



# ASSOCIATION UPDATE

SPRING 2013

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**Administrative Coordinator**

Terry C. Abrams

## News from WNYAHA

As the weather slowly (very slowly), turns from winter to spring, we have been busy here in the WNYAHA office. I attended the midwinter meeting of the Field Service Alliance (FSA) in Nashville, Tennessee at the beginning of March. FSA is an affinity group of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). One of the outcomes of these meetings was a Manual of Field Services, which provides guidance on the services by entities such as WNYAHA.

The philosophy of Field Services, according to the manual is straightforward: "...local historical societies, museums, planetariums, zoos, archives, and libraries are important to the fabric of our society. These organizations should be encouraged and supported, run in a professional manner, and be recognized as valuable community assets. Field services programs help these organizations achieve best practices and accepted professional standards."

The services that WNYAHA provides subscribe to this philosophy. Our technical assistance workshops, Grave Matters, site visits, the annual meeting, and even this newsletter, are all designed to help you, our members be successful providers of cultural and historical heritage. We also recognize that funding is always a challenge, one that we grapple with ourselves. With this in mind, we try to keep costs for these services reasonable.

We also are willing to collaborate with any member or other organization to bring these services and benefits to the public. On April 27, we will be presenting two of our workshops at the annual meeting of the Erie County Historical Federation. Even those of you who aren't in or from Erie County are invited to attend. For more information, check the announcement on the back page of this newsletter.

We also want to say thank you to Jare' Cardinal of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum and Robert Kelley of the Wyoming Federation of Historical Societies. Both have resigned from the WNYAHA board. We are currently searching for replacements to fill out the remainder of their terms. If you are interested, contact me at the WNYAHA office, or via email at wnyaha@yahoo.com.



Administrative Coordinator Terry Abrams attended the midwinter meeting of the Field Services Alliance (FSA) in Nashville, TN. The FSA is an affinity group of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Field services programs help local historical societies and museums achieve best practices and accepted professional standards. Some of the FSA representatives in this photo are from Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana.

*Photo by Terry C. Abrams*

# Membership Survey Results

The Membership survey was sent out in the summer of 2012 and was sent to approximately 120 member and non-member organizations. We received a total of 34 responses, for a response rate of 29%.

The questionnaire focused on organizational issues, functions and demographics. Organizations were asked to rank their challenges, list which planning documents they have, whether they use PastPerfect, have a newsletter, a Facebook page, and their charter status. We questioned them about their membership, funding sources, what professional organizations they belong to, and whether their attendance has increased, decreased, or remained the same.

We asked our respondents to rank their challenges. The first question focused on the following choices: Building maintenance/preservation; Collections care & management; Exhibits; Marketing & publicity; and Programming. On a scale of 1 to 5, Marketing & publicity ranked first with a score of 3.53, followed by collections care/management at 3.47. Programming came in at 3.34, Exhibits at 3.24, with building maintenance ranked last at 2.60.

The second question asked respondents to rank the following five challenges: Fundraising/grant writing; Increasing membership; Recruitment/training of board; Recruitment/training of volunteers; and professional development of staff. Perhaps not surprisingly, fundraising/grant writing ranked first at 3.69 out of five. Increasing membership came in a close second at 3.58, with recruitment of volunteers next at 3.55, recruitment/training of board at 2.84, and professional development of staff last with a distant 2.23.

Combining these two shows that fundraising/grant writing tops the

ten challenges listed followed closely by increasing membership, recruitment of volunteers, marketing & publicity, collections care & management, programming, exhibits, recruitment/training of board, building maintenance/preservation and professional development of staff.

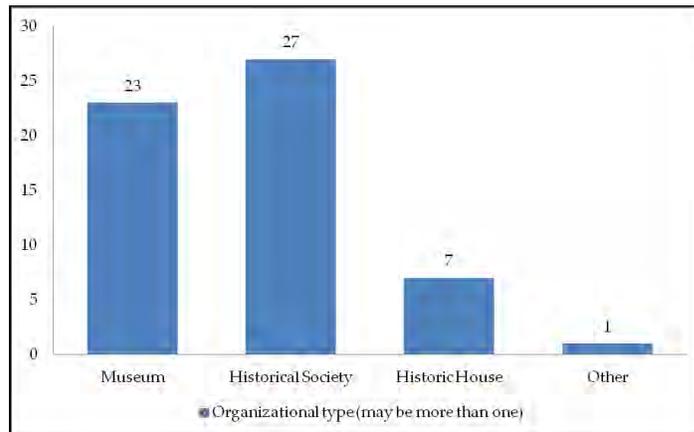


Figure 1: Type of organization (may be more than one).

