Our Membership Survey

This is a big thank you to all of our members and Chapters who sent in the survey. We heard from over 418 Chapters out of 647 chapters for 2016-17. We heard from 12 Unchartered States and 21 Chartered States and Province. With over 4000 thousand members sending in their survey, you told us what you love and what we can do better.

Over 200 members and chapters said they would like to help start a new chapter. That would be wonderful as last year we lost 32 chapters and this year 15 have sent in disbanding papers. We have just over 630 chapter to date but the good news is we are working on a new one in the Southern Dallas area of Texas and Tennessee in the Franklin & College Grove area.

Members overwhelmingly want International and State/Provincial board members to connect with them through visits, phone calls or email. This would also be a great way for them to see what these board jobs are. They want to know more about how the organization works and to rework our Policies and By-laws, by making things more user friendly.

They want to have Chapters send in fundraising ideas to the QQ not just trips and programs they are doing. If there is no room in the QQ’s then put something on the website. Unchartered States want to be more connected to International but also to the Chartered States or Provinces near them. We need Chartered States to reach out to theses Chapters and invite them to their State/Provincial days and Chapter meetings.

The International Board and Membership Committee has developed an new information Brochure that will be given out to members by your State/Provincial Board, Organizer or International 1st VP. It will also be posted on the State/Prov. Tab on our website. We have, also, developed a Rack Card you can download and use for publicity to get new members, also on our website. Cont. pg.2
Chapters want more programs about their areas when going to State Days, know your audience. Remember your members who are not officers what to be educated too. While meetings are happening at State Days have workshops on: the Website, doing The Questers Facebook and other interesting programs for them.

In the upcoming year we will be reaching out to members to give them ideas to help be more involved with Questers. It is up to all of us to answer the Question, “What do I get out of being a Quester?” We can give you all kinds of ideas, newsletters and websites. But if you do not read them it will not help. It is up to you when your Chapter does a project or hold an interesting program to get the word out to your communities. Some chapters hold all of their meetings in public places and invite the public, this has kept their chapters full and members interested. It has helped get the word out to their Community. Why not reach out to a chapter in your area and invite them to your meetings or do a program, social, fundraiser or project together. If you have an in to a behind the scenes tour of an interesting place invite the other chapters in your area, even if in another state, to join you. If we start being more inclusive to other Quester members by opening your meetings to them it is a great plus to being a Quester.

Send you meeting dates and programs to other chapters that you are willing to open to them at the beginning of each year with contact info for them to make a reservation. Post this also on your State/Provincial website. Send this info to states near by too.

Let’s try this in your States and Provinces areas and if working then we can look into having all State/Provincial protected websites open to all Questers so they can also see these dates, so when traveling they could also reach out to attend. You can see their sites now by going through our International site. It is under the State/Prov Tab.

Unchartered States need to reach out to your fellow chapters to get together at least once a year. To all chapters, open your home if you have an extra bed for members who have to travel to attend that social or State/Provincial Day. Then when you go to another part of your State/Province reciprocate with a bed in your home. Make time in all get-togethers to talk about what is going on in your chapter, positive and where you need help, you might find other chapters are working on the same issues.

If you need addresses to area Chapters remember the Chapter Directory is on our website under Members Tab, password Heritage, on September 15th.

**What International is looking into:**

To help with connecting with members we are looking into a way to e-mail the QQ and other info to all members with an e-mail addresses.

To encourage attendance to International Convention we are looking a taking Credit cards and having Registration also on-line.

Forming the new By-laws and Policies Updating Committee.

*This is all a work in progress, so please be patient.*
Over this past year I have visited members from 23 chapters in Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. During these visits it became clear to me that these Quester members love being Questers, but more importantly, they love their communities. They are proud to be involved in saving the history of where they live. These Questers have made a difference in their communities by educating themselves and others about their local history. They take advantage of local historical societies, schools, colleges and historic places to keep learning, exploring and sharing. My overnight hosts were wonderful and their homes beautiful.

Our members are welcoming, interesting and passionate about our past and saving it for future generations. During my visits chapters were able to showoff their projects and history. I found how very important it is as an International officer to visit with our members. There needs to be conversation, information exchanges and suggestions between all Questers and their leaders. Most Chapters want more communication with International and area States and Provinces officers.

