# Club to Club Bulletin

Issue 1:2 | National Council of "56" Clubs | March 1994

## Dear Member Clubs,

WOW! It is already March! The Mid-Atlantic Regional was great and the NCC ***thanks*** the host committees for the wonderful reception afforded us.

***NCC - Williamsburg:*** The room for all Council activities, Board Meeting and Membership Meeting was not only beautiful inside, but had a beautiful view outside, also. Everyone was so helpful and supportive of our plans. Mega thanks, Williamsburg - all!

We had 14 Board Members at our Executive Board Meeting out of 19 possible and 35 member clubs represented at our General Membership Meeting out of a possible 90 and growing! During Roll Call, the gals from Tennessee (Pat Ray front, with Nancy Harlan and Sue Henderson) sent us all a message to get ready for that big Roll Call at the Convention in August -- they were resplendent in their raccoon hats and proudly carried big flags! (See photo.) Start thinking now what your club can bring to the Rally at the Convention.

***NCC Convention:*** Most of the Council conversations and meetings centered around the First Annual Convention, to be held in conjunction with the Bachman Village Gathering in Minneapolis on August 26th, 27th, and 28th. The NCC National Convention will consist of a large **Rally** (thousands) on Friday night featuring a "presentation of the clubs by state", special speakers, sales of an exclusive NCC Event Piece, lots of club prizes and awards, a "goodie" bag, and a Rally Event Pin, included in the ticket price, available only to Rally ticket holders. Admission is $10 and advance ticketing is required. ====>>

Photo by Marianne Moore

On Saturday Night there will be a **NCC Dinner** with guest speakers, display awards, prizes, and surprises! Dinner is $30, payable in advance.

Finally, on Sunday morning there will be a **NCC Annual Membership Meeting**.

All Member Clubs are encouraged to participate in displays, show and tells, show and sells, seminars, the huge Rally, Dinner, and Membership Meeting, along with all of the Bachman activities. The NCC Convention activities are being scheduled with Bachman's to be certain there is no overlap of activities so you will be able to attend all Bachman and National Convention activities with no time conflicts.

***Display Contest:*** The Clubs are asked to contribute displays to the big display area. Each display will be limited to a maximum of 12 houses. Each display will have a sign identifying the displayer's name, club name, and name of the Dept. 56 village.

Paul Bachman is desirous of great variety this year, so we encourage displays of all of the villages to be submitted. We want to have at least 50 displays, so individuals, groups of club members, and total clubs may be involved. We are working on ways to help out-of-state clubs more easily enter the display contest.

The official announcement and details of the contest will appear in the Bachman *Village News.* Send the name/names of the displayers, address, phone number, club name, and the name of the village to be displayed to Betty Lombardi, 6005 Covington Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088. Betty will send all of the names to Bachman's where the participants will be selected, notified of their selection, and given final details. For all those who participate in the display contest, Paul has offered to transport them to Dept. 56 Headquarters for a personal tour!

***Show & Tells/Show & Sells:*** If you have a hobby, skill, etc., connected with our villages and would like to show those attending the Gathering on Saturday and/or Sunday, there is a table waiting just for you! Please call Saundra Beckwith, 214-641-4387. If you would like to set up a table to also sell, there will be a table charge by Bachman's. Ideas include trains, mountains, trees, accessories, water, etc.

***Seminars:*** If you have a suggestion for a seminar or would be willing to present a seminar, please call Tim Kearney, 215-245-6715 and provide details.

***Prizes:*** At the Rally on Friday night, **many, many,** prizes will be awarded to clubs for at least 25 categories. Clubs not represented at the Gathering/NCC Convention can still win prizes! More details on this will be in the next *Club to Club Bulletin.*

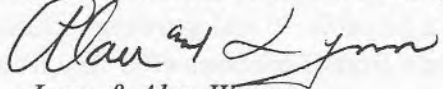
***The "Big Top":*** All displays and demonstrations put on by NCC members will take place "under the Big Top", which will house Bachman's total Gathering. It will include sales, displays, demonstrations, and secondary market dealers, all in one huge convention area center. Seminars, bingo, NCC Rally, etc., will be held in room adjacent to the Big Top.

