

Volume 51
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

May 2016

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org



President's Message:

Hello, PVS Friends!

Our annual meeting always marks transitions, and this year's venue at Reg Heitchue and Sue Sinclair's new party room was another happy one. Seven new members were voted into full active or associate membership: Royce Kneece and Marsha Patrick, Patricia Lesjak, Bob and Jill Nelson, and Richard and Sarah Sugarman. WELCOME!! We look forward to more good times skiing and playing with you. And thank you, Reg and Sue, for opening your new space to our club.

Three members were voted to fill vacated ExCom terms: Barry Lake, John Smith, and Ellie Thayer (for a second two-year term). Many thanks go to our outgoing members Reg Heitchue and Inge Lesjak. You both extend yourselves in so many ways to help the club thrive, and you are not done yet! We thank you for all that you continue to do. And thank you to the continuing ExCom members, Committee Chairpersons and other members of our leadership team.

Check the Ski Talk column for information about our plans for ski trips next year. The Snowmass trip, led by Kathy and Barry Lake, is ready for deposits (see the info in this TOOT). If you haven't committed already, do so now and bring your checkbooks to our next meeting. The Ski Trip Committee is continuing to work on plans for next year - local, Western and International. Contact Rosemary Schwartzbard to share your ideas and leadership possibilities with the Ski Trip Committee.

Now we are looking forward to spring and summer events, including the Eclipse Concert on May 15 and the Signature Theatre event on June 11 (for the latter, reservations are needed before May 11). We welcome other suggestions for both informal events and larger. If you have an idea, please send it on to us. Lots of good things are happening in our locale that we can share together. If you have an idea about a small gathering, please think about opening it to a club invite: a local concert, event, game night, outdoor event, or such.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you this month at the PVS meeting at Margaret Wyckoff's new home with her Potomac family on May 17.

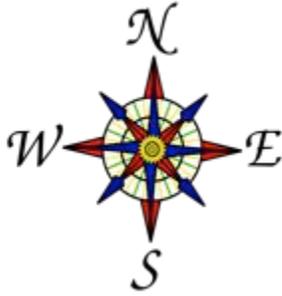
Carolyn

Monthly Meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 7:30 PM

At the Home of Margaret Wyckoff/Pat Vagonis

11925 Ledgerock Court, Potomac, MD 20854

See directions next page:



May 17, 2016 -- 7:30pm

Margaret Wyckoff/Pat Vagonis

Food Provided by Barbara Leonhardt

11925 Ledgerock Court, Potomac, MD 20854

301-332-4387, mswyckoff@comcast.net

Directions from I-270N:

Take Montrose Road W, exit 4B;

After 1½ miles, turn LEFT onto Falls Road;

After 1 mile, turn RIGHT onto Glen Road;

After ¾ mile, turn RIGHT onto Gregerscroft Road;

Take the 3rd RIGHT onto Ledgerock Court;

11925 is near the end of the court on the RIGHT.

From I-270S:

Take Falls Road exit towards Potomac;

After 2.3 miles, turn RIGHT on Glen Road;

After ¾ mile, turn RIGHT on Gregorscroft Road;

Take the 3rd RIGHT onto Ledgerock Court;

11925 is near the end of the court on the right.



Would you like a ride to the meeting? Are you willing to give someone a ride to the meeting? Contact Inge Lesjak at 703-913-0759 or Lesjak.inge@gmail.com



Coming Events

Join PVS for the
Eclipse Chamber
Orchestra's
Concert
Sunday,
MAY 15 -
3:00pm



In its 24th season of world-class performances, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra offers audiences an eclectic pastiche of music. Once again the critically acclaimed ensemble, composed of musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra, will play its subscription season at the **George Washington Masonic Temple in Old Town Alexandria, VA**, one of the D.C. area's most intimate concert venues with free parking and located near the King Street Metro stop as well. Please join PVS to enjoy the upcoming concert, only 1 of 3 performances in the season. www.eclipseco.org

SUNDAY, May 15 at 3 PM
A Journey to Prague

Dvorak: Romance for Violin and Orchestra
Dvorak: Silent Woods for Cello and Orchestra
Dvorak: Serenade for winds in D minor
Suk: Serenade for strings in E-flat

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra is committed to bringing quality music at a price that everyone can afford. Therefore, it's "pay as you can." Donations are made at the door or you can donate online. A reception follows the concert in the Great Hall. Optional: gather for a local dinner after the concert.