Of the 34 responses, 23 identified themselves as a museum; 27 as a historical society, 7 as a historic house, and 1 as “other.” (Numbers add up to more than 34 because organizations could choose more than one response.) 57 % said they own a building or buildings, ranging from 1 to a maximum of 17.

When asked when their organization was formed, the earliest was 1860, the most recent was 2007. 82% are chartered, with 55% holding an absolute charter from the NY State Board of Regents. Another 26% hold a Regents provisional charter, with 10% chartered through the NY State Depart-

ment of State, another 6% responding “other,” and 3% saying “don’t know.”

82% have tax exempt status, also known as 501(c)3 status. 6% said no, and 12% said they didn’t know.

Just under half have a strategic plan, only 8 of 32 respondents have a disaster plan, and 29 out of 34 have a collections policy. The last can be attributed to the fact that a collections policy is mandatory for any museum or historical society with collections applying for a charter through NYSED.

*(Continued on page 6)*

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total responses
Strategic plan	14	14	6	34
Collections policy	29	5	0	34
Disaster plan	8	23	1	32
PastPerfect	15	18	1	34
Newsletter	29	5	0	34
Internet access	28	7	0	35
Facebook page	15	19	0	34
Website	27	6	1	34
Email address	24	8	0	32

Figure 2: Which of the following does your organization have?

## Former AASLH Director of Finance Found Guilty of Fraud

As most of the history field knows, in September of 2011 AASLH discovered alarming financial irregularities. Further investigation revealed that AASLH's former 20-year Director of Finance, Risa Woodward, and her husband committed fraud against AASLH. Charges were filed by the Office of the District Attorney General in Nashville, TN. On Thursday, March 7, 2013, the Woodwards accepted a plea bargain. Risa was found guilty of two B felonies, two C felonies, and two D felonies including theft, fraudulent use of credit cards, identity theft, and forgery. Jim Woodward was found guilty of four felonies of

fraudulent use of credit cards. Jim Woodward was given a 10 year suspended sentence with 10 years of supervised probation and restitution to AASLH of \$26,848.32. Risa Woodward will be sentenced on April 24, 2013, with charges carrying between 8 and 44 years. Defendant convictions are not final for 30 days. Terry Davis, President & CEO of AASLH, will testify at the sentencing hearing. AASLH will update you again at that time.

"AASLH is glad to put this phase of the fraud behind us so we can now move on to the civil suit against Risa and Jim Woodward, as well as

AASLH's former auditor, Frazier Dean and Howard," said Terry Davis, President & CEO of AASLH.

"The incredible work and significant support of AASLH staff and members have enabled the association to survive this staggering loss. As we pursue other legal remedies to help make the association whole, our focus will continue to be providing multi-faceted and effective service to members and dynamic advocacy for the field of state and local history," said Lynne Ireland, Chair of the AASLH Council.

## Conferences and Workshops

### Upcoming AASLH Workshop

#### Exhibit Makeovers

**Dates:** June 20-21, 2013

**Location:** Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI  
 Interpretive exhibits bring objects, images, and ideas to life for visitors through storytelling, diverse presentation media, and learning opportunities that engage multiple intelligences. In this workshop based on the book *Exhibit Makeovers: A Do-It-Yourself Workbook for Small Museums*, you'll learn the basics of exhibit planning, organization, text writing, and design. Drawing on resources of the host institution, working hands-on in small groups, you'll experiment with ways to make exhibit content meaningful and memorable for visitors.

Each participant will receive a copy of *Exhibit Makeovers*.

**Cost:** \$270 members/\$345 nonmembers  
 \$40 discount if payment is received by May 16

#### Who Should Attend:

This workshop is intended for museum staff and volunteers who want to create more engaging and effective exhibits. It's also an opportunity for managers and board members to gain insight into the processes of exhibit development and design. A supportive, team-based environment will build skills, confidence, and a network of colleagues.

