

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS FOLLOW

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF STATES AND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

ARIZONA – Arlene Bright

This officer's term began in June of 2015 with a State Board planning meeting to identify goals and objectives for future Quester sessions.

Since then, this officer has:

Approved the development of a state new member contest and a membership newsletter.

Directed the planning of Arizona Questers' 40th Anniversary celebration. This officer also was privileged to host the International President in Prescott following the event.

Completed the overhaul of the State website.

Completed visits to 13 of Arizona's 29 chapters.

Oversaw plans for the 2016 Annual meeting, provided direction for Arizona's 2-day fall event in Sedona and directed the planning of a regional meeting for the state's north central chapters.

Observed an uptick in annual P&R activity – this year \$16,000 was donated to various local, state and International P&R projects and qualifying funds. Plus, nearly \$5000 in state grants was distributed.

Attended Quester fundraising events around the state: a Victorian Fashion Show & Pie Sampler, a Box Lunch auction, Wickenburg Legends and Ghost Town Tour, and Antiques on the Square, a biannual event sponsored by 2 Prescott chapters that nets about \$7000 annually for P&R projects.

Regularly corresponded with chapter Presidents, reminding them of important tasks and events and encouraging participation at state events.

Promoted the use of Arizona's email alert system that provides members access "at the click of the mouse" to State and Intl newsletters. 60% of Arizona's members have elected to stop receiving paper copies.

Accepted an appointment as recording secretary for the 2016 Iowa Presidents' Conference.

Appeared on a 1-hour Arizona radio talk show speaking about Questers and covering topics at the International, State and local levels.

ARKANSAS – Camille Hatcher

This officer has enjoyed a rewarding second year as the Arkansas State president. Arkansas currently has 237 members in 13 chapters.

With the initiative of the Communications Committee and some very talented members, PowerPoint presentations that showcase our P&R projects and accomplishment's, are being used as a program tool to educate and entertain as well as promote our Questers to various local clubs and organizations.

The State Convention this spring was a huge success. We began a Diamond Ticket incentive reward for new members wherein the state pays the meeting registration fee for their first State Convention. During the convention our Chapters Banners and our newly created State Questers Banner were prominently displayed. A special treat was to have as our guest, International President Ginger Robbins. Fundraising for our P&R Grant fund and our State general fund plays an enormous part at our two council meetings each year. Arkansas Questers raised over two thousand dollars for our P&R fund and nearly one thousand dollars for our States general fund this year.

Three P&R Grants were awarded this spring. One went to Arkopolis chapter #867 for their Mt. Holly Cemetery project in Little Rock and its Bell Tower restoration. The second went to Butterfield Trails chapter # 949 to continue with their acquisition of period furnishings for The Historic Kindley House in Gravette Ar. The third grant was awarded to Trail of Tears chapter #904 to purchase specialized photo equipment to be used at the Benton County Historical Society for copying land and tax records dating to the 1830's.

This officer has enjoyed her service and will be passing the gavel in June to hard working and enthusiastic Dot Sanders from Calico Bluffs chapter #1494. Quest on.

CALIFORNIA - Janet Robbins

This officer is pleased to report that California Questers are 25 chapters and over 400 members strong. Sadly, two of our chapters have disbanded. Saint Francis#30, our oldest chapter, located in San Francisco was founded in 1954, just 10 years after our International Organization began! They have been active in California Questers for 62 years. We will certainly miss them. George Key#1114, located in Southern California has been an active chapter since 1986 and until recently has participated in many Quester activities. These members will be missed by all California Questers. On a brighter note, we are gaining new members on a regular basis. Our chapters are flourishing.

California Questers have many wonderful projects in our communities. We all look forward to hearing and seeing these projects at our twice a year conventions. Our latest State P&R project is on hold at the moment. Our focus has been the Old Governor's Mansion in Sacramento for many years. The house has recently undergone an extensive renovation thanks to our Governor Jerry Brown. He and his wife have moved into the mansion for the rest of his term.. When his father was Governor, Mr. Brown lived in the mansion and he wanted to see it updated. Should the next Governor decide not to occupy the home, California Questers may continue funding projects there. We will continue to look into other State projects in the meantime.

This past year, our Preservation and Restoration Committee has awarded of \$5000 in grants to chapters who have worthy projects.

At the present, California Questers are pursuing what might be an innovative and perhaps a monumental project. We are considering digitizing our history. We have been seeking someone who may be willing to take on such a task. This officer and our incoming State President are hopeful that this project will preserve our history for the future.

FLORIDA - Helen Dennis

Welcome Aboard Florida - a trip of a Life Time! Fellow Questers: Florida has 453 members in 27 chapters. All are eagerly waiting to showcase our state at the 2017 International Convention in St. Pete. What better way to see the State P&R project at Heritage Village just West of downtown St. Pete, see beautiful white sand beaches, soak up warm sunshine and drink cool drinks than to make the trip South! With one chapter in the Panhandle of the state and 3 in the Keys, there is plenty to see and do in the 800 plus miles. The majority of the Quester chapters are in the St. Pete area and with only one chapter lost this year all our chapters will show you "Southern Hospitality".

