Another year is quickly coming to an end. It happens every year, and yet we always seem to be surprised as November passes into December which rolls over to a new year.

It is also the time we take stock in all that has happened and reflect back and, hopefully, look forward.

That is where APHNYS is right now. Over the last two years we have solved our fiscal crisis and can use our funds to better the organization and our membership.

On that note, our membership numbers are strong and continue to grow. We must and will continue to find ways to bring our networks of historians closer together and provide all of us with the information to do our jobs better.

We have participated in a number of conferences and are working to continue this trend of working with related groups to bring us closer together.

But, it is also the time to look ahead toward some changes. Our annual conference in April in Corning will see the election of officers and trustees.

At our board meeting in November we made a number of changes that you will find on page 2 of this newsletter.

2015 promises to be very promising —with more to come.

Gerry Smith, President

One of the rules of the holiday season is that the money flows like water. We spend on gifts for our loved ones and we pay for the year end bills.

One of the harsh realities is that it is also the end of the fiscal year for many groups, including APHNYS.

January 1 starts our new fiscal year, and it is time to pay dues for the 2015 year. Most of you or your municipality should already have received your dues notice electronically by e-mail a few weeks ago.

In case you have not received your notice, you will find a copy of the dues notice inside of this newsletter, as well as posted on our website at www.aphnys.org.

It is essential that dues are paid to ensure that APHNYS can continue its mission to represent and improve the network of local government historians across the state.
In our last issue, I admitted to having some health issues and realizing that I cannot do everything — no matter how good my intentions. During the APHNYS board meeting in November in Albany, I continued that theme as we planned our budget and actions for 2015.

A number of items were discussed and I was pleased with our consensus of our direction. We want to continue our actions to work cooperatively with other related agencies. To that end, we will be reaching out to MANY since their 2015 conference begins when our ends, — both at the same hotel in Corning.

We also wanted to pursue our efforts to move our annual conference back to the fall of the year, rather than the spring. We had moved it to the spring in 2009, but it meant that the membership did not have any real opportunity to vote on the budget — only to hear about it about 4 months into the fiscal year. It also meant that your officers and trustees were voted on well after the year began.

Starting in 2016, the annual conference will once again move back to the fall. We will be having our 2016 conference in September at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Syracuse where we held our 2013 conference. We made this selection because of the good experiences of that conference — they provided us with a good package for our membership. Plus we will be meeting to coordinate our conference with the New York State Family History Conference being held there at nearly the same time. That conference is sponsored by our good friends, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, and continues our efforts to work cooperatively with other groups.

At that conference, the membership will once again be voting on the budget that will be proposed by your board. You will also be voting on that board and its members so that their terms of office will run from January 1 to December 31. This will give more control back to the membership by having our conference in the fall.

It will also allow us to promote November as New York State History Month, which APHNYS has taken up as a major proponent. It will mean that our regional meetings, usually held in the fall, will move to the spring. These meetings can become a precursor to the Conference on New York State History which is held in June. APHNYS continues to be a sponsor of that event. This will mean that APHNYS will be having sessions in the spring, summer and fall of each year for historians from across the state.

We also voted to have our 2017 conference in the Hudson River area, and have asked for proposals from various counties in that area. We are working to find facilities and venues that will meet our needs. APHNYS will keep you informed of that progress of that conference.

In one major action area, APHNYS is moving ahead with meeting the needs of historians in terms of social media. I know that for some of us the world of social media is feared. But it is a tool that we must use to communicate with all of us and with other groups and agencies that we interact with on a daily basis.

To that end, the board has created the Social Media and Outreach Committee. I have appointed three people, Ray LaFever, Clifton Patrick and Christine Ridarsky, to
serve on the committee. Each of them are board members, but also each has shown both a talent and interest in moving in that direction. I have charged them with a number of duties — to work on bettering our website and make it more productive, to assume the creation of the newsletter, and to take over and keep up our Facebook page. They are also to look into other social media outlets such as Twitter.

What does that mean to APHNYS and you? Well, first, it means that I am turning over operation as webmaster to whatever group is selected to operate our page. It does not mean losing control, but gives us the opportunity to grow and expand. It also means I am turning over the creation of this newsletter. The newsletter will continue, but under a new editor’s guidance. It also means that we can gather real news from around the state and include it so we can all share that information.

For the last two years, I have served as both. My service was always intended to be stopgap at best. I hope that my efforts allowed us to get our feet under us in these areas, so that they can improve with new control. And to be honest, it takes a lot of the burden off of my shoulders, so that I can focus more on message rather than just keeping the lights on.

At the same meeting, we approved our budget for 2015 which expends money on not only these areas, but allows APHNYS to move to having material and equipment to meet both our conference needs and to promote our group to other conferences. For the first time ever, we are sending Christine Ridarksy as our representative to the National Council on Public History national conference to serve on a panel on the needs of public historians. That conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. It brings APHNYS to the national agenda for historians.