Please RSVP to Ray and Nancy McKinley at 703 527 7126 or nancymckin@gmail.com by May 13 to let us know you're coming and we'll keep a lookout for you. Let us know if you plan to join us for dinner.

We'll see you there

~~~~~

**Deadline extended! Payment must be received by May 9 -  
Act Now!**

**Join PVS for an afternoon of fun at the theater!**



**Saturday, June 11, at 2 PM at Signature Theatre  
in Arlington, Virginia at Shirlington**

La Cage aux Folles - the Tony Award-winning feel-good romp with exuberant music and dancing is sure to captivate you. It's the story of love and marriage, over-the-top gender-bending, and general good fun with blockbuster songs that will make you cheer. The award-winning Signature Theatre has a cozy feel and excellent views from all seats. This is bound to be one of Signature's sell-out shows!

We have reserved seats at \$56 each (discounted for group and senior rates from regular price of \$97!!). Contact Nancy McKinley at 703 595 8375 or at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com). Deadline is May 9 - sign up right away to be sure to get a seat. Send a check for \$56 per person payable to Nancy McKinley to McKinleys, 1805 Crystal Drive #813, Arlington, VA 22202.

Parking is free and optional group dinner after the show.

## Past Events

### URBAN HIKE ON THE MALL – APRIL 15, 2016

I am sitting on the Metro after a fabulous Mall hike and lunch composing the write up for the TOOT. What a glorious day for 10 PVS members, led by Nancy McKinley and her knowledgeable assistant, Rosemary Schwartzbard, to hike around the Mall and take in some of the famous sights of Washington, DC. In addition to our leaders, the enthusiastic hikers were Carolyn DeVilbiss, Louann Eadie, Dick Schwartzbard, Maryann Rozzell, Shirley Rettig, Jan Marx, Marna Blanchette, and Inge Lesjak.

We met at the Washington Monument and began a fun and vigorous walking trip taking in the history and thinking about the important and life-changing events depicted by these memorials. From the Washington Monument, we trekked over to the WWII Memorial and on to the Korean, Vietnam Women's, and Vietnam Memorials. The Lincoln Memorial was majestic as always with a student orchestra playing on the steps of the reflecting pool. It was quite moving as you looked at the Washington Monument in the distance. It was National Parks week so there was also a choir performing at the Jefferson Memorial; also quite stirring.



Walking through the park pathways to the FDR Memorial was a delightful journey. This historical treasure is truly a step back in time with engraved granite quotes and bronzed statues of FDR, whose vision and insight birthed new beginnings for many things present in our daily lives. Eleanor Roosevelt held court in a beautiful bronzed likeness near FDR and his dog Fala was also depicted along the granite wall that told their story through quotes embedded in the walls along the way. Flowing waterfalls connected this contiguous granite-walled museum. It was breathtaking reading through the quotes of FDR that guided the US through times of many changes. We

finished our tour at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which faces the Tidal Basin. It was a beautiful sight with the swan boats and paddleboats tooling around.

After finishing our hiking tour, we ended this terrific day with a great lunch at The Hamilton (in the former Garfinckel's building). It is a beautiful restaurant with richly colored wood-paneled walls and large chandeliers that hang all along the dining room. It was a perfect place to end the day with the other PVS hikers, delicious food, and a short walk (thank goodness) to the Metro!

My Fitbit recorded 17,540 steps or 7.5 PLUS miles, so this pleasurable day walking amongst the historical treasures of Washington, DC helped all of us meet our goal for the day!