So hop on the Florida train for 2017!

ILLINOIS – Gwen Thomas

Hello from Illinois, the Land of Lincoln. Illinois has 711 members in 44 chapters, of which thirteen members are registered at this convention.

In October, Illinois Questers gathered for the State Convention in Kankakee, where the theme was "Wright on the Prairie". The focus was on the restoration of the Bradley House, Frank Lloyd Wright's first Prairie Style home. Attendees were treated to a visit with Mamah Cheney, Wright's mistress. The day included officer workshops, a silent auction, luncheon and the general council meeting. Anniversary chapters were recognized, including one 50 year chapter which had a charter member in attendance. She was presented with flowers.

This year Illinois awarded a total of \$2995 in P & R grants to six chapters A \$100 P & R award continues to be awarded to the chapter which adds the most new members, this year's winner added 7 new members.

This year's President's Project provided funds to the Wright in Kankakee, the not-for-profit group undertaking the restoration of the Bradley House. The grant will be used for the re-plastering of the front facade of their carriage house and stable.

Illinois Questers continue to publicize this organization by sending photos of events to local newspapers and providing information when a donation is given to a historical project through state or International grants.

The QUILL, the Illinois newsletter is published twice a year and continues to inform and educate within our state. After a short lapse due to lack of a state webmaster, this state's website is back up and better than ever.

INDIANA - Joyce Dalton

Madame President, International Executive Board, Fellow Questers, greetings from the State of Indiana, the "Crossroads of America".

Indiana has 20 chapters, 304 active members. Our hope for this year is to "grow Questers" in Indiana. Chapters are planning meetings to invite potential members to join our wonderful organization.

This officer has presided at three Executive Board meetings, a Fall Council meeting and a Spring Convention.

Questers attending the 2015 Spring Convention, "Party at the Palais", held in South Bend, Indiana enjoyed a wonderful program focused on the preservation and restoration of the entire Palais Royale building. The Palace opened in 1922 and featured beautiful interiors inspired by the great cities of Europe. Several in attendance remember going to dances there during their high school years.

At our 2015 Fall Council Meeting held in Elkhart we were all treated to a program called Norman Rockwell-Making of an American Legend presented by Mr. Brian Byrne, curator of the Midwest Museum of American Art. The Harvest table was full of wonderful treasures raising monies for P & R. A buffet lunch was served. The tables were decorated for fall. After the meeting, members were free to explore the nearby list of places that were suggested by the host chapters.

IOWA - Carol Tinkey

Madame President, Executive Board and Fellow Questers:

Change was in the air for Iowa this year. We went from having 4 area days in the fall to one statewide event - the Fall Fling, then held our regular State Day/Council Meeting in the spring. Iowa had 125 chapters with 1722 members this year.

It seemed the chapters were kind of out in left field by themselves, so inaugurated a monthly "Tidbit" email to chapter presidents to make them feel more connected with the State Board. The Tidbits include promoting upcoming events, gave reminders and deadlines, and some tips for them to try. This has been well received by the presidents. Thank goodness for email, because if letters had been sent, it would have cost \$980.00

Last summer was the 8th year Iowa Questers have given Preservation & Restoration Awards to 4-H'ers for their projects at the Iowa State Fair, in hopes of instilling in the young people the importance of preserving the past for future generations. Several chapters are now doing similar programs at the county level.

This year Iowa Questers donated more than \$23,000 to projects on the International, State and local levels. Some of the projects were: helping to restore the first black church in Mt. Pleasant, restore a cemetery monument and provided cemetery markers for those unmarked in Babyland.

Equally, if not more important are the more than 13,000 volunteer hours donated by Questers, which according to the *Independent Sector* is valued at \$306,280. More importantly, many museums would not be able to keep their doors open without our volunteers who clean, polish, paint, repair, and decorate, serve as docents, office help, store clerks, and greeters. Their help is invaluable.

Iowa Questers would like to thank all of you for coming to help us celebrate 50 years as a Quester State.

MARYLAND – Bettye Wolfe

This officer presided over four board meetings, two council meetings, and State Day, installing incoming State President, 1st Vice President and Corresponding Secretary; attended one P&R meeting

where a significant issue was debated and resolved; initiated fund raising events at two Council Meetings to increase the General Fund; approved P&R Grants to Anne Arundell Towne #934 (\$1,580.00) and Clynmilara #336 (\$1,023.32).

This officer is proud to report chapter donations in the amount of \$2,234.00 supported various chapter projects, and state day proceeds added \$2,230.00 to the P&R and \$330.00 to the general funds.

