

Board Members Sought for Upcoming Election

By Sharon Lakey, Director

By a vote of 38 to 0, the new bylaws passed. This reflects a lot of work by a wide group of people, resulting in a more defined document. After passage of the bylaws, the most pressing issue for board members at the recent December meeting was the upcoming election of officers to be held at the 2012 Annual Meeting in March.

Under the new bylaws, limited terms create openings for new directors, hopefully bringing renewed energy and ideas to the table. They also provide for stability of the board by staggering terms, keeping two-thirds of the board intact for each election period. Of the seven elected board member positions, three of the positions are up for election in March at our annual meeting: President (3 yr), Vice-President (2 yr) and one Director at Large (3 yr). These positions are held until the annual meeting by Paul Chouinard, Gerard LaMothe and Alice Hafner respectively, who have given long and dedicated service to the organization.

If you would consider becoming a candidate, please think of this newsletter as an invitation to identify yourself. The board has adopted a manual, entitled *Best Practice Materials for Nonprofit Boards*, to help us in our reorganization tasks. It provides a wealth of information and guidelines for organizations like ours, including a clear description of what is expected of a board member. This information is available on our website under the Choate-Sias menu, along with the newly adopted bylaws. If the web is not available to you, please drop in during our open hours; I will gladly go over the information and expectations with you.

There is also an opportunity for board membership in one of the three non-elected positions on the board. At present there are three standing committees: the Old North Church, Greenbank's Hollow Historic Park and the North Danville Historical Room, located at the North Danville School. Each standing committee designates one mem-

ber to represent them as a voting member on the Society board. The North Danville Historical Room seat is vacant at this point, because no active committee currently exists.

It is an understandable situation, a result of the relocation of the headquarters of the Society to the Choate-Sias

House on Hill Street; for ten years prior, the Society was located at the North Danville School. When the archives were moved to Danville, it left in question the purpose and future of the historical room. The space was nicely filled by the Victorian Exhibit, led by the efforts of Vice President, Gerard LaMothe, and volunteers who built and decorated it.

Now is a perfect time for members interested in North Danville history to come forward. We would like to begin a conversation on how the room may best be utilized, reflecting both the mission of the Society and the wishes of the community. We have a successful model for identifying, organizing and implementing the goals of such a committee and would love to share it with interested members.

The nominating committee will begin meeting mid-January. By mid-February, the chosen slate of new Board members will be presented in our second newsletter of 2012. Time flies!

Known Upcoming events:

Jan. 5: Executive Board Mtg. 4:00 pm
Jan. 15: Nominating Comm begins work
Feb. 12: Valentine Tea, 1:00 & 3:00
Feb. 16: Board of Directors Mtg. 4:00
Late Mar.: Annual Mtg. & program announced in next newsletter.

We post events, meetings & programs as they arise in the *North Star Monthly*, on our sign and on the web calendar:

danvillevthistorical.org



Lynda Farrow and Steve Cobb at work at last year's Valentine Tea hosted at the Choate-Sias House. This year, Steve will host the tea at the Danville Restaurant and Inn, a lovely place to enjoy a Sunday afternoon.

Mary Prior Memorial Valentine Tea

Sunday, February 12, 2012
Danville Restaurant and Inn
Seatings at 1:00 & 3:00

Tickets available at the Choate-Sias House and the Danville Restaurant and Inn

A Parting Message to the Membership

As 2011 draws to a close, I reflect on the accomplishments of the Danville Historical Society. We have adopted clear Mission and Vision statements. The proposed by-laws have been officially adopted by the membership. We have clarified the relationship between the Old North Church Committee and the Danville Historical Society through the creation of clear operating procedures. The plastering project and window restoration project at the Old North Church are nearly completed. The kiosk at the Greenbank's Hollow Historic Park is now in place and has been dedicated along with the creation of a beautiful brochure to guide visitors at the site.

The Danville Historical Society has hosted programs for Danville school children and the membership, which have been well attended and successful. In addition, we have received and catalogued a wide variety of diverse archival materials. We have hosted major events related to the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and we continue to publish a wide variety of articles related to Danville history. The Society has maintained an active presence in the community through its website and newsletter. To support the Society we have also engaged in fundraising activities.

As I leave my role as President of the Society in March, I feel satisfied that we have worked together to accomplish many important goals. I realize that change sometimes invokes feelings of fear and anxiety in some individuals. However, the changes that have been made make our governance and operating procedures relevant to the organization which we have become. I wish to thank our Executive Director, Sharon Lakey, the Board of Directors, members of the Society and the community for all the support you have given me.

Sincerely,
Paul Chouinard



Photo courtesy of Jim Ashley

Paul Chouinard, President, emceed the program The Unveiling of Thaddeus Stevens held at the Danville Congregational Church on October 30. The portrait is on display at the Choate-Sias house until it is received by the Vermont Statehouse when the new legislature is in session.

For more photos of the event, check the blog at danvillevthistorical.org

“What I wanted to convey to your gathering is my gratitude that you were able to find the most suitable portrait of Thaddeus Stevens for the Statehouse—in other words, a period image rather than having him painted by a contemporary artist.”

David Schutz, Curator of the Vermont Statehouse.

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