

Volume 51
Number 6

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

June 2016

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message:

After an unusually rainy spring season, we are now being promised a very very warm (hot?) summer. We may wish to be back in the cold of winter, but we'll see. In spite of the rain, we enjoyed a lively meeting/party this month at Margaret Wyckoff's new home (an apartment in daughter Pat Vagonis' house), met her grandchildren, with food prepared by Barbara Leonhardt. A little rain doesn't keep us away. I hated to miss the Eclipse concert but understand it was beautiful as always. My grandson's youth orchestra concert the same afternoon had to take priority (he plays cello magnificently).

Upcoming June and summer events are posted in this TOOT: La Cage aux Folles at Signature Theatre and our PVS June meeting/party at the Eadies' home. Look for our Summerfest in July (with presentation of ski trips) and Steak & Swim at the Hines' in August.

Now is the time to get those deposits in for Snowmass and for the newly announced Val d'Isere, France ski trips for next winter. Thanks to creative work by Rosemary and our Ski Trip Committee, and the trip leadership of Barry and Kathy and Inge, we already have two great trips planned, with more local skiing (John Smith) and possibly more plans yet to come. As always, we welcome proposals from members for new trip leadership ideas and social activities.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Eadies' and other events.

--Carolyn

June Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday 21 June 2016
7:30 PM**

**at the home of Bob & Louann Eadie
2054 Eakins Court
Reston, VA 20191**

Louann50@mac.com, 703-860-0318

Directions, next page

Directions to the home of Bob & Louann Eadie:

Directions from the Beltway: Take the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) west to the Wiehle Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wiehle Avenue. Wiehle Avenue ends in a tee at Sunrise Valley Drive. Turn right onto Sunrise Valley. Go 0.4 miles to left onto Soapstone. Take the second left onto Purple Beech (first left is Durand Drive). Take your first right onto Eakins Court. 2054 is straight ahead in the cul-de-sac. There is a green mailbox by the driveway. NOTE: parking is limited on Eakins Court so consider parking on Purple Beech.

Another option is taking the new Silver Line metro to the Wiehle Avenue stop and either taking a taxi or walking the two miles to our house.



Barbara Wilson, PVS Associate Member, Houston, Texas, on her boat on Galveston Bay.

Coming Event

Special Event !!!

Join us at the 26th (*not* annual) PVS



STEAK AND SWIM

At the residence and pool of Marianne and Kerry Hines
Saturday, August 20, 2016, at 3pm Rain or Shine
11019 John Marshall Highway, Delaplane, VA

This is PVS' oldest annual (or almost annual) club event! Celebrate summer at the Hines' beautiful Delaplane, VA home where the livin' is good and the steaks are delicious. Limited to 30. Reserve now! Deadline to sign up or cancel: August 11.

BRING: Your own bathing suit and towel and either an **appetizer, salad, or dessert.**

INCLUDED: steaks, baked potatoes and fixings, beverages and lots of fun!!

Cost: Approximately \$15 per person.

NOTE: Because of the cost outlay to our hosts, "no-shows" will be responsible for price of steak, potatoes and beverages supplied by our hosts if reservations are not cancelled by August 11.

To sign up, phone Kerry or Marianne 540 364-4810, or email mchines@erols.com to tell them what you'll bring.

SKI TALK

June 2016



We are excited about our 2017 ski trips. By popular demand, we are going back to **Snowmass** in January. See the flier in this TOOT. We are happy to announce that we have put together our own Eurofest for 2017 to **Val d'Isere**, France. Val d'Isere is the premier ski town in France. I have skied there three other times and was hoping to get back again. It's an immense ski area of 300 km of slopes, 79 ski lifts of every sort you can imagine, 154 slopes, and 2 glaciers. The majority of the slopes are blue and red with a few black and green. The views are

spectacular and the restaurants on the mountain and in the village are outstanding. We are staying at the four-star Hotel Aigle Des Neiges, which is within walking distance of the lifts and, depending on snow conditions, you may be able to ski back to the hotel. It's within walking distance of numerous restaurants and shops. We will be running this trip with Jerry Poley from Columbia Ski Club. We are working on a pre trip to Lyon and a post trip to Nice!