This officer assisted in the production of programs for Council and State Day meetings; sent letters of welcome to new members; letters of appreciation to appointees for their willingness to serve; prepared and disseminated numerous informational memoranda to chapter presidents; and answered all queries in a timely manner.

This officer continues to promote interest and communicate with a group to organize a Quester chapter in the Darnestown community; attempted but has not yet succeeded to deliver a treasured Bess Bardens pitcher for display at International Headquarters.

This officer proudly served as Maryland State President and will hand over the gavel to incoming State President Margie McCeney at the turnover meeting on June 6th; stepping down but continuing to support initiatives to grow the Quester organization and promote state and international programs and policies.

MICHIGAN – Connie Yore

Greetings from Pure Michigan!

Michigan has 64 chapters with 986 active members. These members have donated more than 6300 volunteer hours by presenting educational programs about antiques to schools and at public gatherings, acting as docents and greeters at museums, working on yard maintenance at cemeteries and museums, cataloging, repairing, and accessioning antiques at museums, setting up displays at libraries and county fairs, hosting fund raisers such as garage sales, luncheons, selling jewelry, collectibles and antiques at flea markets and antique shows, hosting antique appraisals and garden walks to mention a few.

Michigan chapters have donated \$40,638.72 to state and international P&R, the National Maintenance Fund, museums including the Lee Conklin Organ Museum, the Morton House, the Ada, Alpine, Crocker, Niles, and Jenison Museums, the Tiffany House, Michigan Aerospace Museum, the McPnearson Mansion, the Hackley House, the Romeo Historical Society, Meadowbrook Hall, Greenmeand Historical Park, Pewabic Pottery, and the Save the Flag Foundation.

Michigan lost one chapter and a few members this year, but Michigan Questers are recruiting new members stressing preservation and restoration. Questers meet at varying times, presenting many educational and interesting topics.

Michigan has four board meetings a year: September, November, March and June, a Spring Council meeting, a two day Fall Convention, a website: WWW.MichiganQuesters.org, and a Michi-Quester magazine which is published and mailed twice a year to our members. We distribute Michigan Quester pamphlets to area museums, antiques shops and libraries.

Michigan members are energetic and enthusiastic while volunteering, donating and educating themselves and others about our state history, artifacts, collections, historic buildings and monuments.

MISSOURI – Nelle Garrecht

Missouri was chartered as the 13th chartered state in Questers almost exactly 40 years ago, on May 30, 1976. That year several Missouri Questers attended the National Convention in Philadelphia. In the congratulatory letter accompanying the charter it was mentioned that Missouri would be hosting the National Convention in 1978. Forty years later, Missouri will be hosting its third International Convention, in Kansas City in May of 2018.

Missouri has 14 chapters and 230 members almost evenly divided between the east and west sides of the state. The fall State meeting is held in the St. Louis area and the spring Council meeting is in St. Joseph or Kansas City. The newsletter, The Show-Me Slate, which is published twice per year, and the website, missouriquesters.org, help to keep everyone informed.

Missouri chapters contributed to both International and local funds. Contributions were given to the Headquarters Maintenance fund in honor of Irene Wenzel, the International and State P&R funds, the International scholarship and fellowship funds, and several local historic places such as the Eugene Field House and Hawken House in St. Louis and the Pony Express Museum and public library system in St. Joseph.

Field trips were taken to Bellefontaine Cemetery, Sappington House, and Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, the Lewis & Clark Confluence tower in Hartford, Illinois, and the Jacob Geiger house, the Wyeth Estate, and the Andrew County Museum in St. Joseph.

Three Missouri chapters have applied for International P&R grants. All Missouri Questers hope you will be "Goin' to Kansas City" in 2018.

NEBRASKA - Ruth McMaster

Greetings from Nebraska, proud to be the home of incoming International President, Lorraine Jeffus, La Belle Vue #933!

Nebraska has thirteen chapters and 201 members. A chapter-wide theme of "Nebraska Celebrates 150 Years" has been adopted for programs and activities for the upcoming Quester year in support of Nebraska's Sesquicentennial in 2017. Chapter members are encouraged to present their programs at schools, libraries, retirement homes, and community meetings.

Nebraska Questers volunteer many hours in communities as docents, workers, and educators. They donate money to International funds and to the State P & R fund, as well as to local museums and historical societies. Last year's State P & R grants restored an 1878 pump organ in a Nebraska City historic home, restored six windows in an Omaha historic home, preserved registration sheets from past Oregon Trail Days' celebrations in Scottsbluff, and preserved costumes at a museum in Norfolk.

State Day held at Omaha's Field Club featured "Architecture of Thomas Roger Kimball" presented by historian and author Joni Fogarty, and information on how to research the history of one's home by Omaha Restoration Project director, Kristine Gerber. The night before, Questers were invited to tour the historic Scottish Rite Temple. International President Ginger Robbins and her husband Dr. Gail were honored guests.

