

THE HISTORIAN'S EXCHANGE

Association of Public Historians of New York

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A Season of Change: A message from our president

Lately I have been thinking a lot about change. I will be honest; I have never dealt with change as well as others. Call me a traditionalist; call me a stick in the mud, or someone who just sometimes freaks out because something has changed and I just wasn't ready to handle it. I mean, who knew that bell bottoms would ever go out of style!!

But change is one of the few permanent things we can count on – aside from taxes and death. That seems to be especially true as we head from the winter season to that of spring. We know it happens every year, but we always seem to be surprised when the season changes once again.

Where is this all going? That change is also happening in APHNYS. By now, you are aware that we have moved our annual meeting to the fall and the regional meetings to the spring. We are holding our 2016 conference with the New York State Family History Conference in Syracuse. That is one change ahead for all of us. We are planning both our 2017 and 2018 conferences so that they can be announced as soon as the details are finalized.

We are looking at new ways of bringing training and education to the historians

across the state. Meetings are fine, but not all of us can travel or have a budget. There are new mechanisms such as webinars that bring training to more people at better times for people to learn. Yes, we have to learn to move into the 21st century. If you are not sure you can handle that change, just ask one of your kids or grandkids – they are better at this than most of us.

There have been discussions about finding funding for historians or ensuring that we are part of the picture that is now embraced as part of heritage tourism. That change may take some time and careful handling to be effective.

By the end of next year, you will be finding a new president for APHNYS, as I am in my last term. I have been honored to serve you in that capacity, and once again, it will be a change for both the organization and me.

By the time that this newsletter is completed, the mechanism will be in effect to find a new State Historian for

New York. Who that will be is unknown, but I am pleased that the officials in Albany have embraced the importance of that position and that, perhaps, our letters to those officials may have had some impact.

In my own life, I now have three jobs – college professor, county historian, and weekly columnist providing two features a week for our newspaper – all on top of my APHNYS responsibilities. That last job has represented change for me. In the last two years, I have written over 70,000 words of history pieces – enough for a 250-page book. I am working on my fifth book, due this fall. All of this is change, sometimes good, sometimes not – but all moving in their own unique direction. And that is how APHNYS is – working toward new ways of helping us, providing us with new ways of networking, and continually looking to become better. We hope we can all help each other with that change.

—Gerald Smith,
APHNYS President



Upcoming Regional Meetings

Region 4

Region 4 historians will be meeting as part of the Catskill History Conclave from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center, 5096 Route 28, Mount Tremper, NY. The agenda includes remarks by Region 4 Coordinator Ray LaFever; a presentation by author Bob Steuding, "Researching the History of the Catskills," and group discussions on organizing to advocate for the collective work of Catskill historians.

The \$20 registration fee light breakfast and lunch. Register by contacting Michael Drillinger at: 845-586-2611 or mrdillinger@catskillcenter.org. For additional information visit: <http://www.catskillinterpretivecenter.org/cic-events/2016/4/30/a-conclave-of-catskill-historians>.

Region 7

Region 7's meeting is set for 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 16 at the Basloe Library in Herkimer. Topics include Mohawk and Ilion, mail-order houses, research at the Herkimer County Historical Society, Roxalana Druse's hanging, and famous Kuyahoo-Valley natives.

The event will include a tour of the 1832 Jail where Chester Gillette was housed in 1906 and a catered lunch. To register, contact Region 7 Co-

ordinator Dick Williams at Apulia@verizon.net or 315-853-5018. Deadline is April 11, 2016.

Region 9

Region 9's meeting will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Homer Center for the Arts. It will be a fun-packed professional-development day. Highlights include presentations by Dr. Virginia Bartos, of NYS Historical Preservation Office and Ann Siegle and Linda Hartsock of the Homer Center for the Arts. The day will conclude with a historians open forum.

Registration is \$5. Thanks to the graciousness of the Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau there is NO CHARGE FOR LUNCH. Register by April 15. Send checks payable to APHNYS to: Madison County Historian, PO Box 668, Wampsville, NY 13163.

Regions 11 & 12

Regions 11 and 12 are hosting a joint conference on the campus of SUNY Brockport from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 30. The event is co-sponsored by the History Forum, a student organization. Tompkins County Historian Carol Kammen will be the keynote speaker. Other presenters will discuss development of the Brockport Community Museum and



SUNY Brockport's Public History and Museum Studies program.