*submitted by*

*Louann Eadie*

**Potomac Valley Skiers Annual Meeting – April 19, 2016**



On Tuesday, April 19, thirty-five members (no guests) attended the 2016 PVS Annual Meeting hosted by Reg Heitchue and Sue Sinclair at the beautiful Stratford Clubhouse at their condo in Reston, Virginia. No one quite knew what to expect at the new venue but the high-ceilinged room turned out to be conducive to mixing and moving about and made for easy conversation. Much attention was drawn to Sam Lesjak's wonderful striped socks.



After attendees enjoyed the ample food and beverage offerings, brought by members, Carolyn DeVilbiss led the business meeting. Before voting for new officers, Carolyn thanked the outgoing ExCom members, i.e., Reg Heitchue, Inge Lesjak, and Ellie Thayer, for their service. The new ExCom members voted in by voice acclamation were Barry Lake, John Smith, and Ellie Thayer (for another term). Mention was made that unlike the national scene (!) there was no dissent during the voting.... Carolyn also noted that in the past few months Nancy Pigman had replaced Celia Chen on ExCom and Marianne



Soponis had replaced Bob Kramer as Vice president. The seven applicant members were also voted in unanimously by voice acclamation, although none was present.



Social events were discussed; the urban hike was deemed a success; and ski trips announced. For the 2017 Snowmass trip, scheduled for early January, early deposits were recommended. Barry and Kathy Lake will be leading this trip.



*Nancy Pigman/Ellie Thayer/Marianne Soponis*



# SKI TALK MAY 2016



The costs for skiing continue to rise. Ski lift ticket prices are skyrocketing. The window price at Vail is now \$175 per day. Last year, Steamboat was \$150 and Aspen/Snowmass keeps going up. Fortunately, going with a group like PVS and buying tickets in advance decreases the price somewhat and makes skiing more affordable. It is getting harder to negotiate prices at the resorts, but the good news is that many resorts still offer senior discounts or totally free skiing! I have a list of 97 such resorts nationwide. Most of those are small resorts, and locally we do have a few. For 70+ skiers WISP, Canaan, Timberline, Bryce and Massanutten are free. At 80+ you can ski free at Seven Springs. Out West, Alta offers 80+ ski-free, and at least one of our members was able to take advantage of that this year.

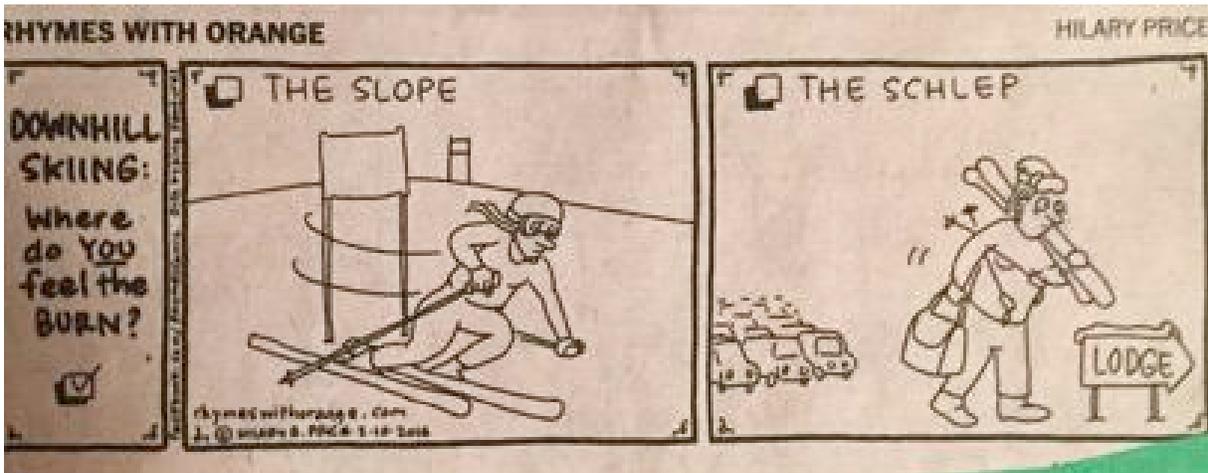
We are pleased to be able to offer the Snowmass trip again this year. Our group likes to stay at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet, because it is ski in/ski out, and they offer both breakfast and lunch. So while prices keep going up, we are reluctant to change hotels. We are offering only a "land" package to Snowmass this year. When we planned trips last year, we included an air package for both Snowmass and Snowbird. In both cases, we did not have enough members sign up for air, and therefore could not get the group rate. (That was not a big loss, since group air rates are no longer a significant bargain.) It appears that most people prefer making their own air arrangements. That way they can use mileage points and leave from the airport of choice. There are many flights to Aspen through Denver, Chicago, Houston and Minneapolis. A less expensive way to go is to fly to Denver and take a van/bus to Aspen. However, it is a long drive.

The other cost related development is in regard to the proposed Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Eurofest to Grindelwald, Switzerland. BRSC plans a European ski trip each year and local ski clubs, who are part of the council, participate. As of the time I am writing this column, it appears that BRSC will not be going to Grindelwald because of the high cost of the trip! We will know more about where BRSC plans to go for Eurofest 2017 in a few weeks. So, I will not have that information before this TOOT goes to press. However, be assured your Ski Trip Committee is following this closely, and a ski trip to Europe will be planned for 2017, whether with BRSC or otherwise. Information will be announced in the June TOOT.