I am hoping after my visits these chapters will stay socially involved with the other chapters in their area. Some are already working together; but some where not aware of having other Quester neighbors. It is important to reach out to your fellow Questers even in another state or province because this will enrich and help our organization grow. Forming and mentoring a new chapter would go a long way to strengthen The Questers.

### Ideas to start a New Chapter or Growing Yours

- Invite husbands to join and become a couple’s chapter. Have the men come up with half of the programs ideas that they would like to see and the women do the other half. Start the new membership off with a social pot luck to get to meet each other and make plans for the coming year’s programs.
- Reach out to your local Historic Societies, Newcomers club, area clubs to offer to do a free program/talk for their members. Have Quester cards there for people to pick up with information and contact info on your chapter, day of month and time of meetings and that you are welcoming new members.
- Place Chapter/Quester Post or Rack cards with contact information in a historic venue that you have supported with a Preservation project.
- Provide a Chapter program in a public space and invite the public. Make sure the topic will appeal to a lot of different people, men and women. Maybe a talk about something local.
- Use a place that has a mailing list, website or bill board to help publicize the event.
- Place flyers or cards that people can pick up to get the information on program, date, time and place at the venue or local Library. Have event posted in a local paper or even on a town’s website.
- Use “Meet-up” on public web to advertise your event. Most areas have one. If you need an e-mail address set up a g-mail account using the name of your chapter and # as your password. That way it can be remembered.
Jeanne Alper, NJ First VP was my travel mate this past year and I was so lucky to have her along. She posted on The Quester Facebook all of our trips and convinced me to sign up too. In March we visited with the West Virginia Chapter, Mary Dorcas Washington #128. We visited the Mansion Museum & Glass Museum at the Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, WV and saw an outstanding collection of 100’s of items in an old general store set up donated by a fellow Quester. We had lunch and a meeting with the Mayor, Glenn Elliot of Wheeling. This town’s community is making a concerted effort to revitalize their town and save it’s history and historic buildings. Members did research on other towns in the US that have been able to revitalize their community and they presented their findings and contacts to the Mayor. It was so impressive to see the passion and commitment of all involved. With the help of these Quester Members, I know Wheeling will be successful.

Wheeling, West Virginia

GET THE NEW DIRECTORY FOR CHAPTERS & OFFICERS ONLINE

By September 15th, we will have the new Directory online under Membership for all Questers to download. If you have a friend or family member in another state/province, you can check to see 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.

UPCOMING VISITS

This upcoming year I already have visits set up to visit chapters in Unchartered States. In September I plan meeting Delaware Questers during a visit to Winterthur. Then I am going to Texas in September to visit with the three chapters in the Austin area, also, help a south Dallas potential Quester form a new chapter there. In the same trip I will visit the Bossier City, Louisiana, Bayou #589 chapter. A visit is planned for the New York City #1484’s program planning meeting.

In October plans are being set to visit with the four Minnesota chapters. Then in November visits with the three New Hampshire and one Massachusetts chapters are being planned. Spring visits will be set up after this.

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA'S CHAPTER
Mary Dorcas Washington #128

Jeanne Alper, NJ First VP was my travel mate this past year and I was so lucky to have her along. She posted on The Quester Facebook all of our trips and convinced me to sign up too. In March we visited with the West Virginia Chapter, Mary Dorcas Washington #128. We visited the Mansion Museum & Glass Museum at the Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, WV and saw an outstanding collection of 100’s of items in an old general store set up donated by a fellow Quester. We had lunch and a meeting with the Mayor, Glenn Elliot of Wheeling. This town’s community is making a concerted effort to revitalize their town and save it’s history and historic buildings. Members did research on other towns in the US that have been able to revitalize their community and they presented their findings and contacts to the Mayor. It was so impressive to see the passion and commitment of all involved. With the help of these Quester Members, I know Wheeling will be successful.

The Museums of Oglebay Institute serve as a celebration of culture and history and a place to explore the past through artifacts, photos and heritage programs.
VISITS TO THREE TENNESSEE CHAPTERS

Our trip to Tennessee started with a visit to the Gallatin chapter, Sarah Michie Smith #1099 with lunch at the Chocolate Covered Strawberry Café with their members. Yes, it was as good as it sounds! This welcoming group of Questers took us to their latest project at the Wynnewood State Historical Site. On it is an 1828 stagecoach inn that is the largest existing log structure in Tennessee. In 2008 it was hit by a tornado and part of the roof was taken off.