Registration is \$25 and includes a light breakfast and a buffet lunch. For information, contact Region 11 Coordinator Peter Evans, (315) 946-5470 or historian@co.wayne.ny.us, or Region 12 Coordinator Judith Littlejohn, (585) 698-7190 or Judith.littlejohn@gmail.com.

Monroe County

The spring 2016 meeting of the Monroe County Historians will be Wednesday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the Buckland House, 1341 Westfall Road, in Brighton. Town Historian Mary Jo Lanphear will host. The program will include a presentation of the APHNYS New Historian Orientation by Rochester City Historian, Christine L. Ridarsky. For information, contact Mendon Historian Diane Ham, (585) 624-4709 or dianeham@rochester.rr.com.

2016 Global Mural Conference in Fairport, NY

The 2016 Tenth Biennial Global Mural Conference invites historical societies, heritage groups and businesses along the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to sponsor local and international artists who will be painting murals in Fairport, NY, on September 18 - 25, 2016.

"Preserving Heritage Through Community Art," features 20 artists who will create new dynamic historical murals (on panels approximately 7' x 16') for sponsoring communities all along the Heritage Corridor. Possible themes include the canal, Women's Suffrage, the Underground Railroad, and Native American history.

The artists will be set up in a tent at the Woodcliff Hotel in Fairport, site of the weeklong conference, beginning Monday, September 18. They will paint throughout the week. The event is open to the public and is ex-

pected to attract 15,000-20,000 people. The culmination of the Conference will be on Sunday, September 25, when an "Art Walks on Water" flotilla will display the new murals paraded on boats on the Erie Canal from Fairport to Rochester's Genesee Valley Park. Following the event the murals will be permanently installed in the sponsoring communities.

The Corridor, with 234 cities, towns, and villages, stretches 524 miles across New York and includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals. It encourages historic preservation, recreation, interpretation, tourism and community development.

The conference, conceived by The Global Mural Arts and Tourism Association, has been attracting locals, visitors and talented muralists in venues around the world for



more than 20 years.

This year's conference's host is Mural Mania, an all volunteer organization that has been promoting a network of murals since 2007. It has achieved success in bringing about creation of 45 murals along the Heritage Corridor and was awarded the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Award of Excellence in 2010 for murals in Lyons.

"This latest project hopes to further awareness of the rich cultural history and character across New York State," said Mark DeCracker, founder of Mural Mania and event chairperson.

For more information about the conference, bios of artists, and registration, visit the Conference website at <http://gmc2016.com/mural-artists-profiles/> or call 315-573-8170.

Around the state...

NY seeks new State Historian

The New York State Education Department has advertised to fill the position of State Historian. Jennifer Lemak has served as acting historian since Bob Weible retired in July. Weible had served in a dual role of Chief Curator of the State Museum and State Historian. Upon his retirement, the state chose to split the two jobs into two positions. Lemak was recently appointed permanent Chief Curator.

The new State Historian will be hired as a Senior Historian in the museum. According to the job description, the person in the role "will have a broad researched based knowledge about New York State, conduct research, provide statewide coordination and leadership of the historical communities in New York, promote collaboration, and a scholarship that ensures greater understanding of the history of the State." The historian will report to Lemak. The starting salary is \$64,302.

Applications were due on March 16. To read the entire job posting, visit: http://www.oms.nysed.gov/hr/flyers/OCE_937_27442.htm.

News from the Town of Croghan

We are sad to report that longtime Croghan (Lewis County) Town Historian Jack Sweeney passed away on January 14, 2015. He served the community for 33 years. His wife Mary Sweeney has been appointed to replace him. She is currently helping the town plan for its 175th anniversary celebration, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 9 at the Municipal Building. For information, call 315-346-6201 or jsweeney@ridgeviewtel.us.

New Region 7 Deputy Coordinator

Karen Cuccinello, Town of Summit historian (Schoharie County), has accepted the position of deputy coordinator for Region 7. She can be reached at 518-287-1945 or karenc@midtel.net.





Association of Public Historians of New York State

2016 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

Syracuse, NY - September 15-17, 2016

Register and reserve your hotel room NOW!



The Association of Public Historians of New York State is pleased to announce that the 2016 Annual State Conference will be held in Syracuse on September 15-17, 2016, in conjunction with the New York State Family History Conference. APHNYS members will have the opportunity to attend NYSFHC sessions at no additional cost. Accommodations and most conference sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn—Syracuse/Liverpool.