Thirty-two Questers from eight chapters as well as four guests are in attendance at International. Thanks to Iowa Questers for hosting...you and your state are indeed "Amazing"!

NEW JERSEY - Sally Bertellotti

Madam President and Members of the International Quester Executive Board, and Council member's greetings from the great Garden State of New Jersey.

New Jersey Questers would like to thank the Iowa Questers for their hospitality during this wonderful convention. We know from recent experience how much has to go on behind the scenes

New Jersey has 23 chapters and approximately 390 members.

This officer is proud to say a new Quester Chapter Ellarslie #1507 has been chartered this year

New Jersey has three Executive Board meetings and two Council meetings every year. At our Spring Council meeting we tried something new. This year we invited all our members and 89 did come. We had 2 workshops followed by brunch and the council meeting. Our new officers were installed at this meeting. A 50/50 was also run to benefit P&R. At the Fall Council meeting designated chapters donated opportunity baskets and members brought treasure items to be sold with the proceeds going to benefit P&R.

New Jersey Questers donated \$350.00 to the Columbia Scholarship fund, \$350.00 to the fellowship fund, and \$250 to the Headquarters Maintenance Fund.

Our chapters have many interesting fundraisers this spring including a talk by Rosie the Riveter and a river boat tour cruise on the historic Toms River.

The president's grant was awarded to the Victorian Emlen Physick Estate in Cape May, NJ to restore its parlor furniture.

NORTH CAROLINA – Margaret DiNubila

Madam President and fellow Questers; The great State of North Carolina reports that it has 12 chapters and 182 members. Although her term ends this year; of particular note and pride to our North Carolina Organization was the election of Robin Gildersleeve to the office of Preservation & Restoration Chairman on the International Executive Board.

Three chapters applied for International grants this year. They are Earl of Craven chapter in New Bern, Orange Factory chapter in Durham, and 1789 Questers chapter in Raleigh.

This month Questers from across our State gathered in Smithfield on Wednesday, May 4th for lunch and a tour of the Ava Gardner Museum. This was followed by a cocktail party at this President's home. On Thursday, May 5th, we toured 1830 Stonewall Manor in Rocky Mount, followed by lunch. This was a fundraiser for our P & R fund.

This officer has truly enjoyed serving as North Carolina's President this year and looks forward to serving another year.

OKLAHOMA - Lynda Constantine

This officer reports Oklahoma Questers now consists of 9 chapters and 170 members. We express our gratitude to Ginger Robbins for serving our state well as International President these last two years.

Congratulations to Ruby Darby #1291 in celebrating their 20th anniversary in March, Cimarron #1195 their 25th in May, T-Town #996 their 35th coming in September and Mistletoe #0783 their 40th in January.

Oklahoma mourned the passing of Audrey Robison in September. She served as Oklahoma's first State President from 1982-84 and remained an active Quester up until her death. Several chapters made donations to different International funds this past year after our International President, Ginger Robbins, brought the urgent needs to our attention.

Oklahoma Questers met in Sapulpa, OK in October, 2015 for our Fall Festival and Council Meeting. We raised \$508.00 for the state P&R fund and \$365 for the General Fund to help offset printing costs of the newsletter.

Oklahoma Questers continue their P&R work statewide; Mattie Beal in the upkeep of the home and Oil Capital in the upkeep of Pawnee Bill's Museum and Ranch. The state P&R committee awarded \$1500 to Cimarron Chapter for the restoration of a portrait of Will Rogers by Boris B. Gordon. The painting now hangs in the Senate lounge. The Mistletoe Chapter gave \$200 to 210 Headquarters maintenance fund. The Indian Nation Chapter adopted the Tulsa Art Deco Museum for its project and provided two display cases. The Ruby Darby Chapter adopted the John Joseph Matthews cabin located on the Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. The cabin is being restored and Ruby Darby will provide period authentic furnishings for the cabin.

It has been an honor to serve Oklahoma Questers these past two years as their President. This officer thanks all those who assisted in either their elected or appointed positions. If we all work together we can accomplish anything.

ONTARIO – Lynn Teahan

The Ontario Provincial Organization of The Questers has 174 members in 10 chapters but after 27 years Windsor Rose #1153 will be disbanding.

International President Ginger Robbins helped us to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the receipt of our provincial charter at the Fall Convention where the Silent Auction raised \$1550 for P&R and the Harvest Table \$446 to fund our newsletter, "The Maple Leaflet". At the preceding Spring Council Meeting, a draw on a "Lady's Letter" themed gift basket contributed \$270.00 to P&R and Share the Wealth raised \$130 for membership recruitment.

We are proud that Gateway Heirlooms #788, celebrating their 40th anniversary, received an International Grant of \$5,798.67 for the repapering of the bedchamber at the John R. Park Homestead. A

Provincial Grant of \$550 went to the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site to restore a steeple clock from Josiah Henson's home. A Chapter Grant of \$310 was awarded to Pelee Past #1558 for a display cabinet for native artifacts at the Leamington-Mersea Historical Museum.

