

# The Historian's Exchange

The newsletter of the Association of Public Historians of New York State

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1

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## Time to Work Together!

With our finances strong, and the membership of APHNYS growing, your board met in November to determine our direction for the next few years.

There is a real need for the New York State history community to work together. We all realize that we are stronger working with each other than we are apart.

APHNYS realized that when we merged in 1999. Our partners in history also realize that. With the 2015 conference, we will be working closely with MANY.

They are holding their conference in the same city, staying at the same hotel, and their conference begins when our's ends.

We will be each hosting exhibit



will be meeting in September once again in Syracuse.

This time we will be partnering with the New York State Family History Conference sponsored by our friends at the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

tables, and they are offering at the door registration for our attendees who wish to stay on for that conference. We share the same audiences and the same interest.

This cooperation will continue when we move our annual conference to the fall in 2016 and we

We will work to promote sessions for history, family history and related topics. We are honored to be working with both groups. We will also continue to work with the Conference on New York State history as one of its sponsors. It's the right move.

Gerry Smith, President

## The 2015 Conference is Upon Us!!



Inside this issue you will find information on our 2015 statewide annual conference being held from April 9-12 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning.

The tentative conference schedule, the conference registration form, the hotel

registration form are all in this newsletter. They can also be found on our website at [www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org).

You will also find the dues notice, and the awards form.

Please take the time to look it over and become one of the hundreds of your fellow his-

torians who will be at this conference.

You can also step on a bus to visit two top museums — the Rockwell and Corning Museum of Glass.

So come join us and participate in the 2015 conference.

## From the President's Desk...



Well, I was wrong! In the last issue I said it was my last as your editor. It should have been if I had not procrastinated in getting everything out to our new Outreach Committee. As I was preparing that work, I realized that the February issue is always the issue devoted to the conference material. Since I already had about 9 pages already completed, I let my fingers do the walking and finished this issue.

But rest assured, it will be my last. I am giving over that role and many others as we broaden our leadership within APHNYS. Just like our cooperation with MANY, the Pomeroy Foundation, the Conference on New York State History and others, this is how it should work.

APHNYS is now financially strong enough to move ahead with improving our methods, and with ensuring that we have the means to reach out to our membership with a more regular basis. That is the comment that I hear the most — that they want to hear from us, they (meaning you) want to know that we are there to help with specific issues.

While it is important that APHNYS plays a statewide role in our history community (which we are doing with efforts in cooperation, conference planning, and strengthening our history and heritage interests), it is more important that we find better ways to bring those interests to each individual historian.

And by historian, I do mean an individual. That is one effort we will continue to stress. We know that we as individuals have the capability of being a strong network that can influence the state's history efforts. But too often, we get left behind by the many other agencies and entities that also have a part of the history pie. Often because of better marketing efforts, and often because of politics.

Those are some of the reasons I want APHNYS involved in larger efforts. To some that sounds backward. We should be stronger on the more local level — but we cannot force them to understand the importance of the individual historian if we do not make efforts on the larger level. Imagine that we stress our uniqueness on a national level — which we are doing this year. Imagine that we present material and sessions to our appointing bodies at their conferences so that they too understand that we are and should be an important part of their governments.

We know that heritage tourism is big business, and we should be the ones playing integral roles in that venture. Cooperation brings our image to the forefront as do the work that we do every day — and in every municipality across the Empire State. No other state, no other history agency can really claim they have a member in every town, village, city, county and borough. But we can, and that can make all the difference.

It is time for us to grow, and, more importantly, it is time for me to turn this newsletter over.

Gerry Smith, President

# From the State Historian



It's January once again and time to look back on the previous year and forward to the next.

My sense is that last year was a very good year for New York's historians and that APHNYS had a lot to do with making 2014 the success that it was. That's because this was year in which the members of the state's diverse history community recognized as never before that we all have more in common than we might once have thought. And along with our friends and colleagues who teach in our schools or in colleges and universities . . . or who manage museums and historic sites . . . or who work in historic preservation offices or archives and libraries, we're discovering that we all win when we learn from each other, support each other, and develop partnerships together. APHNYS people, I think, probably knew all of this long before this year, and this is likely why APHNYS has played such a strong leadership role in making good things happen.