The Wynnewood—Bledsoe's Lick Historical Ass. has done a wonderful job of fixing the damage but there are still projects to do. The members are paying to restore an historic painting of Col. Alfred Royal Wynne builder of the inn. When the painting was removed from the frame there was an additional 4 inches all the way around the painting. Looks like the frame will be used for something else.

A visit to the 1849 Belmont Mansion, on the Belmont University campus in Nashville, TN, was a wonderful tour and a way to see Granny White #874's finished project of restoring several pieces of rosewood furniture in the mansion's parlor. Members of this chapter are very involved with this southern beauty.

SPEAK LIKE AN QUESTER INSIDER!

What do all those initials mean?

IEB—International Executive Board

QQ—Quester Quarterly

P&R—Preservation & Restoration

PIP—Past International President

How is our dues broken down?

• Of the $28 in dues $7 is sent back to the State or Province if that member is in one that is Chartered.

• If the member is from an Unchartered State or Province then the total $28 goes to International.

• The Unchartered Organizer is able to use a portion of these retained funds as stated in policies regarding Unchartered States and Provinces.

• $2.50 of it goes into the International P&R Grant Fund. Grants awarded in even years.

• A portion is used to publish the four annual QQ’s.

• The rest is used for Headquarters operation and all other general and administrative expenses.

• A Chartered State or Province cannot assess their members more dues.

• A Chapter sets their own dues for their members for operating expenses.

• All Chapters in their banking ledgers, must keep their raised P&R funds separate from their Chapter funds.
Time to Apply for
The International P&R
Grants.

• Access the Quester website
to download the Grant
information and application
for 2018.
• The International P&R
Chairman, Kathy Piersma
will work with you to make
sure your application is cor-
rect. Contact her at 616-
530-0222 or
p-r@questers1944.org
• The applications are due
November 15, 2017. The
grants are awarded at the
2018 International
Convention in Kansas City,
MO.
• Start planning early: study
the Guidelines and
application to insure your
P&R project qualifies.
• Send completed forms and
application to the
International P&R chairman
early to make sure she has
everything necessary.
• Remember to include the
approval letter from
International that the
Chapter receives to do a
public fundraiser for this
project and also a letter
Ok-ing the Project.
• 25% for the total project
cost will need to have raised
by the sponsoring chapters
prior to making a grant
application.

AN OUTSTANDING AND CREATIVE CHAPTER MEETING!

Tennessee’s Nashville chapter, Granny White # 874 did a very creative
meeting that we attended on our visit. They picked years in the 1850’s
and had two members dress in homemade
period clothing and explain what they wore
and why. A luncheon was served using
dishes and recipes from the 1850’s at a
members beautiful home built in the
1850’s. Yes, the furnishings were fabulous
and some of the antiques were period.

A member did a wonderful
program on English Biscuit
Tins

It is great to let members know
International cares about
them.

I thanked Granny White for the wonderful lunch and meeting!

Jeanne Alper, standing left, with members of Sarah Michie Smith #1099 and
on far right, President, Sherry Adcock, in yellow, standing next to
me (Beth), at the Chocolate Strawberry Café in Gallatin for lunch.

Fabulous food and company.
Our last chapter visit in Tennessee was to Long Island Sunbonnets. Our hostess and chapter president was Nancy Weikel. She and her husband welcomed us to their beautiful home. We had been on the road visiting West Virginia and Tennessee Questers for the last four days. Nancy gave us a wonderful tour of her area and historic sites that they have been involved with.

We toured, Exchange Place which is an 1850’s Living History, Farm of the Gaines-Preston families that recaptures the life in the early 1800s where you would exchange a horse, money and stories.

We met with the members the next day for lunch and Jeanne Alper, NJ 1st VP gave her, Early Brick Pattern Houses in NJ Program, which they loved.

I send a special thank you to Becky Puckett, TN Organizer, for your wonderful planning and hospitality for both of us in your beautiful Tennessee state and home. Becky is currently working on a new chapter in the her area. Best of luck! Also thank you to all my hostesses for a welcoming and wonderful time.