As I mentioned previously, as soon as a ski season is over we are into planning for the next year. In fact, the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC), of which we are a part, plans a couple years in advance. The **Ski Travel Show** took place April 29 at the Tyson Marriott. Eight PVSers attended. During this show we were able to talk to representatives from Aspen/Snowmass and other resorts. We talked to Doug Horstman who is helping us with the Snowmass trip and representatives from Holidayz who are helping with the Val d'Isere trip. The following day, the semi-annual BRSC meeting was held. Nancy McKinley and Inge Lesjak attended.

For 2018, the following trips were voted on:

Western Carnival: **Whistler, British Columbia**. Early February 2018.



Eurofest: **Trois Vallées, France**. Early March 2018.

Please support our ski trips by signing up early and sending in your deposit. The leaders need to make deposits to the vendors to secure space on the trips. Contact the ski trip leaders if you have any questions.

Rosemary Schwartzbard

rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Potomac Valley Skiers

2017 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday, January 11–Wednesday, January 18

Trip Details

Once again we will be staying [slope-side at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet \(SMC\)](#), just below the Snowmass Mall and from where you can ski directly to the lifts. Check the web-site at www.mountainchalet.com. This year we are offering a “Land Only” package since most people prefer to make their own arrangements. The total package includes: land transfer from Aspen airport to SMC and return; 5 day lift ticket ([good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus](#)) with option for extra days; 7 nights lodging (double occupancy); daily breakfasts; daily soup lunch; luggage handling; a welcome reception, an “all guest” hotel sponsored party, a “pizza” party and a farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip. Additional nights at Snowmass are an option based on availability. Trip insurance is available through Encompasse Tours and is [highly suggested](#). For trail information check www.aspensnowmass.com. **Full application:** http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/Snowmass2017.pdf

The basic package at \$1,630 includes a lift ticket discount for skiers 65 and over. Those under 65 will have to add \$42.00. We are awaiting final confirmation for the additional pricing.

Costs:		Price
Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)		\$1,630
Under 65	add	\$ 42
Approximate Price		
Extra hotel night (pending availability)	add	\$ 305 per night
Single Supplement	add	\$1,027
Non-skiers	subtract	\$ 262
Extra ski days (65 and older)	add	\$ 58 per day
Under 65	add	\$ 128 per day
Silver Pass	add	\$ 161

NOTE: The Silver Pass is available for skiers 70 and older for an additional \$161. It becomes advantageous for eligible skiers planning to stay longer.

Payment Schedule

\$300 deposit is due with application.
Second payment of \$750 is due August 15th.
Final payment is due September 15.

To sign up: Please send

- (1) the [Application form](#) -- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address
- (2) a [Deposit of \\$300 per person](#) and/or your [payment due](#), and
- (3) the [signed Waiver of Liability Agreement](#) by each party taking the trip to Kathy Lake at 11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton VA 22124 (put [PVS Snowmass 2015](#) on the check memo line).

Kathy and Barry Lake are the trip leaders. For more information, feel free to contact us at 703-625-2715 or kathylakehomes@yahoo.com

Potomac Valley Skiers

Ski Trip

Potomac Valley Skiers present: Trip to Val d'Isere, France, March 4 – 12, 2017 with optional pre-trip to Lyon and/or post-trip to Nice



Cost: \$2,850.00 p.p. *

Features to be included:

- Round trip air transportation between IAD and Lyon via Air France. (Air from other destination can be arranged.)
- Round trip transfers between Lyon Airport and Val d'Isere via private coach with English speaking assistant.
- 7 nights accommodations at the 4 Star Hotel Aigle Des Neiges.
- Full hot and cold breakfast buffet daily.
- 4-course dinner for 3 evenings.
- Emergency medical and repatriation insurance (Travel Insured)
- Welcome drink evening of arrival with light snacks and orientation by Tourist office rep.
- Complimentary use of the hotel's indoor pool, sauna, and steam room.
- Complimentary use of the hotels ski room with heated boot warmers.
- Special cocktail hour each evening with exclusive club prices. Mid-week Après Ski Party.
- Baggage tags and passport cases.