Notable chapter donations saw Gateway Heirlooms #788 sending \$200 U.S. to International P&R Grants, South Shore Seekers #1156 giving \$800 and Border City Stars #1369 \$150 to Mackenzie Hall, a restored 1850s courthouse, and Spirit of Windsor #1154, Talbot Trail #1176 and Maple Leaf #311 donating \$300, \$385 and \$500, respectively, to the Edwardian mansion, Willistead Manor.

Many thanks to the Iowa Questers for your hospitality. The Ontario Questers look forward to welcoming all of you to Windsor for the International Convention in 2019.

PENNSYLVANIA –BJ Ross

Greetings from Pennsylvania – Birthplace of Questers and a Nation. Pennsylvania was honored to have the International President, Ginger Robbins, attend our Spring Conference and we thank her. Pennsylvania has 86 chapters and 1420 members.

Thirteen area representatives held meetings within their chapters to share ideas, programs and help each other. A workshop is provided for incoming presidents and new program information continues to be collected for a revision of the program book.

The State along with individual chapters was able to provide \$40,000 in preservation and restoration grants to worthy projects within the state as well as donations to Questers International causes.

Attendance for the Spring Conference was 430. Theme Baskets raised over \$4000 for our P's & Q's Newsletter, while our Opportunity Drawing and Treasure Tables brought in over \$5000 for our P & R Grants Fund.

The Legacy and Outreach Committee designed a business card with the Questers Logo in color on the front. The back of the card has brief easy to read statements about Questers' mission. The Questers Brochures have been updated to reflect Fellowship and Scholarship. Library display windows are being used to make Questers more recognizable.

Pennsylvania continues to use the web-site to connect with members and chapters in distant areas. Pennsylvania wishes to thank Iowa for hosting an informative Convention.

SOUTH DAKOTA - Wendy Morgan

South Dakota has 13 chapters with 211 members with a gain of 9 new members this year.

The State Executive Board was busy working to revise the state's P & R Grant Guidelines and forms and they have made them more user friendly with less paperwork.

The Rushmore Memories Chapter hosted the state Convention in the Black Hills in the town of Deadwood. Deadwood is South Dakota's most famous "Wild West" historic town. It is a small town, population 1270, built in the hills with one lane streets with the houses overlooking the roofs of the houses on the street below. We had fun antiquing and visiting some of the famous spots in Deadwood like the original site of Saloon #10 where Jack McCall shot Wild Bill Hickok in 1876, Mount Moriah Cemetery where Calamity Jane and "Wild Bill" are buried, Kevin Costner's Midnight Star Casino and his bronze Titanka (buffalo) statues and the Deadwood Museum. We were bused to the town of Lead, the home of the Homestake Gold Mine, which opened in 1878 and when it closed in 2002 it was the largest and deepest gold mine in North America. We toured the Homestake Opera House built over 100 years ago. Rushmore Memories Chapter is responsible for restoring and furnishing the ladies waiting room in the Opera House.

It was a great convention in the beautiful Black Hills and everyone had a good time making new friends and seeing old ones just as we are doing here at this International Convention in Iowa. Thank you Iowa Questers.

WASHINGTON - Cheryl Maher

Hello, from the great state of Washington.

We are now 10 chapters strong with the addition of a chapter where there was none before. Our focus is to build our membership thru enthusiasm of restoration and preservation.

Two of our West side chapters became aware of a restoration project thru Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington State. Some of our members joined them and a few of them joined Questers. Questers adopted The Pickett House, built in 1856 by United States Army Captain George Pickett and is the oldest documented wooden structure on its original site, located in Bellingham, WA. All of state chapters got behind the restoration raising \$2,100. Our Spring State Meeting presented a grant for almost \$900. Which is the amount needed for shingles for the house. They have also applied for an International Questers grant.

On the East side of the mountains in Washington State, which is a driving distance of 600 miles, two chapters have taken on a new project. In 1919 A.Z. Wells purchased the home and after 30 years donated it to develop the Wenatchee Valley College and it was used for classrooms, dorms and was indeed the beginning of the College. College Campus buildings now surround it. Wells House was built in 1909 by pioneer promoter W. T. Clark and became known as "Clark's Cobblestone Castle." Mrs. Clark designed the house, including the leaded, stained-glass apple windows and the thick walls of hand-hewn stone from the Columbia River. It became the first house on the Historic Register in Washington State where we are planning to host our next State meeting in 2017.

Our members have logged in 240 hours of volunteer labor, caring for the woodwork along with general cleaning. Our recent state meeting presented the chapters almost \$3,000 whereas there are matching funds to refinish the bathroom fixtures for three bathrooms.

