Barbara Russell, Treasurer of APHNYS since 2011 resigned on December 31, 2016. The Board of Trustees was provided with this information at the September 2016 Board meeting, and it was announced at the September 2016 Membership Business Meeting.

Margaret Hadsell, Town of Vestal Historian (Broome County, Region 10) was approved by the Board of Trustees as the new Treasurer of APHNYS effective January 1, 2017. Margaret has been an active member of APHNYS for many years. We look forward to working with her as our Treasurer. We know she will do a good job. Congratulations, Margaret (and thank you).

Since Margaret was elected Trustee at the 2016 Conference in Syracuse, the Board of Trustees has approved replacing that Trustee position with Babette Huber, Town of Victor Historian (Ontario County, Region 11). Babette has been a very active member of APHNYS for many years, and we know she will be an asset to our Board of Trustees. Congratulations, Babette (and thank you).

This newsletter includes updated 2017 documents: Membership/Dues form, Conference Hotel Reservation form, Call for Conference Proposals/Panels, list of Board of Trustees, and much more. You can also find all this and more on the APHNYS website: www.aphnys.org.

Plans are almost confirmed for the tours for the October 31-November 2, 2017 Conference in Poughkeepsie (Region 4). Once that is completed, we will send out the Conference Registration form. We hope to have the speakers and topics completed by mid-May 2017. It is not too late if you want to be a speaker or have a person you would like to suggest. The Call for Proposals/Panels is included in this newsletter and is on the website. Please complete for yourself as a speaker or send it to someone you would like to encourage to be a speaker. This is due April 30, 2017.

If you have questions on finances, contact our Treasurer at her email: aphnys-treasurer@gmail.com or by mail: APHNYS Treasurer, PO Box 251, Vestal, NY 13851.

Other questions concerning APHNYS can be directed to me: APHNYS@yahoo.com or by mail: APHNYS, PO Box 55, Groton, NY 13073

—Rosemarie Tucker
Upcoming Regional Meetings

Region 4
Region 4 historians will meet on Saturday, April 29, at the Town of Highland Senior Center on Route 55 in Eldred, NY 12732 (Sullivan County). Please note that this date is different from what was published in the November newsletter.

Details are still being worked out, but the day will likely consist of a morning program (a speaker or two), lunch, and an optional afternoon tour narrated by the Sullivan County Historian.

The tour will likely be to the Minisink Battleground—the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War and the only one fought in the Upper Delaware River valley—and/or Roebling’s Delaware Aqueduct, built for use by the Delaware & Hudson canal.

Region 7
Region 7 historians held a day-long meeting on November 5, 2016, in Schoharie with 45 historians attending. They heard from State Archivist Tom Ruller and State Historian Devin Lander.

In 2017, Region 7 has two meetings scheduled. On June 3, historians will meet at historic Hyde Hall, overlooking Otsego Lake. After a tour of the mansion, which was built between 1817 and 1835, presentations are planned. Details to come.

In the fall, Region 7 historians will convene in Deansboro (Oneida County) at the United Church of Christ for a meeting about the Brothertown Indians who occupied that area between the mid-1780s and the mid-1850s when most moved to Wisconsin. Other speakers and programs are being planned.

Detailed announcements for both sessions will be sent out 4-5 weeks prior to each meeting.

Region 11
The spring 2016 meeting of the Monroe County Historians will be Wednesday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m., at Udicious Pavillion, 5977 East Henrietta Road, Rush. Rush Historian Susan Mee will host. For information, contact chairwoman

April 22, 2017: Happy Birthday, New York State!

By Bruce W. Dearstyne

New York’s birth in April 1777 was an against-the-odds, rushed, political miracle. New Yorkers elected their fourth Provincial Congress to take up the issue of independence in the spring of 1776. The Congress voted for independence and then went on the run up the Hudson River as British forces advanced, moving from White Plains to Fishkill, and finally to Kingston, in the process changing its name to the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York. That was an audacious, forward-looking move since the “State of New York” did not actually exist yet.

Working on the fly, the delegates, led by exceptionally able representatives such as New York City attorney John Jay, drafted and debated a document, compromised where needed to get a consensus, and finished their work on April 20, 1777.