#### StEPs Connections:

This workshop may help institutions achieve the standards in the Interpretation section of the StEPs program.

To register for this workshop go to [http://www.aaslh.org/workshops\\_exhibitmakeovers.htm](http://www.aaslh.org/workshops_exhibitmakeovers.htm) and click on the "register here" button. Or contact AASLH at:

1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN  
 37203-2991 | 615-320-3203 | Fax:  
 615-327-9013 | E-Mail: [membership@AASLH.org](mailto:membership@AASLH.org) | ©2007 AASLH

### ALHFAM Annual Conference

On June 14-18, 2013, Hale Farm & Village, an outdoor living history site and a premier collection and museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society, will host the 2013 ALHFAM Annual Meeting and Conference. Nestled in the picturesque Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Hale Farm & Village depicts mid-19th century rural life in Northeastern Ohio through dozens of historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens and artisan demonstrations. The University of Akron will provide meeting, dining and lodging facilities for the conference and is located within 50 minutes of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and 20 minutes of the Akron-Canton Regional Airport.

*Continued on page 5*



# New and Renewal Memberships

The following are new and renewal memberships as of March 25. Remember that all memberships expire at the end of the year. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so now, using the membership form on page 8.

## Individual

Anthony Barone  
 Dansville Public Library  
 Susan Eck  
 Shirley Edsall  
 Laurence Haseley  
 Hoffman Clock Museum  
 Babette Huber  
 Mary Lowther  
 Jeffrey Mason  
 Jean Neff  
 Karen Noonan  
 David Parish  
 James Rice  
 Catherine Roth  
 Dave Ruch  
 Joan Schumaker  
 John Sipos  
 Susan Swanton  
 Kathleen Urbanic

## Organizational

Allegany Area Historical Society  
 Angelica Boosters Citizens  
 Arcade Historical Society  
 Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
 Baker's Bridge Association  
 Big Springs Historical Society

Buffalo History Museum  
 Castile Historical Society  
 Cheektowaga Historical Association  
 Cobblestone Society & Museum  
 Cohocton Historical Society  
 Concord Historical Society  
 Dansville Area Historical Society  
 Elma Historical Society  
 Fenton History Center  
 Gowanda Area Historical Society  
 Grand Island Historical Society  
 Susan Greene, American Costume Studies  
 Hinkle Memorial Library-SUNY Alfred  
 Historical Association of Lewiston  
 Hull House Family Home & Farmstead  
 LeRoy Historical Society  
 Livingston County Historical Society  
 Middlebury Historical Society  
 Niagara County Historical Society  
 North Collins Historical Society  
 Nunda Historical Society  
 Pembroke Historical Association  
 Pioneer Oil Museum of New York  
 Rochester Medical Museum & Archives  
 Salamanca Rail Museum  
 Sanborn Area Historical Society  
 Seneca-Iroquois National Museum  
 Stafford Historical Society  
 Steel Plant Museum, Inc.

Susan B. Anthony House  
 Town of Porter Historical Society  
 Town of Somerset Historical Society  
 Wayland Historical Society  
 West Bloomfield Historical Society  
 Western Monroe Historical Society  
 West Seneca Historical Society  
 Wyoming Historical Pioneer Association

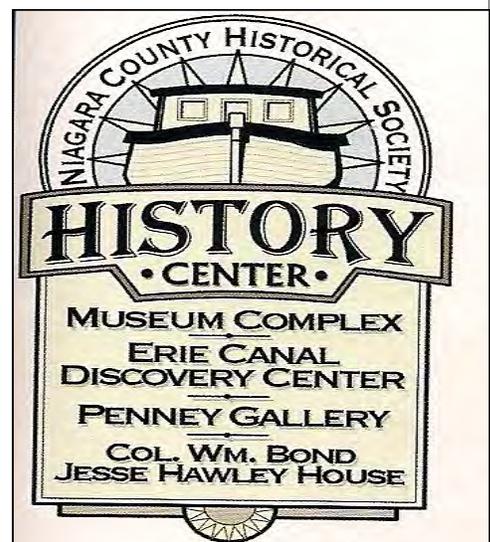
Yates County Genealogical & Historical Society