We are finding renewed interest in our work of Preservation and Restoration and recommend you also look for new Questers involved in this fine work.

WISCONSIN- Laura Shimkus

The great state of Wisconsin extends its gratitude to the great state of Iowa for hosting our wonderful convention in 2016. We appreciate the International Questers board and its committee chairs for their contributions to our convening events. Wisconsin currently has 13 Chapters and 273 members. We held our Fall board meeting at the historic Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin where Indian mounds still exist, the Ringling-Barnum and Bailey Circus began, and Lawrence Welk broadcasted his radio show. Our Fall Convention theme, "Supper Clubs of Wisconsin,"¹ was a great success raising approximately \$2,000 hosted by Blackhawk#233 and Blooming Prairie #1472. Five matching state grants were awarded for P & R. Eight chapters have applied for International Grants. Our Spring Board meeting completed an aggressive agenda determining to double our contribution to the International Questers to \$1,000. Our Spring Council meeting included workshops on programs and membership. We plan to extend our presence in the State of Wisconsin. We adopted our job descriptions produced by Dody Condon and her committee. Anniversaries are 20 years for Royal Joy Williams #1288, 40 years for Kiswauketoe #779, and 50 years for Monterey #266. We have explored a third vice presidency which resulted in the formation of a pilot committee to create further interest in scholarship and fellowship and to include development chaired by Barbara Pillinger. We have a publication entitled "The Wistor," a website WIQuesters password Legacy which is now listed on the International Website, and a Facebook page. We are preparing for the Wisconsin State Fall Convention 2016 and cordially invite you all to attend at the Big Foot Country Club in Fontana on October 11, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. Tours will be available. Contact Laura Shimkus at leshimkus@yahoo.com for details. Fall will be wearing her most beautiful gown, and we all know the designer! *It is fun to seek, and a joy to find.* —

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ALBERTA, CANADA – Debbie Lemco

This officer is The Provincial Organizer for the unchartered province of Alberta, and a member of Bow Valley #890 in Calgary.

Alberta has 2 chapters and 30 active members. Northern Lights #1230 is located in Edmonton and Bow Valley #890 is in Calgary, approximately 300 km south of Edmonton. The number of members in both chapters remains relatively constant. No new chapters have formed.

Alberta has 4 members and 2 guests attending Convention in 2016.

Organizational activities this year have consisted of informal discussions with existing chapters regarding the feasibility of beginning a "couples chapter". This is ongoing.

Members from the two Alberta chapters combined for a joint function in June of 2015 when they travelled to the town of High River, Alberta for a luncheon, in honor of visiting Officer, International First Vice President, Lorraine Jeffus, and her husband Bob Jeffus. Both groups were honored to have the First Vice President visit the province. Following the luncheon was a tour and presentation at the Museum of the Highwood, in the town of High River.

Bow Valley #890 is currently undertaking a Preservation and Restoration Project with the Museum of the Highwood in High River. The project encompasses the restoration of a number of clothing items belonging to prominent historical area-residents. The items were badly damaged in a flood 3 years ago.

Northern Lights #1230 donated \$500 to a recreated theatre in Fort Edmonton Park, a historical park in their city.

KANSAS – Dot Johnson

Madame President, greetings from Kansas, the Sunflower State. This State Organizer, Dot Johnson, is pleased to announce that Kansas has four chapters with 73 members. These four chapters are located in Johnson City, Kansas, part of Kansas City Metropolitan area. Our newest chapter, Sunflower Trails #1509 was chartered February of 2016. They currently have a full chapter with 21 members. Two of their members are attending this convention.

This year our chapters enjoyed many interesting programs. Field trips took them to the Toy and Miniature Museum, World War I Museum, Grinter Place Historic Site, The Trailside Center, Oxford Schoolhouse, and the Watkins Museum of History. Programs presented by members included Paisley Shawls, Christmas High Tea, Old Taxco, Mexican jewelry, Santa salt and pepper collection, Staffordshire Ceramics, Hall China and Grandfather Clocks.

The annual State Day was hosted by the Lucinda Mahaffie Chapter. The meeting was held at the Mahaffie Homestead Welcome Center. Katie Lang gave the program, Women's Clothing of the 19th Century. She demonstrated the various layers of clothing and accessories worn by the ladies of that time period.

Two chapters volunteered at the Alexander Majors home and Mahaffie Homestead. Fund raising projects included a lemonade stand at a historic festival, another chapter supports the Historic Oxford Schoolhouse and several groups support the Scholarship Fund.

The officer, Dot Johnson, thanks you for the opportunity of presenting this report to a great organization.