We are also looking into creating sessions and booths at the conferences for NYSAC, the Council of Mayors and the Association of Towns and Villages. We know we must get out the message of how important the appointed historian is to the betterment of each of the 1600+ communities across New York. This is something that we began in 1999 and 2000 but seems to have lost its way a bit. Now we can bring that message once again to all of the appointing bodies across this state.

We are still focusing on our efforts to complete our quilt, to re-do the historians manual, and to promote a statewide inventory and maintenance program for the historical markers. Each effort seems to have a new resurgence with real interest to help in all of those areas.

I still want to improve our regional meetings. Many areas are doing great, but in some we can do better. We now have some “canned” programs to offer for new historians and the registered historians program, but we need to look into new ways of promoting sessions, speakers, and technology and skills for historians.

That is a lot for us to tackle — but if the last few years have shown us, APHNYS can take a few blows and keep coming up for the big fight. It has also shown me that I do not need to be superman in all of this. I needed to listen to my own advice that we will be stronger if we stick together and rely on one another. Passing on some of the responsibilities gives more people the chance to make APHNYS better and allows me to continue serve. The more of us working on all of our projects and ideas — the better for us and our state.

That also allows me to focus on my multiple duties as city and county historian, professor at SUNY Broome, and newspaper columnist — and to continue my work as your president. Like many of you, we all wear multiple hats, and as the year end, we continue that juggling act. Our multi-tasking is much like what APHNYS also continues to do. And as the adage says, practice makes perfect. I can only hope that all of our effort makes APHNYS better for you.

My thanks to my officers, trustees, regional coordinators for their help. My special thanks to all of you for continuing to represent this state in each of your communities and for your support over the last year. To each of you I wish the happiest of holidays and a very happy New Year!
The Association of Public Historians of New York State is pleased to announce that the 2015 Annual State Conference will be held in Corning, April 9-12, 2015. APHNYS is currently accepting proposals for conference presentations. Proposals can be submitted for papers, panels and interactive programs. The conference draws between 175 - 200 Local Government Historians and supporters of local history from across the Empire State.

The Planning Committee is especially interested in proposals that offer:

- Insights into the history of Corning and its communities
- Heritage Tourism
- The Historian and the Common Core
- Transportation & Trades in New York State
- Skills and Techniques for Local Government Historians

To submit your proposal, please complete this form and return to APHNYS by November 15, 2014.

**Contact Information**

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Title: ____________________________________________________________

Organization: ____________________________________________________

Daytime Phone #: __________________ Fax: __________________

E-Mail: __________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________________________

State: __________________________ Zip: _____________________________
Program Information

Title of Program/Presentation:___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Will someone else be presenting with you? (If so, provide names, titles and affiliations.)
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Please describe your program/presentation. (Feel free to attach more sheets as necessary.)
Offering: __________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________________________________

Any special equipment needs? __________________________________________________________________________

Any size limitations on showings or presentations? (If so, please explain and provide limits.)
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with New York State’s Public Historians!

Please return this form by January 23, 2015 to:
APHNYS, P.O. Box 366, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745

Better yet — send it electronically in PDF format to our e-mail: aphnys@yahoo.com
HOLD THE DATE!!

APHNYS 2015 Conference

At this time, APHNYS can provide you with the information on the hotel and the cost for lodging. We do not yet have the cost for the conference registration fee and the meals. We will provide additional information in early 2015.

Dates: April 9-12, 2015
Venue: Radisson Hotel
        125 Denison Parkway East
        Corning, NY  14830
        Phone: 607-962-5000
        Website: www.radisson.com/corningny
Cost: Rooms at the Radisson will be $109.00 per night + tax
     Remember to bring your tax exempt form to save the tax.

The following expenses are estimated:
Conference Registration (for APHNYS paid members) $75.00
For those who have not paid dues or non-members: 85.00
Meals:
     Friday, April 10 Dinner  45.00
     Saturday, April 11 Breakfast  22.00
     Saturday, April 11 Lunch  24.00
     Saturday, April 11 Dinner  45.00
     Sunday, April 12 Breakfast  22.00

Tours: Final schedule and costs are still to be determined.
Regional Coordinators Around The State

Region 1:  Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Historian, swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.org
Region 2:  Zachary Studenroth, Town of Southampton Historian., zstudenroth@southamptonny.gov
Region 3:  Suzanne Isaksen, Town of Montgomery (Orange Co.) Historian, tomhistorian@frontier.net
Region 4:  Ray LaFever, Town of Bovina Historian, bovinahistorian@gmail.com
Region 5:  Krissy Saddlemire, Village of Schuylerville Historian, krissysaddlemire@yahoo.com
Region 6:  William Zullo, Hamilton County Historian, historian@hamiltoncountyny.gov
Region 7:  Richard Williams, Town of Kirkland Historian, apulia@verizon.net
Region 8:  Justin White, Oswego County Historian, whitej@oswegocounty.com
Region 9:  Matthew Urtz, Madison County Historian, matthew.urtz@madisoncounty.ny.gov
Region 10: Gerald Smith, Broome County Historian, gsmith@co.broome.ny.us
Region 11: Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian, historian@co.wayne.ny.us
Region 12: Barbara Durfee, Town of Sheldon Historian, sheldonhistorian@aol.com
Association of Public Historians of New York State
2015 Dues Notice and Membership Application
Membership Dues Amount: See Chart Below

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL OUT COMPLETELY!

