill Hart, Larry Laliberte, Arnie Leiter, Mike Amman, Stephen Matte, Jim Little, John Nunes, Bob Davison, Heather Sweeting, George Dekornfeld, Frank Braithwaite, Robert Garrity and Al Parsons (presiding).

On display for the first time, thanks to Maris Tirums, was an attractive hand-made Society banner hung in the Clarion Hotel conference room where the meeting was held. Hopefully this banner will be seen hanging from an ESPHS table at numerous stamp shows in the future.

Discussion at the Albany meeting ranged over a number of matters, with Frank Braithwaite contributing an early report on results of the survey mailed with the December Bulletin. Parsons gave status reports on publishing, exhibiting and website, and Nunes talked about Society auctions. Parsons mentioned Olean and Elmira for exhibiting opportunities in the fall, and Nunes announced the Federation planned to sponsor a fall show at Turning Stone, thus providing a third possibility for NY postal history exhibits in the second half of the year.

The Society thanks John Nunes for providing the room for our Albany regional meeting, and for noting the meeting on the Cover Mania cards mailed to Society members in advance of the show.

The Buffalo meeting was held March 4 in conjunction with BUFPEX, the annual two-day show sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club. Attendance was lighter than Albany but no less enthusiastic. Those present were John Cali, David Przpiora, Tim Carey (non-member), Larry Steele (joined at the meeting), Irv Tesmer and Al Parsons (presiding).

Discussion again ranged over a number of subjects, with emphasis this time on proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws and various aspects of the Society's exhibiting program. Aside from these two subjects, concern was expressed regarding lack of timely publication of Excelsior! in view of its importance to our overall program.

The Society is grateful to the Buffalo Stamp Club for including our Buffalo regional meeting in its show program and providing space for the meeting in a quiet area on the show floor.

Have You.....

-found a new Doane cancel? Send the information to Maris Tirums.
- discovered a new star cancel? Send the information to David Williams
- a new early or late manuscript cancel? Send the information to Doug Penwell
- a new RFD cancel? Send the information to Bill Hart

Here is the Constitution and Bylaws with DELETIONS struck through and **ADDITIONS** bold faced and italicised

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME:

The name of this organization shall be the EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the knowledge of the postal history of the State of New York by means of educational and historical research; to acquire and disseminate through publication, exhibition or otherwise information relative to the organization and development of post offices and postal systems in the State of New York.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character who is interested in the postal history of the State of New York shall be eligible for membership and may be elected to membership in accordance with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall hold office for two (2) years until the second annual meeting following the date of their election, and nine (9) Executive Board members at large who shall hold office for three (3) years until the third annual meeting following the date of their election. These officers and Executive Board members at large shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected every two (2) years biannually in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person, but this is not required.

Section 3. Three (3) Executive Board members at large shall be elected each year in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws, except that upon the adoption of this Constitution nine (9) Executive Board members at large shall be elected, three (3) for a term of one (1) year, three (3) for a term of two (2) years and three (3) for a term of three (3) years.

Section 4. Vacancies occurring during a term of office shall be filled by the Executive Board and any appointee shall serve until the next election.

ARTICLE 5. ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership as a whole, to be called and held in

accordance with the By-Laws, for the election of officers and for the transaction of such business as may legally come before such meeting.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Society by a two thirds affirmative vote of the membership casting ballots, provided notice of the proposed change or changes shall have been given to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. The membership shall have the privilege of casting ballots for such amendments by mail.

ARTICLE 7. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the event that this Society shall dissolve, disband, or for any reason cease to function as set forth in Article 2, then the property and other tangible assets of the Society including, but not limited to, cash on hand, funds on deposit in the name of the Society, accounts receivable, stock of publications, contents of the library and any office equipment, shall be transferred to another philatelic society duly authorized and incorporated under the Laws of the State of New York, or to a New York State historical society or museum which has a significant interest in the postal history of New York State.

Choice of the institution receiving these assets shall be by majority vote of the Executive Board meeting in regular or special session.

It is the intent of this Article that none of the funds or other assets of the Society, at the time of dissolution, shall inure to the benefit of any individual member or members.

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of May. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All membership applications shall be *mailed or delivered* to the Secretary on forms approved by the Executive Board and shall be accompanied by the required fees and dues.

Section 2. All membership applications shall be reported in the Society publication *Bulletin* and objections may be sent to the Secretary within thirty (30) days after such publication. *The Secretary shall forward objections to the Executive Board for review*

and the decision of the Executive Board shall be final in all cases.

Section 3. The application fee shall be one Dollar (\$1.00) and application for membership must be accompanied by the application fee. Said fee is not refundable in the event the applicant is not accepted for membership.

Section 4 The annual dues for membership shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) set by the Executive Board and announced in the December Bulletin; applicants filing in the second half of the year shall be charged one half the annual rate for that year. All dues submitted with an application shall be refunded if the applicant is not accepted as a member. Current members in good standing may become life members pursuant to a graduated dues schedule set by the Executive Board. This category of membership shall be known as "Paid Life Membership" to distinguish it from "Honorary Life Membership" provided for in Article 7.