One good thing that happened, of course, was that APHNYS members helped develop a new way of planning and managing the annual Conference on New York State History in June. The New York State Historical Association, which had long run the conference more or less on its own, invited APHNYS and other statewide historical organizations to help plan the conference program. And as the many APHNYS members who attended can attest, the result was a conference that served all of New York's historical interests, attracted an audience twice as large as previous conferences, and set a precedent for future programming. Dutchess County Historian William Tatum III did an outstanding job representing APHNYS on the program committee, and he participated knowledgeably in a lively session on historical tourism. APHNYS president Gerry Smith—whose early support for this new way of planning the conference was a critical factor in making it happen—chaired an APHNYS-sponsored session that examined public television projects that raised public historical awareness and promoted economic development.

The year 2014 was noteworthy, too, for the revival of New York State History Month. November is History Month, of course, and APHNYS led the way in reminding New Yorkers of the exciting and important role that history plays in their daily lives. APHNYS members worked in collaboration with a wide range of organizations and individuals across the state and sponsored programs that set the stage for an even bigger History Month in 2015.

Congratulations, too, to the many APHNYS members who sponsored historical marker dedications and programs in 2014, often with the generous support of the William T. Pomeroy Foundation. It's amazing to me to see the dramatic increase in historical markers that has taken shape in just the past few years. None of this would have been possible without the enthusiastic leadership of Gerry Smith and the APHNYS board and the efforts of all of those APHNYS members who installed and dedicated so many new markers and repaired so many older ones. (Now if we could just get more people to recognize the difference between historic markers and historical markers . . .)

Very significantly, too, 2014 was a year in which APHNYS moved beyond the fiscal problems that had been such a problem in the past. This is a major achievement, and once again, the credit for making it happen goes to the organization's very capable leadership. With firmer financial footing, I am anticipating very good things for the coming years.

I know from the annual reports that you have been sending me (thank you) that individual APHNYS members accomplished quite a bit in 2014. I am constantly impressed by the diversity and quality of the work that all of you do, and I look forward to reading through your reports as they come in.

I look forward to working with you in 2015, too, and to seeing many of you in Corning for this year's annual conference. Last year's meeting in Saratoga will be hard to beat, but I'm guessing we might just do it. I'm also expecting another precedent-setting Conference on New York State History this year at Niagara University (Niagara County Historian Catherine Emerson will do a great job on the program committee, I'm sure), and I'm very excited about another great History Month in November. There will be other new milestones, as well, beginning with the good work of the new Social Media and Outreach Committee—Ray LaFever, Clifton Patrick, and Christine Ridarsky—and the development of new social media programs.

So . . . thank you one more time for all of the exceptional work you do for the state and for your communities and for making history by doing it.



## Call for 2015 Nominations

### APHNYS Awards to be presented at Annual Conference

Except where noted, all nominees must be paid members of APHNYS

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Local Government Historian Professional Achievement Award:** Awarded for life-time achievement in the practice of public history in NYS.

**Edmund J. Winslow Local Government Historian Award for Excellence:** Recognition for excellence in one or more public history projects or publications.

**Joseph F. Meany Award:** Excellence in a military, labor, or marine project or publication.

**Hugh Hastings Award:** Honoring citizens and government officials who work to promote, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of NYS.

**APHNYS Award for Excellence in Promoting Local History:** Excellence in cooperation and promoting local history.

I would like to nominate the following individuals for the :

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Edmund J. Winslow Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Joseph F. Meany Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hugh Hasting Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Excellence in Promoting Local History Award::** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

All nominations must have supporting statements or information attached to this form to assist the APHNYS Awards Committee in its review. Nominations submitted without supporting statements or information will not be reviewed.

***Please note: Roosevelt, Winslow, Meany awards are for APHNYS Member Public Historians/Deputy Historians; Hastings Award is for non-Public Historians; and the Award for Excellence in Promoting Local History is open to all.***

**The deadline for nominations is March, 20, 2015.**

Please complete this nomination form and e-mail to [aphnys@yahoo.com](mailto:aphnys@yahoo.com) or mail to APHNYS, P.O. Box 366, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745.



# Association of Public Historians of New York State

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## 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](mailto:APHNYS@yahoo.com) or call 607-595-1571.*

***Please return completed form with check made payable and mailed to:***

APHNYS  
PO Box 2985  
Setauket, NY 11733

#### Dues Structure

*2015 Annual Dues for Historian and/or Co-Historian is based on Community's population*

0 – 1,000 .....	\$25.00
1,001 – 4,000 .....	\$30.00
4,001 – 12,000 .....	\$35.00
12,001 – 100,000 .....	\$40.00
100,001 – 200,000 .....	\$45.00
200,001 – 1+ Million .....	\$50.00

*2015 Annual Dues for the following categories are as follows:*

**Deputy and/or Assistant Historian Dues. .... \$25.00**  
**Affiliate Member Dues ..... \$25.00**

# Schedule of Conference Events

## SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Please Note:** During each concurrent session, we attempt to offer conference attendees a focus choice of: History Session (H) or Skills Session (S).