Full application:*

http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/Flyer_n_Waiver2017.pdf

* Trip Cancellation Insurance is not included in basic trip cost.

Planned Flight Itinerary with Air France:

04 Mar	AF 055	Dep Washington Dulles Int.	06:40 PM	Arr Paris, Charles de Gaulle	8:05 AM
04 Mar	AF 7652	Dep Paris Charles de Gaulle	10:00 AM	Arr Lyon1	11:10 AM
12 Mar	AF 7641	Dep Lyon1	10:45 AM	Arr Paris, Charles de Gaulle	11:55 AM
12 Mar	AF 054	Dep Paris, Charles de Gaulle	01:45 PM	Arr Washington Dulles Int.	5:35 PM

Cost of ski passes: 75+ ski free, 65-75 cost approximately \$35/day

How to sign up: Mail trip application with deposit check for \$400.00 to Inge Lesjak, 8123 Kingsview Ct., Springfield, VA 22152 **as soon as possible** since there is limited space, but no later than **5 July 2016!**

Send email to Lesjak.inge@gmail.com for application* or call 703-703-869-7248 c for more information.

Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

Ellie Thayer ---

Bella Italia - My book club has been together 20 years and we decided to celebrate by traveling to Italy in early May to visit a charter member and her husband who moved to Umbria two years ago. Five of us were able to go for an eight-day extravaganza of eating pasta, drinking Italian----- wine, touring hill towns in our rented seven-person van, and talking and laughing like crazy.

Our first stay was at the agriturismo, Calagrana, with a lunch stop at Montepulciano. We spent perfect days in the Umbrian countryside, pampered by Ely and Alberto. The highlight was Alberto's hands-on cooking class where we made a warm green salad with toasted polenta croutons and sautéed chicken livers, eggplant ravioli, and deboned and stuffed chicken legs.

We then moved on to Umbertide where our hosts live. We stayed with them and next door at their friend's apartment. We visited Perugia, Montone, Assisi,



Montefalco, Bevanga, and Orvieto. If many of these names sound vaguely familiar as names of wine regions, then you are remembering correctly.

Wednesday in Umbertide is market day and we bought the makings for our dinner. First, though, we all had huge porchetta sandwiches from the market for breakfast. We discovered the Italian aperitif, Aperol Spritz, which looks like orange Kool-Aid and tastes like bitter orange peel. We ended spending the night and eating at a one-star Michelin restaurant near the Rome airport in Fiumicino.

This was a food and wine trip and an opportunity to spend time with old friends. Of course, we can always say that we saw the Basilica at Assisi and the stunning Duomo in Orvieto, which should satisfy the questioner, but those sites were not what the trip was about. For me, it will stand as one of my most memorable trips ever.

Perfetto!!!



Umbria, Italy



Ellie & Alberto in cooking class



Aperol Spritz aperitif

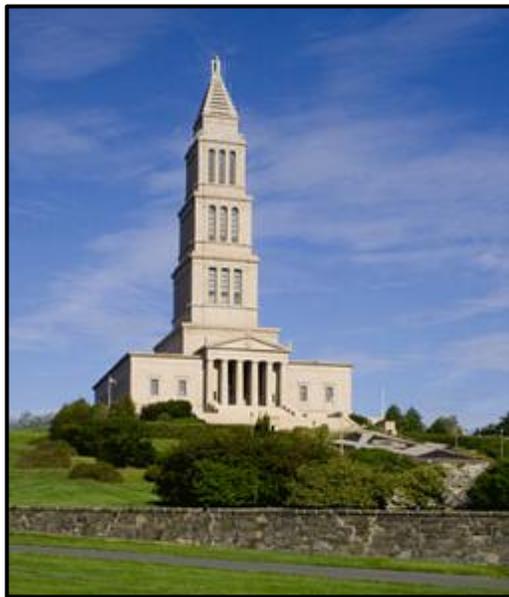


Duomo in Orvieto

ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Great music, a chance to meet the musicians, AND dinner with a group of PVS music lovers! What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon?