Section 5. Any members who shall not have paid their *annual* dues by October 1 June 1 of a fiscal year shall be held in arrears and shall be so notified by the Treasurer Secretary. If the dues are not paid by November 1st July 1, the individual members shall automatically be dropped from membership and reported in the Society publication Bulletin.

Section 6. A resignation by a member in good standing may be submitted to the Secretary who shall cause it to be published in the Society publication *Bulletin*. Such resignation shall become effective thirty (30) days after such publication, unless objection is filed with the Secretary. A resignation by a member not in good standing shall be returned by the Secretary without action.

Section 7. Any member charged with conduct detrimental to philately in general or this organization in particular shall be suspended *with or* without prejudice on determination by the Executive Board that such a charge does in fact exist. On determination of the facts the Executive Board shall take such final action as it may deem appropriate, including dismissal. No member shall be dismissed without the opportunity to be heard and present a defense.

Section 8. Any member dropped from the membership rolls for non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon application and payment of one year's dues plus the dues for the current year, provided the person shall receive a majority vote of the Executive Board for such reinstatement. Any member who may have resigned and who was in good standing at the time may be reinstated upon application and payment of current dues.

ARTICLE 3. MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Sunday in May during the first six months of the calendar year at such time and at such location as the Executive Board may determine, at which time the election of officers for the ensuing year

shall be held. Fifteen (15) members in good standing present in person or by duly executed full discretion proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be given to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board at any time, provided notice thereof shall have been given to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting. Ten (10) members in good standing *in good standing present in person or by duly executed full discretion proxy* shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1., The President shall each year eall for nominations appoint a Nominating Committee to seek candidates for offices to be filled. Nominations may be made submitted to the Nominating Committee by any member in good standing after obtaining the consent of the person nominated. In addition, members may nominate themselves. Nominations shall close March 20th. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the annual meeting the names it has received, and further nominations may be made from the floor if a second is received and the nominee consents. In the event more than one person is nominated for the same office, paper ballots shall be used to resolve the election. A candidate for office need not be present at the meeting to be elected. Voting for officers of the Society shall be limited to those members in good standing attending the annual meeting in person or by duly executed full discretion proxy.

Section 2. The Secretary shall cause a ballot to be prepared and distributed to all members eligible to vote on which shall be listed all consenting members who received three nominations. The names and means of contacting the members of the Nominating Committee together with a call for nominations, statement of offices to be filled at the next annual meeting and list of nominations already received shall be published in the December Bulletin each year. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee nominations may be submitted as late as the day of the annual meeting. In the event the annual meeting will be held following publication of the March Bulletin, the call for nominations, etc., shall be repeated in the March Bulletin.

Section 3. The President shall appoint a committee on elections to which all ballots shall be returned by mail so as to arrive not later than a date three (3) days prior to the date of the annual meeting, except that a member shall have the right to east his ballot in person at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The newly elected officers shall assume their offices as of the date of their election.

ARTICLE 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall have the general direction and control of the affairs of the organization. It shall formulate and decide all policies of the organization and shall direct the President to carry them out.

Section 2. The President shall act as chairman of the Executive Board but shall have no vote except in the instance of a tie vote.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held semi-annually at such times and at such places as shall be determined by the Board. Special meetings may be called by the President or any three members of the Board on not less than fifteen (15) days notice in writing, specifying the time and place of such meeting.

Section 4. Five (5) Six (6) voting members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 6. OFFICERS, DUTIES

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of this organization and shall appoint all special and standing committees. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President.

Section 3, The Secretary (Secretary-Treasurer) shall be the corresponding officer of this organization and shall keep a written record of all meetings including those of the Executive Board. the Society, take and prepare minutes of annual membership meeting and all Executive Board meetings and have same published in the Society Bulletin, receive and acknowledge new member applications, maintain Society membership records in all respects including submission of membership changes to be published in the Bulletin and forwarding same to the Publications Committee in order to keep the Society mailing list current. The Secretary shall prepare an annual dues notice to be published in the December and March Bulletins and shall send the letter required by Article 2, Section 5 of the By-Laws to those members who have not paid their dues by June 1. The Secretary shall receive all dues payments in the first instance and forward them to the Treasurer as soon as they have been recorded. Unless otherwise directed by the Executive Board, the Secretary shall prepare a roster of current members and collecting interests at least annually for distribution to the Society membership. The Secretary shall issue notices of meetings, membership eards and such other correspondence as the Executive Board shall decide.

Section 4. The Treasurer (Secretary-Treasurer) shall receive all moneys paid to the

organization and shall keep such moneys (beyond a petty cash fund not to exceed \$10.00) in an accredited financial institution under the name of the Empire State Postal History Society. The Treasurer shall pay all bills which exceed \$5.00 by check. Payment of all bills and other proper obligations of the Society in excess of \$25.00 \$100.00 above the amount specified in the approved budget must be authorized by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all moneys received and paid out and such record shall be available to the Executive Board at any time. The Treasurer shall render a written report at the annual meeting of all financial transactions of this organization, the same to be audited by a committee of not less than two members of the Society appointed by the President for that purpose and, if requested by either the President or the Treasurer, the report shall be audited by a committee of not less than two members of the Society appointed by the President for that purpose.