The Secretary of the Convention, Robert Benson, mounted a barrel in front of the courthouse where the writers had deliberated and read the new document to the citizens of Kingston two...continued on p. 3
April 22, 2017: Happy Birthday, New York State!  ...continued from p. 2
days later, April 22. New York State was born.

The convention then organized the first state elections in June, and the new legislature and governor got down to work in September. But it was soon a government-on-the-run.

A British force came up the Hudson and burned Kingston in October. The new government scattered but reassembled in 1778, this time in Poughkeepsie. New York State went on permanently.

The new state constitution was a brilliant document. The text, only about 6,500 words long (not counting the Declaration of Independence, which the writers included as a preamble) drew on the model of British government, New York's colonial experience, and a few treatises on republican government.

But the framers were mostly on their own, creating something entirely new. The very concept of a "state" was still being invented as New York and the other rebellious colonies fought for their independence.

The document declared that the convention, acting "in the name and by the authority of the good people of this State, doth ordain, determine and declare that no authority shall on any pretence whatever be exercised over the people or members of this State, but such as shall be derived from and granted by them."

But, given the peril the new state faced, it wasn't practical to give "the people" a chance to vote on the new document that established "their" government. The convention simply proclaimed it in effect via secretary Benson's public reading in Kingston.

The drafters might be called "conservative revolutionaries." They wanted independence but were also determined to protect landed interests, commercial rights, and social stability. The constitution provided for election of the governor and legislature, but only by men who held property or met other requirements (women were not enfranchised until 1917). The Assembly was expected to represent the popular will but the Senate was intended to be smaller, more reflective of the upper class, and insulated from the tumult of the crowd.

New York's first constitution created a strong governor, charged to "take care that the laws are faithfully executed" (wording that continues in the present constitution), convene the legislature in extraordinary session when needed, command the state's armed forces, and exercise other powers. But it included a "Council of Revision," consisting of the governor, chancellor, and judges of the supreme court, that could veto bills (their veto could be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.) The framers also included a "Council of Appointment," consisting of four senators elected by the Assembly, to review and approve gubernatorial appointments.

Some issues were not addressed or deferred. Slavery, an abomination that was legal in colonial New York, was not addressed in the constitution and continued until a 1799 law mandated its gradual abolition. Giving women the right to vote and full equality before the law was not achieved until the 20th century.

The 1777 constitution guaranteed the right to trial by jury but had no bill of rights, possibly because the framers thought it would inhibit the new government's flexibility in dealing with loyalists to the British cause. The legislature enacted a bill of rights in 1787. The constitution said little about the courts; establishing them was left to the first legislature.

The original constitution provided the basis for the first state elections and erecting the framework of government. It endured without major revision until the constitutional convention of 1821.

We should commemorate New York State's 240th birthday on April 22 this year. It is an opportunity for the state's historical community to call public attention to the origin of the state and the exciting events of 1777. The original 1777 State Constitution is held by the State Archives. A copy can be viewed at http://tinyurl.com/hodjtal.

Bruce W. Dearstyne, PhD, is a historian in Guilderland. He is the author of The Spirit of New York: Defining Events in the Empire State's History and Leading the Historical Enterprise: Strategic Creativity, Planning and Advocacy for the Digital Age, both published in 2015.
HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

To make a reservation at
Poughkeepsie Hotel & Conference Center, please return form
via fax to 845-486-7220, or mail to hotel,
or call Reservations Desk 845-485-5300
Refer to Group Code: APHNYS
Deadline for Room Reservations: September 30, 2017

Name: ________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ____ Zip________
Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ________________
E-Mail: _______________________________________________
Arrival Date: ___________________________ Departure Date: ___________________________

Please check which accommodations you would like (hotel is 100% non-smoking):
___ Standard Single Occupancy: $109 + applicable tax unless tax-exempt
----- Standard Double Occupancy: $109 + applicable tax unless tax-exempt. Roommate’s Name ______________________

Please specify any special requests, i.e.; handicap accessible room, etc.: __________________________

You must obtain a tax-exempt form from your local government and present the form to the hotel at time of check-in.
Check-In: 4:00 PM Check-Out: 11:00 AM

Rooms that are not reserved by cut-off date of 9/30/17 will be returned to the hotel to sell.
Group reservations made after the cut-off date will be made based on availability.