LOUISIANA - Ginger Bryan

Louisiana's two chapters, Bayou #589 and Lagniappe #1158, are located in Shreveport, a large metropolitan area in the upper Northwest corner of the state. Founded in 1972, Bayou #589 has thirteen members. Lagniappe #1158, founded by members of Bayou, has twenty-two members. Both chapters are active. Bayou #589 had programs on Coptic Christians in Egypt; Indian tribes of North America; Grace O'Malley, Pirate Queen of Ireland; a Christmas luncheon based on White House recipes and traditions; an introduction to "Early American Pattern Glass, 1850-1910," with a luncheon using pieces of pattern glass; and "Tidbits," where members bring an antique item they have researched. Four of Bayou #589 meetings were based on topics researched and presented by members. Lagniappe #1158 visited Barksdale Air Force Museum; Germantown Colony Museum in Minden; the historical Strand Theatre in downtown Shreveport; and had a guest speaker on "The History of Formal Gardens." Both chapters visited, on different dates, the Spring Street Museum, located in an old Shreveport bank building that

dates before the Civil War, and both chapters have Christmas auctions which provide money to local historical preservation projects. Bayou #589 decided to retain money made this year so a larger donation could be made next year. Lagniappe #1158 donated \$1400 to the Spring Street Museum. Bayou #589 was able to publish an article in the *Quester Quarterly*.

MONTANA – Pamela Todd

Madam President, members of the International Executive Board, and members of the Questers' Council:

Theatorium #1493 in Red Lodge recently added a new member, bringing total membership to ten. Giant Springs #609 with seventeen members in Great Falls is fortunate to count among its members, well-known museum conservator, Kay-Karol Horse Capture who joined Questers after giving a program for Giant Springs in 2012.

Giant Springs' favorite programs this year included Buttons and Stitching on Perforated Paper. After years of trying, Theatorium's members finally made it to the Petroglyph Canyon. Archeologist Larry Loendorf guided the tour and made the day memorable. No snow; no rattlesnakes, but the drive in and out of the canyon was a nail-biting, eye-closing, experience.

Montana Questers responded to President Ginger Robbins' "Fill the Glass" challenge. Giant Springs members donated \$250 to International Funds in honor of each of their chapter presidents since 2000. Theatorium's members donated \$270, an increase of \$45 over last year. Total Montana Donations this year: \$520. It's Amazing!

Montana Questers and their one convention attendee thank the International Board and Iowa Questers for hosting the 2016 International Convention.

NEVADA – Charlene Sellers

Nevada has but one chapter in the state, Eldorado 804, with 16 members.

This officer would first like to acknowledge the passing of five Eldorado 804 long time members; Judy Eichenseer, Nancy Robar, Margaret Parks, Marion Young (charter member), and Beth Burkhiser. They were very active members for many years and will be greatly missed.

Eldorado 804 programs have been diverse this year. Programs included the invention of zippers, the evolution and variety of teapots, vintage floral planters and vases, and a trip down the yellow brick road to visit the Wizard of Oz.

The group also enjoyed a trip to the gardens at the Bellagio Hotel to view their Chinese New Year display for the "Year of the Goat." Another group excursion was a visit to the Old Mormon Fort located near downtown Las Vegas. The fort was built in 1865 and is now part of the Nevada State Parks. A ranger guided tour and film, which included a brief history of the people to first come through or settle Las Vegas, which means *the meadows* in Spanish. Those people included the original native inhabitants, the Paiute Indians, explorers Kit Carson, and John C. Fremont, and the Mormon settlers who built the fort.

The Mormon Fort is being restored and Eldorado 804 plans to donate for the restoration. If Questers are planning to visit the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, a visit to the Old Mormon Fort is highly recommended. It is near downtown and will provide an interesting and educational view of Las Vegas early history.

NEW YORK - June Bomberger

Madam President, Members of the International Executive Board and members of the Questers Council:

Greetings from this State Organizer, June Bomberger, Member of Quarry Questers #993 and the Empire State of New York. Quarry #993 is located in the Syracuse area of Central New York. New York has four chapters, with 86 members. Other chapters are Schoolhouse #100, James Dean #872, and York City #1484.

There have been no inquiries for membership this year.

Fund raisers included: Auctions, Make-Bake-Grow, Sold Pecans, White Elephant (all internal). Interesting programs included Sand Toys, Collecting Mushrooms, Souvenirs of the 30's. and Dough Boxes. Member Ruth Hotaling is willing to guide Questers thru the Pompey Historical Museum.

Chapter Field Trips included: West Lake Conservatory and visit to John Barrow Museum at Skaneateles Library (Hudson River paintings). Presbyterian Church in Utica, tour of National Society of Colonial Dames Headquarters in NYC, a private tour of Sotheby's in NYC, Oswego Maritime Museum.

Quester Donations: International Scholarship Fund \$550, Fellowship \$50, P&R \$50, Headquarters \$50.

Local Donations: \$2,015.

We hope to plan a meeting in the State Museum in Albany in the Fall of 2016.

New York members love Questers and are looking forward to another year of learning and friendship.