On Sunday, May 15, nine PVSers attended the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra's concert at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. It was a marvelous concert by musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra, which featured all Czech composers. As the program notes said, "An afternoon spent listening to the music of Dvorak and Suk guarantees a mind awash in glorious tunes for a week." And that's the truth!



After the concert and a brief reception, where we could meet and chat with the musicians, we went to Joe Theismann's restaurant nearby for a good meal with good company.

The attendees were:

Ruth and Fred Healey, Nancy McKinley, John Smith, Shirley Rettig, Bob and Karen Knopes, Nancy Pigman, and Giorgio Borgiotti.

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**



--Nancy McKinley

MAY 17, 2016 PVS MONTHLY MEETING



Barb & Margaret

Twenty-eight hardy Potomac Valley Skiers arrived in a light drizzle for our meeting, May 17, at the home of our hostesses, Margaret Wyckoff, and her daughter, Pat Vagonis. They were met by the friendly household dog, eager to greet and to get a friendly rub! Once inside, the warm ambiance of the home also added to the feeling of welcome.

Margaret Wyckoff and Barbara Leonhardt formed a duo for the affair. Margaret loves to “have people in” and Barbara loves to cook. And so, they shared duties, very well accomplished! Some of the fare to supplement the beverages included Kath’s Pizza (sausage and cheese squares), liverwurst spread, veggies for dipping in two dips, cheese and crackers, deviled eggs (Margaret couldn’t resist making

these!), lemon squares, cupcakes, and cookies.

Carolyn DeVilbiss, our president, called the meeting to order, the first order of business being the introduction of Margaret’s family. Pat Vagonis, her daughter, has skied since the age of five and has been a member of PVS. Margaret moved into the household in January. Pat and her husband, Jim, have three children. Ray McKinley then reviewed activities for the upcoming months, while Carolyn urged members to think of activities to sponsor or add to the agenda. Kathy Lake and her co-leader, Barry Lake, presented information and handouts for the upcoming ski trip to Snowmass, Colorado, January 11-18, 2017. Nancy McKinley, on behalf of trip leader Inge Lesjak, introduced the trip to Val d’Isere, France, March 4-12, 2017. Inge and Rosemary Schwartzbard, ski trip committee chair, worked on organizing this trip after the Grindelwald trip sponsored by the Blue Ridge Ski Council was cancelled. John Smith also discussed plans for local skiing. Carolyn offered the option for any member to consider sponsoring a trip in



Margaret & Family

between the major ski trip dates.

Eloise Strand shared the news of the passing of one of our members, Bill Sweeney, that morning. He and his wife Bonnie were long time members of the club even though they currently live in Indiana.

On a side note, Marianne Sponis had prepared a quiz on flowers, to add some sunshine to the month of May. Unfortunately, she discovered that the papers had been soaked with water on the trip to the meeting. Margaret’s grandchildren, Christine and Lily, offered to blow them dry with their hair dryer. Their father, Jim, saved the day by copying one wet sheet and then duplicating on his copy machine. Those who worked on the quiz decided it was too difficult. And to top it off, Marianne lost the answer sheet! In the end, there was some fun while everyone tried to help with creative solutions. By the way, the chrysanthemum was made by crossing a Shasta daisy with a Japanese daisy!



Margaret & Carolyn

Submitted by Marianne Sponis



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

Another day goes by, another week, another month. Now the entire ski season is gone. We have had our first 90+ degree day. This issue of TOOT lists next year's trips, which many of us are contemplating. Can it be possible? The Knee simply isn't ready. My knees haven't recovered from last season. And my mittens are still damp and parkas need to be cleaned and put away.

Yet the world simply keeps whizzing by. Albert Einstein understood it perfectly. Time is relative (not like your mother-in-law). The older you get the faster time moves (also not like your mother-in-law). But patience is essential. We will get through the summer. After all, nine women can't make a baby in one month.

Two of you asked if I could explain a fairly weird pun, which was in last month's Knee. Of course I can.