Section 4a.- The Finance Committee of this organization shall consist of the President, Treasurer and one other member of the Executive Board who shall be appointed by said Executive Board. The Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and present same to the Executive Board at its a meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting of the Society or by mail (including e-mail) no later than December 15 of the preceding year. Upon adoption the proposed budget and any amendments thereto shall become the approved budget for the coming fiscal year. The Finance Committee will evaluate all matters referred to it by the Treasurer.

Section 5. Officers at the expiration of their terms of office shall deliver to their successors all books, papers, moneys or other property of this organization in their possession and shall not be relieved of their obligations until this section has been complied with.

Section 6. Each elected officer shall hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and takes office.

ARTICLE 7. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be a separate class of membership, known as "*HONORARY* LIFE MEMBER." Membership in this class shall be attained only by majority vote of the Executive Board, meeting in regular or special session.

Section 2. *Honorary* Life Membership shall be granted generally for meritorious service to the Society over a period of years. No person with less than five (5) years membership in the Society shall be eligible for election to *Honorary* Life Membership.

Section 3. *Honorary* Life Members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of regular members, including the right to vote and to hold office.

There shall be no annual dues assessed to *Honorary* Life Members and they shall be free of such payment for life.

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SOCIETY NEWS

We welcome the following new members:

Carroccia, Alfred A. 152 Windmill Road West Seneca, NY 14218-3776

Kletter, Miles 7 Leaward Way Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Rapp, William F. 87 South Main Street Pittsford, NY 14534-2128

Schaetzke, Elizabeth Anne 30 Running Creek Circle Rochester, NY 14623-4156

Applicants for membership:

Holmes, Timothy A. 3 Collins Terrace Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-1050

<u>Interests:</u> Dutchess Co. PH, esp. Beekman & Amenia, pre-1820 Saratoga & Washington Cos PH <u>References</u> APS, CCNY, former executive secretary of Philatelic Foundation

Steele, Laurence G.
184 Cottonwood Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221-1645

Interests: PH of eight counties of western NY

References: APS

Bohart, Allen
751 Sandpiper Common
Livermore, CA 94551-2664

<u>Interests:</u> Elmira, NY PH, US used singles, Americana series PH
<u>References:</u> APS

Membership reinstated:

Matte, Stephen K.
33 Hidden Hills Drive
Glens Falls, NY 12804

Interests: Washington & Warren Cos PH, Mexico revenues, Radio stamps

Garrity, Robert K.
275 Park Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476
Interests: world classics, cancels, PH, DPOs, Doanes

NOTE REGARDING SURVEY RECEIVED WITH DECEMBER 2005 BULLETIN

One of our members has expressed privacy concerns regarding the survey you received with your December 2005 *Bulletin*.

Please understand the data compiled from the Survey is intended solely for the general use of the ESPHS Executive Board in planning for our meetings, programs, publications and services in general.

With two exceptions, the personal information in the first section of the Survey (name, address, email, phone number, collecting interests, length of ESPHS membership, other philatelic memberships and other philatelic publications received) will be disclosed only in abstract data compiled by the Survey author, Frank Braithwaite, a member of the ESPHS Executive Board. Any such data will <u>not</u> include names, addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

The two exceptions involve writing articles for *Excelsior!* and exhibiting New York postal history. If a member indicates an interest in either area, his or her name would be given to the appropriate Society officer to contact.

As soon as the survey responses have been compiled and names of the members interesting in writing and exhibiting forwarded to the appropriate officers, the surveys will be destroyed.

Al Parsons (alatholleyrd@aol.com)

THE ESPHS FRAME AT WASHINGTON 2006

President Al Parsons has asked me to include some information to aid in the submittal of items to be included in the ESPHS frame at Washington 2006. As is noted in the "LAST CALL..." announcement on page 4 in this *Bulletin*, "TIME IS RUNNING OUT."

I am fortunate to have approximately a half-dozen pages already promised, but that leaves another eight to be accounted for (two pages will be used to promote the ESPHS). Since there are far more topics which can be drawn upon than can be illustrated in but 14-pages, I am seeking covers—with accompanying write-ups, please—for the following topics: fancy cancels, star cancels, doanes, machine cancels (a page illustrating various types would be attractive), railroad agent cancels/markings, auxiliary markings, and post-1847 rates (a page showing a rate study from a particular period, for example). Please use at least 2 covers per page.

I will be preparing the pages to make them uniform in style. You need only to provide the cover, the write-up and a mock-up of how you would like the page to finally look. Please don't make the page too complicated and USE REPRESENTATIVE MATERIAL ONLY! (see page 4) Send photocopies or scans A.S.A.P. to me at 18 Valley Drive, Pawling, NY 12564-1140 or dan.ddn@suscom.net. I look forward to hearing from you!

Drew A. Nicholson