## Organizational Supporting

Holland Land Office Museum

## Annual Fund Contributions

Joan Schumaker



**Niagara County  
 Historical Society**  
 215 Niagara St. • Lockport, NY  
**716-434-7433**  
 history11@verizon.net

**Erie Canal  
 Discovery Center**  
*(located in the Lockport  
 Visitors' Center)*  
 24 Church St. • Lockport, NY  
**716-439-0431**  
 canaldiscovery@aol.com

## Conferences & Workshops (continued from page 3)

Guided by the theme, *Bringing It All to the Table: Feed Your Body, Feed Your Mind*, museum professionals everywhere are encouraged to gather with colleagues around a common table. Here conference attendees will acquaint themselves with old friends and new associates, while enjoying good company, good food, and rousing conversation.

The 2013 conference will address issues and concerns currently facing living history and agricultural museums. Presentations, sessions, papers and workshops will focus on individual, institutional and communal achievements that serve up innovative programming initiatives or organizational efforts that are creative, essential and relevant in today's marketplace.

The early registration fee at \$450.00. The late fee will be \$500.00. The day rate will be

\$150.00. Membership is required to attend and that will be an additional \$30.00 for the annual basic membership. Lodging in Spicer Hall on the University of Akron campus will be \$35.00 per night for a double room and \$45.00 for a single room. All rooms include and ensuite bath facility. For more information go to [www.alhfam.org](http://www.alhfam.org)



The Landmark Society of WNY is proud to announce their 27th annual Preservation Conference on April 19 & 20. A collaboration between the Landmark Society of Western New York and the Pres-

ervation League of New York State, with generous support provided by the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, the Conference will be returning to Brockport, "The Victorian Village on the Erie Canal," a thriving community that has embraced preservation as a revitalization tool. The Village of Brockport and SUNY Brockport will host this daylong series of informational workshops, case studies, and success stories. Preservation and planning professionals and community leaders cover topics such as historic homeowner tax credits, successful advocacy, and community planning. This year's Conference title is *Outside the Box: Innovative Preservation Practices for the 21st Century* and will emphasize "outside the box" thinking—innovative and creative planning and advocacy tools that can help communities across upstate New York thrive.

*Continued on page 7*

## Museums in Conversation Conference

*Museums in Conversation* is the conference where YOU do the talking! **2013 Conference Theme: What Does it Mean to be Diverse?**

With its programming, exhibitions, collections, and marketing the diverse museum embraces audiences who broadly reflect its mission, location and discipline; with its professional and volunteer workforce the diverse museum values the talents, skills, and perspectives all bring to their work; with its facilities the diverse museum accommodates people of all physical abilities; the diverse museum provides multiple entry points of participation for people to explore, learn and connect with one another.

We want to look at the diverse museum from a variety of perspectives.

**The 2013 Museums in Conversation Conference is about creating institutions which, at their cores, value diversity in their staff, board, volunteers, collections, programs and exhibitions.**

Registration fees include all conference materials, Sunday's Opening Reception, Monday's Keynote breakfast, conference sessions, Luncheon and Networking Reception, Tuesday's breakfast and Closing keynote address. **NOTE: No refunds will be made for conference registrations after March 15, 2013.** Workshop fees include registration, handouts and other indirect costs.

**Conference Fees for 2013**

Regular Registrations received between March 25 and April 10, 2013: Member \$210, Non-Member \$270; Onsite Registrations received After April 10, 2013: Member \$230, Non-Member \$290; Sunday Pre-Conference Workshop Fees: Member \$40 per workshop Non-Member \$55 per workshop: Student/Unemployed Rate: Member \$110 Non-Member \$110; Presenter Rate: Member \$130 Non-Member \$130. \*Member rates apply to individual or organizational members of Museumwise: The Museum Association of New York. You can register online at: <http://museumsinconversation.org/register/> or contact the Museumwise: MANY office at 800-895-1648 or [conference@museumsinconversation.org](mailto:conference@museumsinconversation.org)

## Member Survey Results (continued from page 2)

29 of the 34 respondents said they were members of WNYAHA. 11 indicated they were members of their county federation, while 9 said they were members of Museumwise. Four are members of MANY, which has now merged with Museumwise. Six belong to AASLH, three to AAM. GAHWNY, ALHFAM, NYSHA, each received 2 responses, and APHNYS and "other" received 1 apiece.

