

State History Interest Project NEWSLETTER

S.H.I.P., PO Box 367, Cato, NY 13033

FALL 2003

2004 S.H.I.P. Convention

Get your barrels ready—we're going to Niagara Falls! That right, this year's annual S.H.I.P. Convention will be held Thursday through Saturday, May 6, 7 and 8, at the Holiday Inn Select. We're looking forward to an exciting return to this favorite convention site. Remember that convention registration will be \$20 this year as agreed upon by the Board of Governors last year.

You might want to start thinking about border-crossing procedures. A birth certificate or a passport is generally acceptable but each student should be carrying his/her own. Exchange students may also require special arrangements, so be prepared. Warn students that the surest way to be held up at the border is by giving security an "attitude."

Room rates will be \$88 per room. Our contact person is Elaine Culhane at 716-285-3361 or FAX 716-285-3900.

On second thought—no barrels please! Hope to see you there.

Note Address Change

We are now at
S.H.I.P., PO Box 367,
Cato, NY 13033.

Fall Leadership Meeting

Auburn has become the traditional setting of S.H.I.P.'s Fall Leadership Meeting and this year was no exception. The Board of Governors met on Friday and Saturday, October 31 (yes, on Halloween) and November 1, at the Holiday Inn. S.H.I.P. President Adam Botzenhart of the Nor Ti Yorkers of Newark Valley conducted the meeting. Vice President Dan Orth, also of Newark Valley, was the only other officer in attendance. Dan took minutes for the meeting.

Delegates (or in some cases, advisors only) from Albany Academy, Auburn, Cato-Meridian, DeRuyter, Newark Valley, Sherman and Union Springs were in attendance. It was noted that Halloween and the SATs kept the attendance down.

Cost-saving measures were discussed, along with convention details, sponsorship for contests that have lost previous sponsorship. One of those contests is the Debate Competition which was initiated for the first time last year but which did not attract enough interest to conduct the competition. Albany Academy is considering sponsoring this contest and it was agreed by the Board that for this first year only the first four teams registered would be allowed to compete. Check out the rule packet for details.

From the President's Desk

The 2004 S.H.I.P. year is now well underway and, after an exciting Fall Board of Governors (BOG) meeting, this year's convention in Niagara Falls is shaping up to be one filled with intense competition and fun all around. One issue brought up at our meeting that I would like to relay to all of our chapters deals with membership. The BOG approved unanimously a new chapter initiative, which encourages all chapters to spread the word about S.H.I.P. to other area schools. An organization is only as strong as those who participate in it, and by bringing in new clubs and members we not only add to our numbers, but we also increase our resources and the potential of our organization. Therefore, I encourage all chapters to do what they will to spread information about S.H.I.P. to other schools. For those chapters who bring in the greatest number of new clubs an award will be given at the convention. Good luck to all and I thank you ahead of time for your effort and dedication.

--Adam Botzenhart

Welcome New Chapters

Two new chapters have joined us this year. Please welcome new S.H.I.P. members from Pulaski and Carmel. We look forward to seeing you at Niagara Falls and hope you find this a rewarding experience.

Going High Tech

The BOG agreed that we would attempt to add the contest rule packet and newsletter to "our" Web site maintained by nyhistory.com. We hope to save the cost of postage. Though as of this writing the rule packet has been sent but not posted, check it out. We hope to be up and running soon. This newsletter will also be sent for posting. If you have never been to this site, there are some great pictures for last year's convention in Albany.

Scholarship Fund

At the Fall Leadership Meeting, it was agreed that we will ask each chapter (club) to donate \$100 to the scholarship fund. It is understood, of course, that this is voluntary and S.H.I.P. will accept amounts less than \$100.

This is a valuable aspect to our program because recognizing the outstanding senior each year indicates that we value the contribution each member adds to our organization and that we are serious about attracting the best students to our program.

As in year's past, organized fundraisers were discussed but it was determined that this method was effected when tried two years ago so we decided to try it again. Of course, each club is welcome to conduct its own fundraisers locally to raise money for the scholarship fund. It was also noted that some chapters award their own local scholarship.

We thank you for whatever you can contribute. Send checks payable to S.H.I.P., PO Box 367, Cato, NY 13033.

2005 Convention Site

We're planning ahead! The Board of Governors has directed Mr. Allan Wood to approach a site in Corning for the 2005 Convention. We excited about the possibility because last year's Winter Leadership Meeting was held in the same facility and found it to be very accommodating. There are also plenty of sightseeing opportunities in the area.

Winter Leadership Meeting

Ithaca was selected as the site for the Winter Leadership Meeting to be held Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24. This delightful city is centrally located and should offer some interesting sightseeing for those who attend. Please make every effort to bring your delegates so that your club can have representation when decisions are being made that affect all members. It is an exciting and rewarding experience to have young people participating in real governance.

Amendment Proposal

A new amendment was proposed at the Fall Leadership Meeting and it will be voted on by the Board of Governors at its winter meeting in Ithaca. The amendment reads: "After more than two years of inactivity, a chapter will be considered a new chapter upon reinstatement." Dues for 2004-2005

Dues for this year will remain at \$2.00 per member. However, due to budget concerns, the Board of Governors voted to raise the dues to \$3.00 per member starting the 2004-2005 school year.

News Items

If you wish to have something added to the newsletter contact George Lohmann at gnlohmann@htva.net.

Home School Membership

Last year the Board of Governors approved an amendment to allow home-schooled student to form S.H.I.P. chapters. All home-schooled student would be considered a single chapter with one voting delegate on the Board of Governors until which time that group reached five members. Such members would enjoy all the rights and privileges of any other S.H.I.P. member.

Security Guards

At the Fall Leadership Meeting the topic of security guards was discussed in reference to the annual convention. A decision was made to make advisors aware that other chapter may wish to join together to hire security guards to check the halls from about 11:00 pm to 5:00 pm each night. Contacts and prices will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

A View from the New

"What is your favorite part of S.H.I.P.?" The responses varied but when it came my turn, I simply replied, "I don't know, this is my first year." At first I was nervous. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know how I could contribute, but when we began to discuss finances, I was able to make some suggestions along with everyone else. The meeting went well, and we ended the night having made many decisions. I had the opportunity to meet new people from different schools, find out what other schools were doing, and most importantly, help in the decision-making process.

My Halloween was different than any other in the past. Instead of walking around the streets with my friends, and partying, I was in a hotel room with the BOG, surprisingly making new friends. Despite early nervousness, my first trip to the BOG meeting was definitely worth giving up my Halloween. I'm proud to be in S.H.I.P.

--Kyle Sharp