Please note the change in timing, as APHNYS has historically held its annual conference in the Spring. The move to a Fall conference will reduce conflicts between our conference and others normally held in the Spring, such as the Museum Association of New York and the New York Statewide Preservation Conference, and provide new opportunities to partner with organizations such as NYSFHC.

The APHNYS conference draws between 175-200 Local Government Historians and supporters of local history from across the Empire State. NYSFHC draws hundreds more.

Due to the popularity of the NYSFHC and a limit on the total number of attendees the conference venue can accommodate, we are encouraging APHNYS members to **REGISTER EARLY**, both to ensure that they are able to reserve a spot and also to take advantage of an early bird discount. You may register for only **\$65** before **May 31, 2016**. After that, registration increases to \$75. Use the form on the next page to register.



Reserve your room now, too! We also highly recommend reserving your hotel room as soon as possible. The Holiday Inn and Conference Center—Syracuse/Liverpool is conveniently located at 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY, across from the NYS Thruway (I-90) Electronics Parkway exit toll booth and one mile from the 7th North Street I-81 exit. Located 5 miles from Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) with flights provided by Air Canada, American Eagle, JetBlue, USAirways, Delta and United, the hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Airport.

The conference rate is **\$129** per night, plus applicable fees and taxes. To reserve your room, **contact the hotel directly**, at **315-457-1122** and use the discount code "**CGS**." Do not use the hotel's toll free number or website, as you will not get the conference rate.

Look for additional details in coming months!



APHNYS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 15-17, 2016, Syracuse, New York

Name: _____ **Conference Registration**
Guest registrant name: _____ **First Rush**—postmarked/registered before Nov. 30, 2015
(Guest registrants of the APHNYS conference may only attend the APHNYS sessions.)
Street Address: _____ APHNYS Member \$55 \$ _____
City/State/Zip: _____ APHNYS Guest \$25 \$ _____
Phone Number: _____ **Early Bird**—postmarked/registered before May 31, 2016
E-mail Address: _____
APHNYS Region: _____ APHNYS Member \$65 \$ _____
Historian for: _____ APHNYS Guest \$30 \$ _____
(Town, Village, City, County or Borough)

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 Syracuse.

Lecture Choices:

The APHNYS 2016 will run concurrently with the NYS Family History Conference. APHNYS registrants may attend any of the NYSFHC conference lectures at no additional cost, but will not receive the NYSFHC syllabus. The NYSFHC syllabus will be available for purchase at the NYSFHC booth in the exhibitor hall.

Membership:

For those who have yet to renew or wish to join APHNYS for 2016

Dues for Historian and/or Co-Historian are 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

Dues for the following categories are as follows:

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

For the 2016 conference, Affiliate Members who join as Affiliate members on or before September 15, 2015, will be eligible for the member registration fee.

Friday Afternoon APHNYS Excursion(s):

- ☐ TBA (cost \$30) Limited to 40 attendees.
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Regular—after May 31, 2016

APHNYS Member \$75 \$ _____

APHNYS Guest \$35 \$ _____

Registration total (lectures) \$ _____

Thursday Dinner & Program \$45 \$ _____

Friday Breakfast \$25 \$ _____

Friday Lunch & Lecture \$32 \$ _____

Friday Dinner & Program \$45 \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast \$25 \$ _____

Saturday Lunch & Lecture \$32 \$ _____

Excursions & Membership:

Friday APHNYS Excursion 1 \$30 \$ _____

Friday APHNYS Excursion 2 \$30 \$ _____

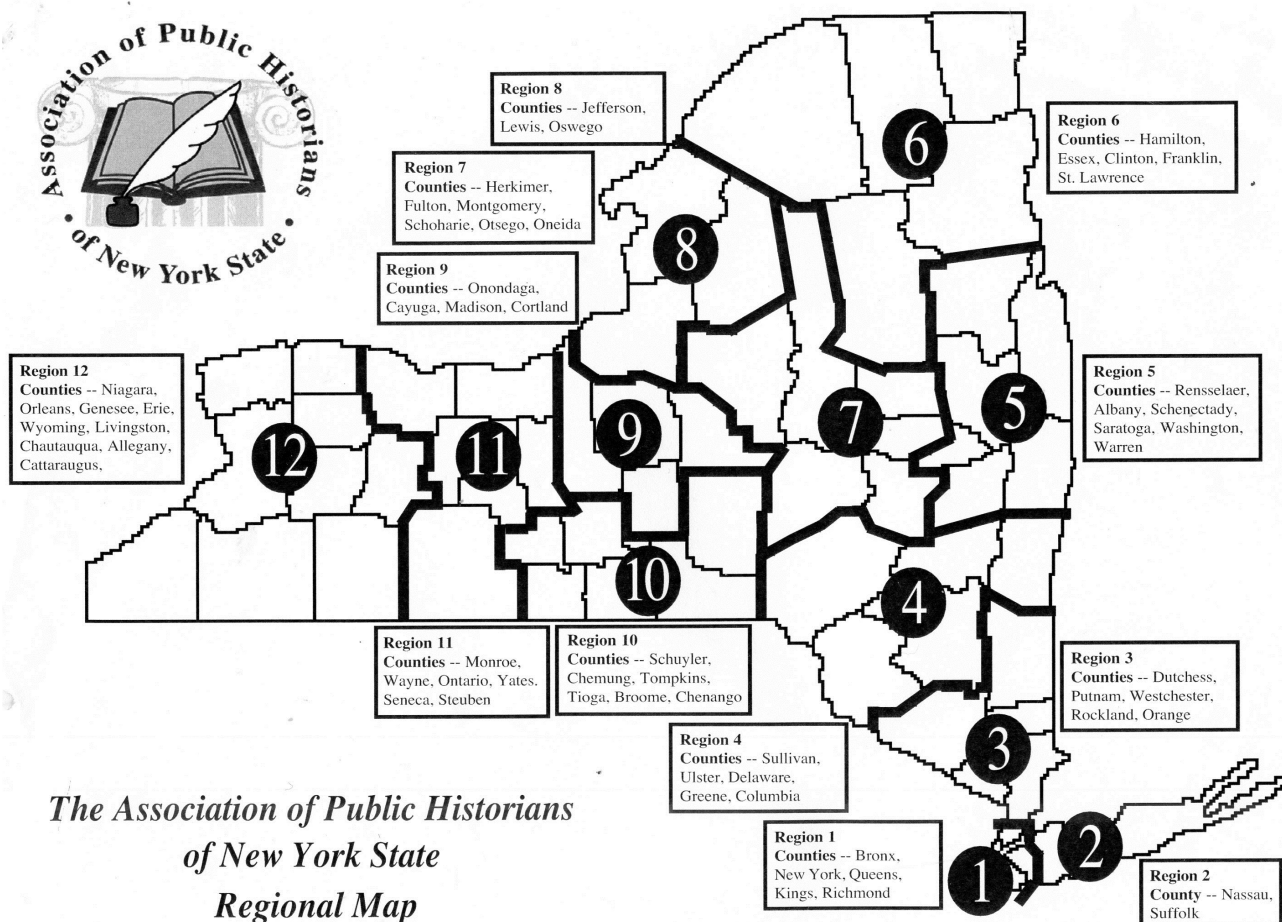
Membership Fee \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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.

Please make checks payable to APHNYS
and return this form to:
APHNYS 2016 Conference
P.O. Box 2985
Setauket, NY 11733

For more information go to www.aphnys.org



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:** Judith Littlejohn, Town and Village of Elba, Judith.littlejohn@gmail.com



Association of Public Historians of New York State

2016 Dues/Membership Form

Membership Year: Jan. 1-Dec. 31 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 607-595-1571. Please return completed form with check **made payable and mailed to:**

  **APHNYS**
PO Box 2985
Setauket, NY 11733  

Dues Structure

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¹ **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.



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Chenango Bridge, NY 13745 Setauket, NY 11733
(607) 595-1571
www.aphnys.org
aphnys@yahoo.com

APHNYS Leadership

OFFICERS

President - Gerald R. Smith

Broome County/Binghamton City 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- Matthew Urtz

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

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 - April Staring

Town of Vienna Historian (Region 7)
2083 State Route 49
PO Box 250
North Bay, NY 13123
(315) 762-4262
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TRUSTEES

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Raymond LaFever

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bovinahistorian@gmail.com

Judith Littlejohn

Town and Village of Elba Historian (Region 12)
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Clifton Patrick

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swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.gov