I just discovered that my name is in IndonKneesia. I now just hope someone goes there soon! Hmmm...

My favorite Egyptian queen is Kneefertiti.

The Knee received an email from Jim Slack and Mary Ward asking if I knew of an- Knee PVS who had been to Bhutan—which isn't really all that far from IndonKneesia. Yes I do.

Jim and Mary's earlier trip was 21 days. The trip was from the tip of South America to the Falklands to South Georgia to Tristan da Cunha to the tip of South Africa. What made this trip challenging is that it was by bicycle.

John Hotaling is renovating a historic home in Old Town Alexandria. Ask him about his love for the historic preservationists and their rules.

Some things the Knee doesn't make up. My G-Mail account is free, but based on content of the text, they add advertisements at the margins. I finally clicked on an ad titled "Rent a Knee Walker." This is legit. *In lieu* of crutches, you can rent this 4-wheeled contraption with handlebars and a pad to set your Knee on. You can then scoot along. Kneet.

According to [Marvin Hass](#), visits to U.S. ski resorts rose 4.2 percent to 59.7 million last season. Figures show the last season was the second best on record. Only resorts in the northeast had a 2.7 percent decrease.

Got a Chinese question? Ask [Bob Knopes](#); he is fluent in Chinese. [Bob and Karen](#) lived in China and Taiwan for more than eighteen years.

In a good year you can ski Liberty into June



Ubiquitous PVS – while traveling in May and still keeping up with the Knee, of course, [John and Polli Brunelli](#) read that [Louann and Bob Eadie](#) were spending a month in Paris. John got in touch and the four of them spent a lovely evening over drinks in Pareae.

Also touring in Europe....[Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard](#) are in Portugal and [Inge and Sam Lesjak](#) are visiting in Germany.

[Ellie Thayer](#) is just back from a relaxing sojourn at a villa in Italy with her book club. It's owned by a member of the group. (I want to join that book club!)

[Bob and Cara Jablon](#) have returned from Seattle where they were visiting their daughter and family – and especially enjoying time spent with new grandson, Nathan.

Alsace-born [Suzanne Boisclair](#) is gearing up for a river tour on the Rhine from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Holland.

And of course the couple we envy the most - [Bob and Louann Eadie](#) have been regaling friends with fabulous pictures of French cuisine and Parisian monuments during their month-long stay in Paris and environs.

[Marianne Soponis](#) is recovering from knee-replacement surgery. So she has stopped reading this column.

[Kathy Lake's](#) ski-injured hand is now "almost 100%."

Finalknee: I always say if life gives you melons, you're probably dyslexic.

In Memory of Russell William Sweeney Jr., 1940-2016

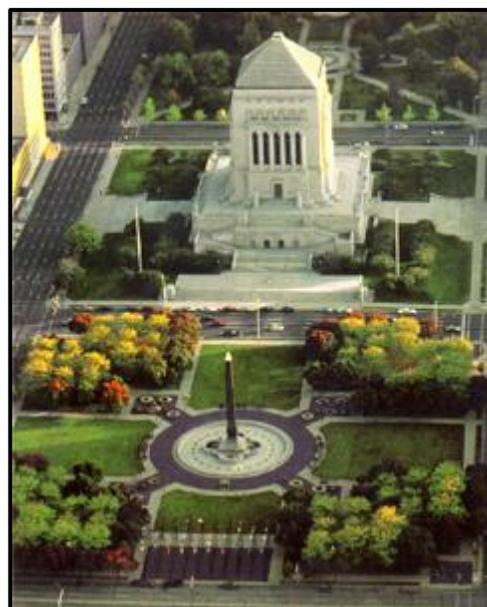
Russell William “Bill” Sweeney Jr., 75 of Fortville, IN, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2016, surrounded by his family, following complications from pneumonia. Bill was born to Russell William and Margaret (Derrick) Sweeney on September 24, 1940. Bill married the love of his life, Bonnie Martin, on September 12, 1970.