TEXAS - Arlene Burges

Greetings from this Organizer, Arlene Burges, member of Brushy Creek #863 and the great state of Texas, home of the legendary state flower, the Blue Bonnet.

Texas has 53 members in 4 chapters which are all located along the I-35 corridor from Sun City, Georgetown through Round Rock to Austin.

On April 19, Texas Questers and guests met at Mimi's Restaurant in Round Rock for our Spring luncheon. Guest speaker, historian Martha Kooock Ward, shared her family's journey from chicken farmers to restaurateurs in the 1940's. Named Green Pastures, this restaurant soon became known for fine dining and remained so into the '90s. New owner, Gregg Porter and preservationist architect Emily Little, are restoring the restaurant to its former glory.

Chapter meetings remain interesting and included: antique jewelry & books, the video "Treasures of Bess Bardens," P.S. Prussia, Beatrix Potter figurines and a delightful presentation by a Williamson Museum volunteer of the educational trunks for local schools.

Texas Questers love field trips in the central Texas area. Those trips taken this year included: visit to the childhood home of former Texas governor, Dan Moody in Taylor, Texas; to Walburg, Texas, founded by German settlers in the late 19th century, for luncheon at the former mercantile store where a local citizen gave a brief history of the haunted building; for a tour of the historic downtown Round Rock including the Palm House; to Georgetown's square to see many interesting facades of early buildings which surround the historic courthouse; to Bastrop, Texas to stroll the quaint downtown area with many antique shops and lunch in a restored building.

Texas Questers give generously to the International Scholarship fund.

It's a pleasure to serve Texas as Organizer; and we wish you all a successful convention.

UTAH - Judith Vander Heide

Blue Willow Chapter #433 is the only Questers Chapter in the State of Utah and is located in Ogden.

This year's most outstanding event was a field trip to Salt Lake City to view churches. Of course Utah is predominantly Mormon, or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but many other denominations have built churches in the state. Most were built sometime around the turn of the 20th century. The group visited the Cathedral of the Madeleine, a Greek orthodox (there are several Greek churches in Salt Lake and a Greek elementary). Lunch was in a former Baptist Church converted into a restaurant.

Another outstanding program was in a private home. Questers in attendance brought samples of Native American crafts and artistry. As the western United States is home to many Native American tribes, there were many fascinating collections. Our hostess had accumulated silver and turquoise jewelry from tribes in the southwest, among them the Hopis and the Navajos. There were several Navajo rugs as well as portraits of individual chiefs, including tribes from the Utes, and the Paiutes and Apaches. Different styles of basket weaving was also featured as well as a Kachina doll.

The final field trip was to Brigham City (named for pioneer and colonizer Brigham Young) where There was a visit to a Carnegie Library, which contains marvelous stained glass windows, plus a visit to the Court House and a renovated building once the home of a dance studio established by the Danish descent family of William Christenson world famous dancers of the mid 20th century.

VIRGINIA - Susan Riley

Virginia has 104 active members in five chapters located in the north and north central area of the state. The oldest chapter, Robert E Lee #60, has 22 members and 3 associates. President is Sandy Rose. Treasurer is Janet McFarland. 12 attended the state meeting. Members toured: Mt Zion Baptist Church, Aldie Mill, Hume School, Riverdale Mansion and Gunston Hall. Programs include: Arlington in the 1950's, Russian laquer boxes and icons, Vintage Rolling Pins and Hummels. Donations given: \$1561 to Arlington House, \$1,000 to Mary Washington University \$1,000, \$287 to Dadona Manor. International donations given: \$300- General fund, \$300 – Scholarship, and \$300 - 210 Headquarters Fund.

Colonel James Wren #978 has 24 members. Mary Sue Cullen is President. Sara Ann Bounds is Treasurer. Programs included: Cosmos Club in Washington, DC; Aldie Historic Park and Mill; Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. \$600 was donated to the Sears House to assist with signage.

Wilderness 'Tiques #1404 has 17 members. Phyllis Pulice is President. Jean McLallen is Treasurer. The chapter hosted Virginia's 2015 state meeting.

Madison-Piedmont #1451 has 12 members. Susan Riley is President. Marty Taylor is Treasurer. The chapter visited Hilliard Auctioneers and enjoyed programs on: History of Kemper House, Antique Coverlets, Antique Buttons. The chapter spent \$900 on antiques to furnish the Kemper servant's house. A games day luncheon served as fundraiser.

Patowmack Seekers # 1465 has 29 members. President is Debbie Wurdack. Treasurer is Diane Rorabaugh. Programs and tours included: Drug Enforcement Agency museum, Belair Mansion, Barnes House of Humphries, Morven Park. Funds were raised selling White House ornaments, holding a bunco/silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. International donations include: \$100 to Fellowship, \$300 to P&R Grant Fund. Local P&R donations: Barnes House-\$750, Stratford Hall-\$750. 7 members attended the 2015 International Convention and 5 members are attending 2016 Convention.