Membership Matters to the Viability of Our Organization!

As I am getting to know my job and yours, I realize that we need to broaden the education of our leaders in Questers who promote with Membership and that is you!

I understand that you are all involved members of Questers but sometimes things are lost as we move forward. So I would like to:

♦ First, Thank you for stepping up when asked to serve.
♦ Second, Please indulge me as I go back to the beginning of how our Organization works.

Our International President, Lorraine Jeffus and the International Executive Board have given me their blessing to visit as many Chapters from Unchartered states as possible over the next two years. The main reason is because our membership is shrinking. We lost 31 chapters this past year to age, disinterest, not feeling connected to the Questers and wanting to do their own thing.

We can do nothing about age but we can about not feeling connected to The Questers. It is my job to reconnect with our chapters and members in Unchartered States/Province.

So some of you ask what is an Unchartered State/Province. These are the States/Province that do not have at least 8 chapters and 150 members. So this means they do not have a State/Provincial Board that can support them but an Organizer instead. **So this makes being a Chapter president so much more important!!!**
Did you know that we have started putting all Commended Study Papers and Founder’s Award Papers on the website for you to download for free for a program? Look for them under membership. Password: “Heritage”

The Organizer and Chapter President must be person to educate their members on what is happening in Questers at all levels. **Those levels are:**

**Their Chapter:**
- Help plan each month’s programs. Talk about the Quester Quarterly and what information is important to their members, ie, The International Convention, Information about what the International Board is doing, What other states are doing for P&R fundraisers and programs. Also, what is on the Quester Website and how can it help a chapter with programs and being connected with all Questers.

**Their State/Province:**
- **Who is your Organizer?** If you do not have an Organizer, get together with other Chapter Presidents in your State/Province and get someone to step up as one. Let me know who you have picked. If you are in a Chartered State/Province, your State/Provincial First VP is your Organizer.
- **How many chapters are in your state and who is their president and where are they located?**
  - Chapter presidents receive the new Directory each year from Headquarters and this lists all of the chapters by state with their president’s contact information. Please use this to connect with other chapters. Sometimes the closest chapter to you is over the state line, call them. *I know a chapter in South Carolina meets with a chapter in North Carolina because they are the closest chapter to each other.*
  - **Ask your members if they would like to get together at least once a year with the other chapters in your State/Province. This is a great way to connect with members in your state to find out what is out there to visit and support for P&R. Also you can help them raise money for their P&R project and they can help you. Virginia does a State Day every year and one of the chapters hosts it. One of the chapters traveled several hours to come to this years.*

**CAN I GET A DIRECTORY TOO?**

We have now put the new Directory on line under membership for Organizers and other Questers to download.

If you have a friend or family member in another State/Province, this way you can check if there is a chapter near them that they can visit and join. They can also go to our website and fill out the “Contact Us” form to let us help find them a chapter.
The International Executive Board (IEB):

We are International because we have Chapters in Canada. As I am traveling around meeting chapters, I realized not all members know that. As the First Vice President, one of my jobs is membership and reaching out to all Organizers and chapters in Unchartered States/Province. The IEB oversee Headquarter’s day to day operations of The Questers, manage many of The Questers functions, and act as a State Board would for chapters in Unchartered States/province.

We are here to help all Questers. If you ever have a question, please reach out to us. Our contact info is in the summer issue of the Quester Quarterly’s Pull-Out Supplement.

Did you know that you need permission to invite the public to a P&R fundraiser? You also need The P&R Chairman to look over your P&R projects to make sure they fit in the guidelines for a non-profit and Bylaws. Just fill out the form online at www.questers1944.org under members, then forms, then Uncharted States. We will send you a letter with permission that you keep to have when you go for an International Grant. Chartered State Boards give that letter and permission to their chapters too. Most States/Provincial Boards meet in September, January, April and June, so get you paperwork in a timely manner to get on their agenda. The IEB meet in September, January and before International Convention in April/May.

The Bylaws are reviewed every 10 years. That will happen in 2020, but process starts in 2018. Send in changes you would like considered to the IEB’s Parliamentarian now.
**SPEAK LIKE AN QUESTER INSIDER!**

*Where does the IEB get the International Preservation & Restoration (P&R) Fund money from?*

$2.50 from every member dues goes to Int’l P&R Grants Fund each year. You can also give a direct donation by individual, chapter or state to the International P&R Fund.

The Int’l P&R Grants from this fund are given out every even year. The next time is 2018. You can get the forms and guidelines on our website.