Bill grew up in Cincinnati, OH, graduating from St. Xavier H.S. and Xavier University, prior to commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General Corps in the U.S. Army. His 30-year career included a tour in Vietnam and assignments in England, Germany, France, California, Chicago, Virginia, and Battalion Command of the 14th Battalion at Fort Jackson, SC, culminating as the Garrison Commander at Fort Ben Harrison, IN. Following his military retirement in 1993, he worked with the 500 Festival Committee and then spent 10+ years as the Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorials in Indianapolis, IN. Following his retirement from the War Memorial, he stayed active in serving the military and veterans in the Indianapolis community by his involvement with AUSA, the American Red Cross, and the Indianapolis Veterans Day Council. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He is also a recipient of the Maude Award.

Bill is survived by Bonnie and their daughters, LTC (ret) Elizabeth Sweeney, her husband LTC Michael Parsons, and Melissa Sweeney and her husband Tim Smith, as well as three granddaughters, Meridian, Ember, and Iris Parsons. He is also survived by his sister Patricia Sweeney Rohs, his brothers John Sweeney and Dan Sweeney, and a wonderful extended family. He was pre-deceased by his parents and his granddaughter, Amelia Merritt Parsons.

More than the accomplishments and legacy outlined above, Bill is remembered and treasured for his steel-trap mind, his sense of humor, and his ability to make anything fun. He gifted his children the sound of a flock of Canada geese honking over a quiet dawn on the Chesapeake Bay, the thrill of a taut sail skimming the water, a love of adventure, an appreciation of folk music, storytelling and for subtle and random acts of irreverence and mischief, his love of the water and the outdoors, his example of service to Country, and his courage in living and in dying. He is remembered for his sourdough pancakes, his sweet tooth, his stories, and his colorful “Billisms” best summarized by his saying that “there is no-inappropriate word in the English language as long as it is used appropriately.” Memorial contributions can be made to The American Red Cross, 1510 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 and the LTG Timothy Maude Foundation, 3521 S Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206-2311. There will be a Celebration of Bill’s life Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 2 PM, Pershing Auditorium, Indiana War Memorial, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN. At a later date his ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mike & Eloise Strand, long-time friends of Bill & Bonnie, attended the Celebration of Bill’s life on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis, IN.



PVS Calendar 2016:

Jun 11 Sat Signature Theatre, La Cage aux Folles, 2:00 PM, (FULL), McKinleys, Arlington, VA
 Jun 21 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Bob & Louann Eadie, Reston, VA
 Jun 28 Tue ExCom, 7:00 PM, Telephonic
 Jul 09 Sat Summerfest, 3:00 PM, Cara & Bob Jablon, Washington, DC
 Aug 20 Sat Steak & Swim, 3:00 PM, Kerry & Marianne Hines, Delaplane, VA

PVS Ski Trips 2017:



January 11-18, 2017---PVS Aspen/Snowmass, CO, Kathy & Barry Lake

March 4-12, 2017 ---PVS Val d'Isere, France, Inge Lesjak

Useful Ski "Links"

Potomac Valley Skierswww.potomacvalleyskiers.org
 BRSC Sanctioned Tripswww.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
 DC Ski Online News.....www.dcski.com
 Best of Times Ski Club.....www.bestoftimeskiclub.org>Ski Trips

ExCom

Officers:	Chairpersons:
President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>
V. President – <i>Marianne Sponis</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 & Marianne Sponis</i>
Ex Officio -	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>
Board Members:	TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i>
First Term:	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>
Second Term:	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>
<i>Herb Bennett</i>	
<i>Marna Blanchette</i>	
<i>Nancy Pigman</i>	

TOOT Distribution to 160 Members:

-pdf: 137; USPS: 3

Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
 -TOOT USPS – B. Leonhardt, J. Read, & L. Triau
 -TOOT Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT –

--J. D. Warthen

Roster Changes (notify-dwarthen@verizon.net)

-Bruce M. King, sponsor Mary Ward & Jim Slack,
bkhogster@gmail.com (new member)

Membership stands at 160: 130 Active Members, 18 Absentee Members, 10 Associate Members, 1 Applicant Member, and 1 Honorary Member.

--J. D. Warthen