In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to support our Snowmass trip and send in your deposit as soon as possible. See information elsewhere in this TOOT.

*Rosemary Schwartzbard*  
[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)



# **Snowmass, Colorado 2017**

**Wednesday to Wednesday  
January 11-18, 2017**

**Greeting All Skiers!**

**Yes, it's hard to believe that it's time to talk about skiing plans for 2017.**

**Barry and I are the co-leaders for the Snowmass trip next year, and are very excited to be going back. Once again we will be staying at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet, our favorite, slope-side "home away from home." This time, since it seems that most people prefer to make their own airline arrangements, we will just be offering "Land Only" packages. Prices are in discussion and we anticipate the cost being approximately \$1,630.**

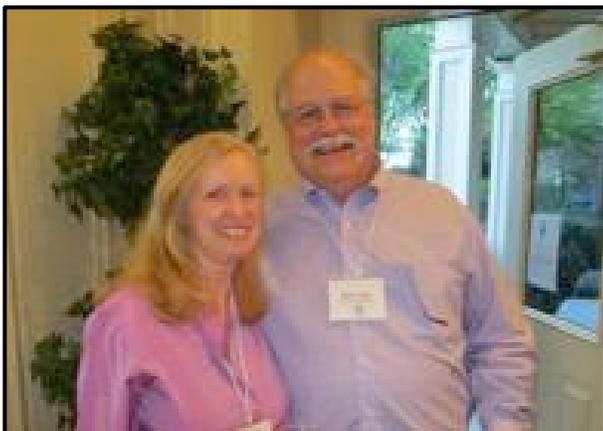
**We are working with our tour operator, and deposits are due very soon to reserve spaces. We need to make the 1<sup>st</sup> deposit by May 18<sup>th</sup>. Those interested can register now by sending a check in the amount of \$300, payable to Kathy Lake, with PVS Snowmass 2017 written on the memo line. Please send your deposit to us at 11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton, VA 22124. OR, if you plan to attend the May meeting, please bring your checkbook! Reserve your space now!**

- *Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of skiing, just outside the door.*
- *The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres, with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain and Buttermilk ski areas.*
- *Lodging at the Chalet includes a daily buffet breakfast and soup lunch, greatly appreciated and served by a friendly, welcoming staff.*
- *The trip will include vans to and from the airport, ski prices at a discounted rate, a pre-trip meeting, and events during the trip.*

**For further information, please contact us at [KathyLakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:KathyLakehomes@yahoo.com) or 703-625-2715.**

**Hope to see you there!**

**Kathy & Barry Lake**



# Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

## 2016 Annual Meeting - Seven New Active Members:

PVS welcomes the following newly elected active members:

- Royce **Kneece** & Marsha **Patrick** (**Active Couple**)
- Patricia **Lesjak** (**Active Individual**)
- Bob & Jill **Nelson** (**Active Couple**)
- Richard & Sarah **Sugarman** (**Associate Couple**)

We also thank their sponsors: Inge **Lesjak** and Rosemary **Schwartzbard** for their recruiting efforts.

PVS also welcomes the following newly elected ExCom Board Members:

Barry **Lake**  
John H. **Smith**  
Ellie **Thayer**

--and many thanks to Reg **Heitchue**, Inge **Lesjak**, and Ellie **Thayer** who have completed their second terms as ExCom Board Members.

## TOOT Distribution to 160 Members:

-pdf: 137; USPS: 3

### **Thanks to:**

- TOOT Coordinator - E. **Thayer**
- TOOT Layout Editor – J. **Marx**
- TOOT USPS –

B. **Leonhardt**, J. **Read**, & L. **Triau**

-Electronic TOOT – J. D. **Warthen**

### **Roster Changes** (notify-[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

-Barbara Holt <[bholt@nvcc.edu](mailto:bholt@nvcc.edu)> (**corrected e-mail**)

**PVS Membership** stands at 160:

130 Active Members, 18 Absentee Members, 11 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

--J. D. **Warthen**