With regard to funding sources, Museumwise's Ready, Set, Go grants topped the list with 23%, Decentralization grants administered by the local arts councils (a NYSCA regrant program) came in at 18%, and NYSCA with 12%. 11% received funding from the Institute for Museum & Library Studies (IMLS), a federal program. 2% received funding from Greater Hudson Heritage Network's Conservation Treatment grants. 1% received CAP grants and 2% received MAP grants. 21% of funding was classified as "other," those mostly being funding from local sources, and fundraising efforts. While it is not evident in the responses presented here, there appears to be a correlation between types of funding, and what professional organizations our members belong to. Those that have received funding from NYSCA or IMLS also often belong to AAM, AASLH or ALHFAM.

When asked to name their top three challenges, one respondent put it succinctly: "money, money, money." 15 of the 34 respondents named finances, or some variation thereof, as their number one challenge. Close behind, 12 of 34 respondents listed what can be categorized as the challenges of human capital. This includes lack of volunteers, aging membership, and committed leadership. Other challenges include building upkeep, collections care, and attracting visitors.

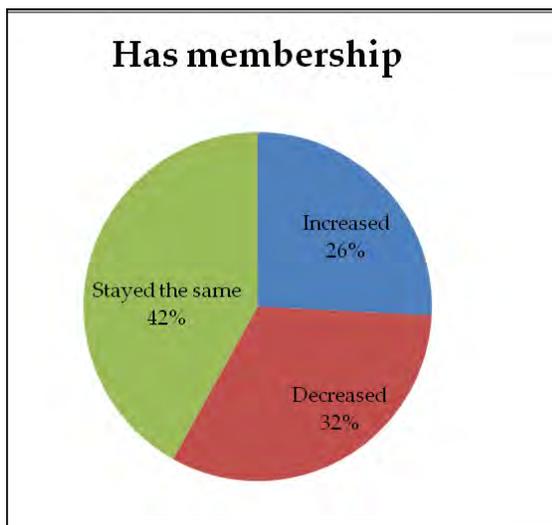


Figure 3: Membership increased, decreased or stayed the same?

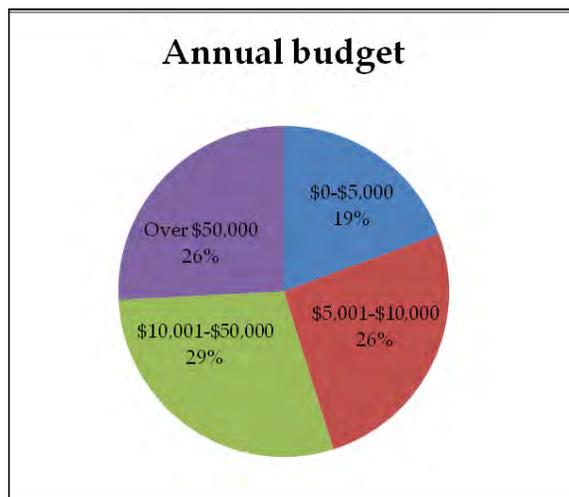


Figure 4: What is your annual budget?

## Grants News & Notes

The Conservation Treatment Grant Program, administered by the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN), in the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), provides support for treatment procedures to aid in stabilizing and preserving objects in collections of museums, historical, and cultural organizations in New York State. The work must be performed by, or under direct supervision of, a professional conservator.

### Applicant Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from non-profit museums and historical organizations or other cultural institutions that own, care for and exhibit collections to the public. Grant awards will be made to institutions lacking in-house conservation staff with expertise in the area for which support is requested. Collections owned by state or federal agencies are ineligible for grant support. Organizations may submit only one request, which may involve a single object or a group of related objects, all owned by the applicant institution.

Eligible institutions of all sizes are welcome to request support from

this state-wide program; those with small budgets are encouraged to apply. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have not yet received three consecutive treatment grants.