### Thursday, April 9, 2015

6:00 – 8:00 PM      APHNYS Board of Trustees Spring Meeting

7:00 p.m.-9:00 PM      APHNYS Movie Night for Early Arrivals -*A number of video selections on local history topics.*

### Friday, April 10, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 PM.      Conference Registration

10:00 – 11:30 AM      Pre-Conference Sessions

Session A –      ***Basic Orientation for Newly Appointed Historians (S)***

Christine Ridarksy, City of Rochester Historian

Workshop for Public Historians on the job for 1-3 years; provides overview of role and responsibilities, as well as insights on how to get the job done.

Session B –      ***On the Seamy Side of the Street: How Colorful Characters and the Press can Sell History (H and S)***

Gerald Smith, Broome County Historian

Learn how murderers, madams, crooked politicians and a newspaper combined to make for the promotion of local history.

Session C—      ***APHNYS Registered Historians Program (S)***

Sandra Bradford, Town of Hector Historian

Make the move toward recognition for all your efforts -- for historians who have been in office for more than 3 years

Lunch (on own/hotel restaurant available)

**1:00 PM.      APHNYS Official Conference Kick-Off**

Welcoming by APHNYS and other officials

**1:30 – 3:00 PM      Concurrent Session 1**

**Session A –      *Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in New York State—1917 to 2017 (H)***

Spike Herzig, President, New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network

Since 1917 women in New York have had the right to vote — a historical event that is now part of a new website with stories, blogs, and events , and where we, the historians, can help.

**Session B –      *Introduction to Data Mining for Public Historians (S)***

Jacob Ludes, III, President, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Data mining is available for a new generation of histories, and historians can use these new techniques to reap a rich harvest of local history.

**Session C –      *Researching Your Community's One-Room Schools (S)***

Ray LaFever, Town of Bovina Historian

Researching one-room schools involves looking at community records on local and state levels. The presenter will use his experience using records at the state levels to document the changes in schools in the 19th century through the 1920s.

**3:15 – 5:00 PM      APHNYS Annual Meeting & Elections**

“State of the State’s History”

with NYS Historian Robert Weible

**5:30—6:30 PM      Cash Bar & Reception**

**6:30– 8:00 PM      Annual Awards Banquet**

Presentation of 2014 APHNYS Awards with Keynote Speaker TBA

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM      Conference Registration

7:00 – 9:00 AM      Breakfast

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM      Conference Exhibit Area Open



9:00 – 10:15 AM      **Concurrent Session 1**

Session A –      ***Primary Sources and Local Government Records: Understanding your Municipal Records Research Potential (S)***

Paula Miller, Executive Director, William G. Pomeroy Foundation and R. Kent Steutz, Regional Advisory Officer, Central New York Region, New York State Archives

Learn how local government records can be used as primary documentation in applying for the Pomeroy Foundation Historic Marker program and what types of records exist.

Session B –      ***Agnes: The Flood of '72 (H)***

Brian Frey, History & Heritage Producer, WSKG (PBS)

Utilizing archival photos and film footage, ***Agnes*** tells the incredible history of the region and the story of a natural disaster that forever altered the area's destiny.

Session C –      ***Basic Orientation for Newly Appointed Historians (S)***

Christine Ridarksy, City of Rochester Historian

Workshop for Public Historians on the job for 1-3 years; provides overview of role and responsibilities, as well as insights on how to get the job done.

10:30– 11:45 AM      **Concurrent Session 2**

Session A –      ***Create a Professional Development Course for Teachers Based on Local Historic Sites (S)***

Lynn Burns, Town of Deerpark Historian

Following the Common Core guidelines, this program demonstrates colonial life skills to elementary students and focuses on Brant's Neversink Valley raid

Session B –      ***Glenn Curtis: The Forgotten Eagle (H)***

Brian Frey, History & Heritage Producer, WSKG (PBS)

Winner of a 2005 Emmy Award, this documentary showcases Glenn Curtiss who is credited with the first publicly announced flight of an airplane in the United States, taking place in Hammondsport, NY on July 4, 1908

Session C –      ***Creating a Historical Marker Maintenance Program (S)***

Christine Ridarksy, John Scherer, Matt Urtz

Creating historical markers is one thing, but how do you create a maintenance program to protect those valuable history tools. This panel discussion will talk about what works for them and what may be usable by the local historian.