“The next Quester I meet can become a new friend for life and a Leader in The Questers.”
This past April, Jeanne and I did another Quester road trip to visit the three Up-state New York chapters. Our two overnight Hostesses, Sandra Gingold of Quarry #993 and Roseanne Suhr of Schoolhouse #100 welcomed us to their beautiful homes and showed us around their communities. The three Chapter Presidents, Norma McCullough, President, James Dean #872, Sona Larzelere, President, Schooltown #100 and Susan Meyers, President of Quarry #993 worked together so our visits were fun, interesting and informative. We were fed, pampered and educated on the chapters, their projects and communities. Everyone showed us their pride in their history and community. James Dean #872 hosted us at the home of Norma Warner in Westmoreland, who lives in the late 1700’s homestead of Judge James Dean for whom her chapter is named. He was the first settler of that town.

These are photos of some of the places visited.

A One Room Schoolhouse on the Pompey Historic Society’s property is now a school museum. We received a wonderful tour from the Schooltown #100 chapter. In the past children would live no more than 2 miles from a school so they could walk to class.

Lincklaen House Hotel in Cazenovia, NY was an Inn in the 1800s and stopping place for stage coaches traveling west.

The Oneida Community Mansion House is an historic house and museum that was once the home of the Oneida Community, a religion-based socialist Utopian group led by John Humphrey Noyes.

Schoolhouse #100 gave us a tour of Hamilton College and their beautiful town of Clinton. We also visited their Historical Society and the wonderful exhibits of their town’s history and some Questers’ collections.

Benefits of Being a Quester.

• We are encouraging chapters in Questers to reach out to area Chapters and invite them to some of your programs and events.
• Also, fundraise with them and work on a project together.
• Why not do a social or potluck each fall to kick off the new year.
• Chapters can take turns hosting the event.
• Invite non Questers to also attend programs to see what Questers is all about,
• Do a membership drive with area Chapters at a public venue and have a member or interesting speaker do the program. Share the cost.
• A State or Provincial Organizer has funds to pay for this if potential members and the public are invited.

If your state does not have an Organizer reach out to me and volunteer or suggest someone.

Invite me to visit your chapter!

Beth Wipperman
Int’l First Vice Pres.
1vp@questers1944.org
732-974-3321
Recruiting New Members:
- Rack Card
- New Member Brochure (For Questers only)

Getting Started:
- What is a Quester
- How to Organize a Chapter
- What it Takes -- Initial Groundwork
- Worksheet for an Organizational Meeting
- Instructions for Completing an Application
- Application for a Charter

Managing a Chapter:
- Example of Chapter Policies
- Chapter Yearbook Contents
- Job Description for Chapter Officers
- Guidelines for Chapter President
- Calendar of International Mailings and Deadlines

Managing a Meeting:
- Agenda form for Chapter Meetings
- Chapter Sign-up Sheet for Programs, Meeting Locations and Agendas

State / Province > Organizer > Organizer’s Newsletter
- Dec. 2016 Newsletter
- Summer 2017 Newsletter
- Organizer Postcard

State / Province > Organizer > Chartered States
For Organizers in Chartered States / Provinces:
- Job Descriptions for Chapter Officers
- Guidelines for State / Provincial Organizers
- Supplies Available to Organizers
- Guidelines for Organizational Meeting
- Notice of Change of Contact Information or Member Moving to Another State

Quick Publicity Facts:
- The Quester Quarterly Guidelines for Chapter News Articles
- What is a Quester
- Questers Quick Guide of Information

State / Provinces > Organizer > Unchartered States and Provinces
Organizers in Unchartered States / Provinces:
- Job Descriptions for Organizers in Unchartered States / Provinces
- Organizer of Unchartered State / Province Entitlements
- Organizer’s Expense Form (Due May 31st)
- Guidelines for International Council Report
- Annual Chapter Report Form
- Advantages for Unchartered States / Provinces Becoming Chartered
- Request for Chapter to Sell an Item at International Convention
- Request for Approval of a Preservation and Restoration (P&R) Project or Fundraiser
- Guidelines for State / Provincial Organizers
- Supplies Available to Organizers
- Guidelines for Organizational Meeting

Quick Publicity Facts:
- The Quester Quarterly Guidelines for Chapter News Articles
- What is a Quester
Do you like:

- Restoring and preserving the past for future generations.
- Learning about historic people, places and things.
- Educating yourself and future preservationists.
- Being a part of something bigger by socializing and working with like-minded people.

The Questers is an International organization that supports Restoration & Preservation of the past for the benefit of the future. We love History, Educating ourselves and others and Collecting. Our shared knowledge and experiences often promote lifelong friendships.

We Welcome New Members!

A Quester Chapter might be in your USA or Canadian community.

Contact Us

www.questers1944.org

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3).