There is a parking garage just left of the entrance to the hotel. For free parking, the hotel will validate
the card received upon entering the parking garage. If the garage is full, there is alternate parking at
the user’s expense (not validated by hotel).

If Paying by Check: Please complete and mail the address below.

To guarantee with credit card:
Credit Card: ____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express ____ Discover
Card #: ___________________________ Expiration Date: ______________________
Signature: ________________________________

Please return this form to:
Poughkeepsie Hotel & Conference Center
40 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Attn: Reservations Department

DO NOT SEND TO THE APHNYS OFFICE
Association of Public Historians of New York State

2017 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
Poughkeepsie Hotel & Conference Center, Poughkeepsie, NY
- October 31 – November 2, 2017 -

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS/PANELS

The Association of Public Historians of New York State is pleased to announce that the 2017 Annual State Conference will be held in Poughkeepsie, October 31 – November 2, 2017. This conference is currently accepting proposals for conference presentations. Proposals can be submitted for papers, panels and interactive programs. This conference will draw approximately 150 attendees from across the Empire State.

The Planning Committee is especially interested in proposals that offer:
- Insights into the history of Dutchess County and its communities
- Insights into the history of APHNY Region 3 counties and their communities (Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster, and Westchester)
- Family History from throughout New York State
- Famous people and/or business histories from throughout New York State
- Heritage Tourism from throughout New York State
- Transportation & Trades in New York State
- Ideas and Techniques for celebrating any upcoming historical anniversaries throughout New York State
- Skills and Techniques for Local Government Historians and Family History Researchers
- Other history related to New York State

To submit your proposal, please complete this form and return to APHNY by March 31, 2017.

Contact Information

Name: ________________________________________________

Title: ______________________________________________

Organization: _________________________________________

Daytime Phone #: ___________________________ Fax: _________________________

Email: _____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: _____________________________________________

State: _____________________________ Zip: _______________
Regional Coordinators Around The State

Region 1: Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Historian, swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.gov
Region 2: Zachary Studenroth, Town of Southampton, zstudenroth@southamptontownny.gov
Region 3: William Tatum III, Dutchess County Historian, WTatum@DutchessNY.Gov
Region 4: Ray LaFever, Town of Bovina Historian, bovinahistorian@gmail.com
Region 5: Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, historian@saratogacountyny.gov
Region 6: Eliza Jane Darling, 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: Joe Marren, Town of Colden Historian, marrenjj@buffalostate.edu
## Member Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Appointed for:</th>
<th>Date of Original Appointment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Historian</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Historian</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Historian</td>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate Member*</td>
<td>Borough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Please provide your county)

**Municipality:** ____________________________ **County:** ____________________________

**Name:** ____________________________

**Mailing Address:** ____________________________

**Phone (____) ____________________________**

**email Address:** ____________________________

**Municipal Billing Address:** ____________________________

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### Annual Dues for Historian and/or Co-Historian

Annual dues are based on Municipality's Population:

- $25.00 = 0—1,000
- $30.00 = 1001—4000
- $35.00 = 4001—12,000
- $40.00 = 12,001—100,000
- $45.00 = 100,001—200,000
- $50.00 = 200,001—1+ Million

**Note:** If you are historian/deputy historian for more than one municipality, dues are to be paid for each municipality.

### Annual Dues for Other Memberships are:

- $25.00—Deputy and/or Assistant Historian
- $25.00—Affiliate Member

**Note:** Affiliate Membership is for any cultural agency, educational institution, corporation, historical society, museum, 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.

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**Date:** ____________________________ **Amount Enclosed:** ____________________________ **Check No:** ____________________________

Mail this completed form with your check, payable to APHNYS, to:

**APHNYS, P.O. Box 251, Vestal, NY 13851**

(This is a **NEW** mailing address, please update your records.)

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.

**Questions?** email us at APHNYS@yahoo.com or call 607-595-1571 or 607-898-5867
APHNYS Leadership

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