11:45 AM-12:45 PM      Buffet Lunch & Afternoon Field Session Instructions

1:00 – 5:00 PM      Afternoon In-the-Field Sessions with tours of the Rockwell Museum of Western Art and the Corning Museum of Glass

5:30 -6:30 PM      Cash Bar & Reception

6:30 -7:00 PM      Dinner with Keynote Speaker, TBA



## Sunday, April 12, 2015

7:00 – 11:00 AM                      Conference Registration

7:00 – 9:00 AM                        Breakfast

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM                Conference Exhibit Area Open

### 9:00 – 10:30 AM                      **Concurrent Session 1**

Session A –     ***On the Seamy Side of the Street: How Colorful Characters and the Press can Sell History (H and S)***

Gerald Smith, Broome County Historian

Learn how murderers, madams, crooked politicians and a newspaper combined to make for the promotion of local history.

Session B –     ***The Museum Association of New York (S)***

Robert Cassetti, President MANY Board of Trustees

Learn about this organization and the importance of the public historian's work with museums.

### 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM                **Concurrent Session 2**

Session A –     ***Researching Your Community's One-Room Schools (S)***

Ray LaFever, Town of Bovina Historian

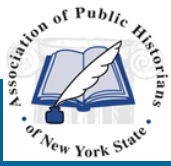
Researching one-room schools involves looking at community records on local and state levels. The presenter will use his experience using records at the state levels to document the changes in schools in the 19th century through the 1920s.

Session B –     ***APHNYS Registered Historians Program (S)***

Sandra Bradford, Town of Hector Historian

Make the move toward recognition for all your efforts -- for historians who have been in office for more than 3 years

12:00 PM                      Conference Concludes



# HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

To make a reservation at the Radisson Hotel Corning,  
go to [www.radisson.com/corningny](http://www.radisson.com/corningny)  
Choose dates and select room.

**USE PROMO CODE: aphnys**

**to receive the correct room rate**

**If paying by check or faxing reservation, complete form below**



**APHNYS 2015 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 9-12, 2015**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which accommodations you would like:

\_\_\_ Standard Single Occupancy: \$109 + applicable tax unless tax-exempt

\_\_\_ Standard Double Occupancy: \$109 + applicable tax unless tax-exempt Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify any special requests, i.e.; handicap accessible room, non-smoking room, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

***You must obtain a tax-exempt form from your local government and present this form to the hotel at time of check-in***

Check-In: 4:00 PM

Check-Out: 11:00 AM

***Rooms not reserved by cut-off date of 3/19/15 will be returned to the hotel to sell.***

***Group reservations made after the cut-off date will be made based on availability.***

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

**To guarantee with credit card:**

Credit Card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

**Radisson Hotel Corning**

125 Denison Pkwy E, Corning, NY 14830

(607) 962-5000

***DO NOT SEND TO THE APHNYS OFFICE***



# APHNYS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Use this form to register for the 2015 Annual State Conference in Corning

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ APHNYS Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_ I am a newly or recently-appointed Public Historian.

\_\_\_\_ I have been a member of APHNYS since \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ I am a Registered Historian.

\_\_\_\_ This will be my first visit to Corning.

Please make checks payable to APHNYS

and return this form to:

APHNYS 2014 Conference

P.O. Box 2985

Setauket, NY 11733

## Conference Registration (Please check all that apply):

### Registration

\_\_\_\_ Member Registration Fee (*Full Conference/One-Day Attendance*)...\$65.00/person

\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Registration Fee.....\$75.00/person

\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Rate (if he/she would like to attend sessions).....\$25.00/person

### Meals

\_\_\_\_ Friday Evening Awards Banquet.....\$43.50/person

\_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast.....\$15.50/person

\_\_\_\_ Saturday Lunch.....\$25.50/person

\_\_\_\_ Saturday Evening Dinner..... \$43.50/person

\_\_\_\_ Sunday Breakfast..... \$15.50/person

### Saturday Afternoon Field Experience

Transportation & Admission Fee (required for all making trip).....\$25.00/person

### Membership (for those who have yet to renew or wish to join APHNYS)

Renew Your APHNYS Membership for 2015 (see rate on website).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: IF ATTENDEES MUST CANCEL DUE TO EMERGENCIES PRIOR TO 72 HOURS OF THE CONFERENCE, ALL FEES WILL BE RETURNED EXCEPT REGISTRATION FEES. IF CANCELLED LESS THAN 72 HOURS, MEAL COSTS ALSO CANNOT BE RETURNED.**



PO Box 366 (regular correspondence) PO Box 2985 (fiscal correspondence)  
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745 Setauket, NY 11733  
(607) 595-1571  
[www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)  
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## APHNYS Leadership

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