### **Hubba, Hubba! Guess Who!**

If you guessed <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/1980-1989/Mar86.pdf#page=8>, you would be correct.

**Today, you received a PVS Roster**, updated quarterly for club use only. Please dispose of your old roster to keep up to date. If you have any changes in your contact information, please notify J. David Warthen, Jr. (PVS Membership Records) at [dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net), preferably before an update is distributed.

## **To all PVS mothers, have a happy day, May 8!**

"The modern American holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when **Anna Jarvis** held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in **Grafton, West Virginia**. Today St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the **International Mother's Day Shrine**.<sup>[6]</sup> Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, **Ann Reeves Jarvis**, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the **American Civil War**, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers, because she believed that they were "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

--*Wikipedia*



***Happy Mother's Day, Gals!***



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

After this cold winter and warm, early spring, the Kneee now believes that the proper place for snow is on the slopes--not on the DC roads. I've written Congress to complain on your behalf. But, I received no response. All of Congress was apparently out skiing!

Ubiquitous PVS: (Am I the only one who learned that word from advertising? Nucoa margarine advertised itself as, "The new ubiquitous comestible.")

As you read this [Bob and Louann Eadie](#) are in Paris for a month to celebrate a very special birthday for both of them. I won't give the specifics away, but they both can now vote!

Here is this month's Kneee's safety item—this one is primarily for snowboarders. L. L. Bean (which is Spanish for The The *frijoles*) now offers boarders foam padded briefs! Good for a more comfy cush tush.

Interesting results from local demo days according to Brian Eardley: This year one (not meaning one from PVS) could demo snowboards as well as skis. Snowboards are getting longer and skis continue to get shorter. So some snowboards were longer than skis. Yoiks! But who gives a cush tush!

Brian also told us about new goggles with a built-in GPS readout! I wonder – does a little voice tell you to "Turn left onto Green Cabin?"

Perhaps you would like to try my latest idea for beginners who are afraid to stand up on their skis. Kneeskis.

Trivia: The Wall Street Journal reports that about 40% of skiers coming to Colorado develop some sort of altitude sickness. And the Post says that 6% of the people in the D.C. area ski. So that means that some 2.5% of us who ski at altitude get sick. That's over 20% higher than in the rest of the country.

Going to China? They are building the first "endless ski run." The slope will revolve beneath the skiers permitting uninterrupted turns--until fatigue sets in.

The Kneee hates to report it, but according to [Bob McNeill](#), with the cold, dry air, even Liberty had powder this past December. And parts of western Colorado got 8 feet of snow in a pre-Christmas

blizzard. In other snow news, Alyeska, Alaska – this year had over 47 feet of snow!

Let me again this year be the first, and likely only, one to wish you all a most Happy End of Ski Season.

Ancestors! [Shirley Rettig](#) and her sister were in Ohio recently from whence their family hails. While there, they learned that their ancestors narrowly missed landing safely in "the Colonies" when their ship ran aground off the east coast. They were rescued, happily, off the sandbar the next morning. The day they were rescued is celebrated by descendants every year in Ohio. . Kneet.



This is what next season will look like at Liberty