Membership Category:
☐ Historian ☐ Co-Historian ☐ Deputy Historian ☐ Assistant Historian ☐ Affiliate Member

Appointed for: ☐ County ☐ Town ☐ Village ☐ City ☐ Borough ☐
Other

Name of Municipality: ___________________________ County: ___________________________

Affiliates also list your county

Date of original appointment ____________________ (estimate if not sure)

Are you a New Historian? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, name of Prior Historian

Member’s Name: ________________________________

Member’s Mailing Address: __________________________

Municipal Billing Address:

Member’s Phone w/Area Code: __________________________ Fax: __________________________

Email (please print clearly):

We strongly encourage Historians have an email address in order to receive APHNYs messages. All information is sent by email. Those without email will receive only dues notices and conference information.

Date: __________________________ Amount Enclosed: __________________________ Check # __________________________

APHNYs does hereby certify that the items of the account are true and correct: that no Federal or State taxes for which the municipality is exempt are included; and that no part of the same has been previously paid. APHNYs fiscal address for receiving dues, conference payments, etc. is APHNYs, PO Box 2985, Setauket, NY 11733. Regular correspondence should be sent to APHNYs, PO Box 366, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. If a person is appointed historian/deputy historian for more than one community, dues are to be paid for each community. If you have questions, email us at APHNYs@yahoo.com or call 607-395-1571. Please return completed form with check made payable and mailed to:

APHNYs
PO Box 2985
Setauket, NY 11733

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dues Structure</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Annual Dues for Historian and/or Co-Historian is based on Community's population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,001 – 4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,001 – 12,000</td>
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<td>12,001 – 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>100,001 – 200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>200,001 – 1+ Million</td>
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2015 Annual Dues for the following categories are as follows:
Deputy and/or Assistant Historian Dues ----- $25.00
Affiliate Member Dues* ----- $25.00

* Affiliate Membership is for any cultural agency, educational institution, corporation, historical societies, museums, or individual interested in NY State history and the work of the public historians of New York State. Affiliate Members shall be non-voting members and shall not hold office.
APHNYS Leadership

President - Gerald R. Smith,
Broome County Historian & City of Binghamton Historian (Region 10)
PO Box 366
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745
(607) 595-1571
aphnys@yahoo.com

1st Vice-President - Rosemarie Tucker
Town of Groton Historian (Region 10)
101 Conger Blvd.
Groton, NY 13073
(607) 898-5035
roseingrotonny@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President - John Scherer
Town of Clifton Park Historian (Region 5)
113 Vischer Ferry Rd.
Rexford, NY 12148
518-486-2041
jischerer@aol.com

Treasurer - Barbara Russell
Town of Brookhaven Historian (Region 2)
Brookhaven Town Hall
One Independence Hill
Farmingville, NY 11738
631-451-8038
brussell@brookhaven.org

Secretary – Nancy Pfau
Town & Village of Sharon Springs Historian (Region 7)
P.O. Box 134
Sharon Springs, NY 13459
518-284-2371
nancypfau@yahoo.com

TRUSTEES

Jerry Bates
Town of Plattsburgh Historian (Region 6)
151 Banker Rd.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-562-6887
historian@townofplattsburgh.org

Peter Evans
Wayne County Historian (Region 11)
9 Pearl St.
Lyons, NY 14489
315-946-5470
historian@co.wayne.ny.us

Raymond LaFever
Town of Bovina (Region 4)
2319 County Highway 6
Bovina Center, NY 13740
607-832-4609
bovinahistorian@gmail.com

Clifton Patrick
Town of Chester Historian (Region 3)
119 Brookside Ave.
Chester, NY 10918
845-369-7645
historian@thetownofchester.org

Christine Ridarsky
City of Rochester Historian (Region 11)
1115 South Ave.
Rochester, NY 14604
585-428-8095
christine.ridarsky@libraryweb.org

David Sadler
Towns of Stockbridge, Lenox, Lincoln Historians (Region 9)
P.O. Box 47
Clockville, NY 13043
315-697-6169
davidsadler_13043@yahoo.com

Matthew Urtz
Madison County Historian (Region 9)
138 North Court St.
Wampsville, NY 13163
315-366-2453
matthew.urtz.madisoncounty.ny.us

Sharon Wilkins
Deputy Borough of Manhattan Historian (Region 1)
2186 5th Ave., 7C
New York, NY 10037
212-690-9072
swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.org