### What We Fund

Support is available for conservation treatment of paintings, works on paper (including individual drawings, watercolors, prints or photographs), textiles (including costumes, domestic textiles and upholstery), furniture, frames, sculpture, historical, ethnographic and decorative objects.

Support is also available for treatment costs for supports, frames, stands and mounts that are integral to the treatment of the object. Grants will support in-state transportation costs for the objects and/or the conservators, and the cost of insurance for the work(s) to be treated.

### What We Do Not Fund

Grants will not support staff salaries. Grants will not support out-of-state transportation, or the cost of obtaining the treatment estimate for this proposal. Grants will not

support conservation of archival collections. Funds are not available for preventive care, such as rehousing or reformatting of objects, purchase of storage furniture, monitoring or upgrading of environmental systems.

### Panel Review Process

Applications will be reviewed competitively by a panel of conservation, curatorial, and museum professionals.

### Range of Grant Awards

Individual grant awards will not exceed \$7,500. A total of approximately \$89,386 is available in 2013.

### Schedule of Completion

Award recipients will be announced in mid-August. Funded conservation work must be completed within one year of the grant award.

Final reports of completed 2012 treatment grants must be received at Greater Hudson Heritage Network by August 1, 2013. For more information or to apply for a grant, go to the GHHN website at <http://www.greaterhudson.org/2013-conservation-treatment-grant-program.html> or contact Priscilla Brendler at 914-414-6726 or [director@greaterhudson.org](mailto:director@greaterhudson.org).

## Conferences and Workshops (continued from page 5)

Kicking off the weekend on Friday night, April 19 is a special pre-Conference gathering and screening of the award-winning documentary, *Courthouse Girls of Farmland*. A preservation success story made possible by true "outside the box" thinking, the film tells the story of seven senior women (aged 77-94) who got up from their bridge club table to make a bold and controversial statement, posing "suggestively" in a calendar to raise awareness and funds to save Farmland's 1877 Italianate style courthouse. The screening (as

well as a breakout session on Saturday) will also feature two of the original "Courthouse Girls," straight from Farmland, Indiana.

The main event will take place Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include two keynote speakers and more than ten smaller breakout sessions (including field sessions to end the day). We'll conclude the weekend with a fun and informal party in downtown Brockport.

For more information or to register, go to their website: <http://landmarksociety.org/confere>

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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Historical Agencies (WNYAHA)  
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Website: <http://www.wnyaha.org>

Newsletter editor: Terry C. Abrams

Special thanks to Ann Marie Linnabery of the History Center of Niagara County for assistance with proofreading and editing.

## The Erie County Historical Federation 2013 Annual Conference

**Saturday, April 27, 2013**

We know our non-profit cultural organizations are jewels in our hometown's crowns, and the keepers of the local flame are our community's unsung heroes. The conference is designed to help you to better educate, inform and benefit you and your communities, and we welcome all societies to their experiences as well.

**The ECHF annual conference this year is Saturday, April 27 from 10 AM-3PM at the Buffalo History Museum (formerly the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society), 1 Museum Court, Buffalo, NY**

The program includes two workshops: *Child Friendly Programs* with Deborah Brundage, Director of the Cobblestone Museum, and Anna Kowalchuk, Museum Administrator of the Livingston County Historical Society; and *Museum Design on a Dime* with Melissa Brown, Director of the Buffalo History Museum, and Terry Abrams, Administrative Coordinator of WNYAHA.

The agenda also includes lunch, an open discussion forum, and a tour of the museum. Registration deadline is **April 20**. The conference is a great opportunity to network, develop skills, and learn what other organizations are doing. The cost is \$25 per person, \$15 for students, and includes lunch. Send check payable to :

**Erie County Historical Federation**

**And mail to: Sally Davis, ECHF, P.O. Box 163, South Wales, NY 14139.**

Include your name, address, organization you are representing, phone and email.

### WNYAHA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories:

Student \$15 \_\_\_ Individual \$30 \_\_\_ Organizational \$50 \_\_\_ Organizational Supporting \$100 \_\_\_

Yes! I would like to make an additional contribution: \$10 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check or money order to:

Western New York Association of Historical Agencies, P.O. Box 39, Getzville, NY 14068

Phone: (716) 439-6293 email: wnyaha@yahoo.com

Spring 2013