[Jana Lee Sponberg](#) has been busy being a humanitarian. After helping the Habitat for Humanity build a home in Tajikistan, she is now just back from a humanitarian trip to Cuba. Kneet!

And PLEASE send your Kneee tidbits to my email address above. I kneed your help!

Our new Vice President, [Marianne Sponis](#), is recovering nicely from knee replacement surgery. Prior to her surgery, [Marianne](#) was in Africa, visiting Cape Town and taking a safari—she loved the elegant giraffes. Do ask to see her super pictures and videos – all taken on her cell phone!

[Blanca Hotaling](#) is home recovering from shoulder surgery – get better soon!

When [Kathy Lake](#) had to fill out an MRI approval form with her left hand after injuring her right wrist, the MRI Tech said he could tell she was right-handed - because the form looked more like a ransom note!

Liberty Mountain has a new lodge with conference space, upscale hotel, gourmet restaurant and spa.

According to Florida member [David Payne](#), some cause joy wherever they go, others whenever they go!

**PVS Calendar 2016:**

May 15 Sun Eclipse Chamber Music Concert, 3:00 PM, McKinleys, Alexandria, VA  
 May 17 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Wyckoff - Vagonis, Potomac, MD  
 May 24 Tue ExCom, 7:00 PM, Telephonic  
 Jun 11 Sat Signature Theatre, La Cage aux Folles, 2:00 PM, McKinleys, Arlington, VA  
 Jun 21 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, TBD  
 Jun 28 Tue ExCom, TBD

**PVS Ski Trips 2017:**



January 11-18, 2017---PVS Snowmass, CO, (Lakes)



**Useful Ski "Links"**

Potomac Valley Skiers .....[www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)  
 BRSC Sanctioned Trips .....[www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm](http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm)  
 DC Ski Online News.....[www.dcski.com](http://www.dcski.com)  
 Best of Times Ski Club.....[www.bestoftimeskiclub.org](http://www.bestoftimeskiclub.org)>Ski Trips

**ExCom**

| <b>Officers:</b>                        | <b>Chairpersons:</b>                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i>    | Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>                      |
| V. President – <i>Marianne Sophonis</i> | Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i>                                           |
| Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>         | Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>                               |
| Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>    | Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sophonis</i>        |
| Ex Officio -                            | TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>                                 |
| <b><u>Board Members:</u></b>            | TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i> |
| <b><u>First Term:</u></b>               | TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>                            |
| <i>Barry Lake</i>                       | TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau</i> |
| <i>John H. Smith</i>                    | Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>                                    |
| <i>Ellie Thayer</i>                     | Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>                                      |
| <b><u>Second Term:</u></b>              | Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>                                            |
| <i>Herb Bennett</i>                     |                                                                        |
| <i>Marna Blanchette</i>                 |                                                                        |
| <i>Nancy Pigman</i>                     |                                                                        |