- Start planning early: study the Guidelines and Application to insure your P&R project qualifies;
- Send completed Application and forms to the International P&R Chairman early to make sure she has everything necessary.
- Remember to include the approval letter that the Chapter receives to do a public fundraiser for this project.
- You will need to have raised at least 25% for the project already.

---

**WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD DOING TO HELP MEMBERSHIP?**

- We have formed a new Special Committee for Membership chaired by Virginia Cutaio, 2015 International Convention Chair. She is reaching out to Questers to serve on this committee. This committee will be working on ideas for membership for the term of the current Int’l President, two years.

- I will make sure to visit all Unchartered Chapters in Questers in my two years as VP. So far I have visited Kansas, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. I have trips planned this spring to visit New York upstate, West Virginia, Tennessee, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

- Next year I would like to visit the west Chapters. Please let me know if you are having a State Day, if not, I will reach out to you to visit. We want members to know we care and to improve International’s communication with you.

- We are gathering a group of individuals that will meet online instead of in person to see if it will work as a chapter. If it does, we can get it into our updated by-laws.

- In a chartered State/Province some boards have membership drives by giving a cash prize for their P&R fund to the chapter with the most new members for that year.

- International’s new membership program will do this for any new chapter formed in an unchartered state or province that is chartered, completed their bylaws and been active for at least one year. The chapter will receive a cash prize for their P&R fund that must be used within three years for an approved project. This will encourage new chapters and their participation in Preservation & Restoration projects.
HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH MEMBERSHIP??

♦ Have a membership drive in your chapter or with another chapter. Most chapters that I have met are full so why not help form another chapter in your area.

♦ Do it with another chapter and in a public place. Ask your members and their members to invite someone who might be interested in Questers to come. Present the program and talk about being a Quester. Have a flyer or post card with contact information on it for people to take with them.

♦ If you have 8 new people that want to join you can help start a new chapter. Some of your members can be an associate in the new chapter to help mentor them. Also, give them the list of your past programs to help them plan theirs.

“**The next person I meet can become a new friend for life and maybe even a fellow**

♦ Associate Members only pay the retained portion of chapter dues, not the $28 International Quester Dues. They pay that in their main chapter each year.

♦ If one of your chapter’s members is going to become an Active Member in the new chapter, they do not pay International Dues again that year if they already paid them in their old chapter. At Headquarters their membership is moved over to the new chapter. They do become a charter member if their name is on the Application to Charter a chapter.

♦ **What is a Charter Member?** That is a member who is on the Application for Charter for the new chapter as an Active Member when it is sent to International’s First Vice President to be chartered.

♦ If your state has a Chapter that is declining, help them by introducing a potential new member to them. You can also become an Associate member to help with driving and building up the chapter.

♦ **How many chapters can I become an Associate Member in?** Only one. Some Questers become an Associate Member in a chapter where they winter, ie Arizona and Florida, but it can be anywhere. Associate Members can be involved in the chapter programs and events but cannot hold an office or vote.
THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX!

How can we get The Quester name and information on joining out there?

We have taken down the Quester brochure that was on the website and are now adding a post card instead. This will be available for you to download as a 4 per page postcard. You can pick the card stock up at any Staples or Office Max. It is an Avery document. You could also just print on a card stock paper and cut out too. We suggest if you are doing a fundraiser and inviting the public to put your information for the event on the back of the cards and have ours on the front. That way you are getting the word out about The Questers and your event. Unchartered states/provincial Organizers have $350 for promoting membership which can help fund the cards for you. But you must be adding a membership drive to your event.

“I love Questers and want to pass it on to future generations!!!”

phone or tablet. This would be where you can go if traveling in Questers’ states/providences and are looking for historic places, museums and sites to visit. Please send me a list of them in your area that are worth the trip. Include the name, address, town and state/prov. And if they have a website that too. Also put a Q next to the ones you and your chapter have given too. It will take time to develop but would be a great way to get our name out to all interested in History and P&R. Please send info to my e-mail address on page 4.

If you have a program that is in Power Point form send it into me to put on the website for members to download and use for a program. Include a small overview about what the program is.

You can also have a member video your presentation and send that in too. We could use them for the new online chapter. Right now this is a small chapter of new members trying out the concept.

Do you know anyone who creates apps and can give us a bargain to do this one? Please send me their information.

Lorraine Jeffus, Int'l President with Sally Bertellotti, NJ’s State President