***Reserve Now:*** Remember to get your money in **early** to reserve your place, so you won't be left out of the fun. The enclosed flyer has all the information as to where to send checks for the Rally and the NCC Dinner, plus where to call for hotel accommodations.

***Pass the Word to Club Members & Retailers:*** PLEASE get all this information to your club members! We want everyone in Minneapolis for this colossal event! We also want your retail dealers to support our Council. The cost is $100 for an Associate Membership (see enclosed brochure) which will get them all the Council news and advertisements in the *Club to Club Bulletin* and the National Convention program.

***Door Prizes Needed:*** We also need many donations for door prizes, etc. Help us get these much needed items!

***Your Ideas:*** And finally, but most importantly, we want all of your ideas on what **you** want to see at a National Convention! Our co-chairs, Kay Taylor and Lawson Scoggins, along with the two of us, are anxious to hear your ideas and suggestions. Please send or fax them to the Council office (651 Perimeter Drive, Suite 600, Lexington, KY, 40517 or FAX 606-269-0184).



*Lynn & Alan Wagner*
*Co-presidents*

# From the Regions

**Southwestern Region**

**TX, OK, NM, CO, WY, LA, KS**

Betty Lombardi, President of the Cottage Collectors Club of Dallas/Ft. Worth is the regional representative (214-475-2519). Betty reports there will be a "1994 Village Jubilee" as part of the "Collectors Jubilee". (See the NCC Calendar.) The Village Jubilee will be the Southwestern Regional States get together. The NCC will have a table and NCC co-presidents Lynn and Alan Wagner will be there.

The Southwestern Region now has a "Network" to encourage interclub participation and assistance. So far, networkers are:

**Louisiana** - Dot McConnell , The Village Krewe
**Kansas** - Bill Edwards, Air Cap 56ers
**New Mexico** - Sharon James, New Mexico Townspeople
**Oklahoma** - David Van, Oklahoma Collectors Club
**Texas** - (1) Saundra Beckwith of the Dept. 56 Collectors Club of Dallas, Spirit of 56 Collectors Club, and the Cowtown Collectors Club, will cover North and Northeast Texas; (2) Pat Maness, of the Lone Star Villagers, will cover Central Texas; (3) Dee Sowash, of the Sparkling City Villagers, will cover South Texas; (4) Marie Winters, of the Panhandle 56 Villagers, will cover the Panhandle and Northwest Texas.

Betty and the NCC appreciate the assistance of the networkers and hope clubs in their areas will give them assistance when needed. Clubs from areas not yet represented, please contact Betty.

**Central Region**

**TN, KY, IL, IN, OH, VA, WV, MO**

Sue Henderson is the regional representative (901) 758-2487. She will be contacting clubs within her region concerning plans for the Rally at the Gathering.

Barb Fleming-Carney, Co-president of the **Village Travelers Club,** is organizing a networking group for the Chicago Metro area club reps, and those of other nearby clubs. A meeting will take place during the ***Dickens Exchange Event***, May 26th, in Oakbrook, IL. Clubs officers or representatives wishing to participate are to call Barb (708-934-8994).

During the same event, Marianne Moore, Editor of the NCC's *Club to Club Bulletin* (708-879-6024, evenings) will hold an informal information meeting for persons wanting to start new clubs. The NCC will have a table at the event and member clubs may place flyers on it.

**Western Region**

**CA, OR, WA, NV, AZ, ID, UT, MT**

Gayle Farley is still in California (she is moving to New Jersey). She is also a member of the **Village Addicts Annonymous of So. California**. She tells us that the great majority of this club reside in the immediate vicinity of the Northridge Quake and many lost their collections, their homes, and their sense of security. The NCC sends its condolences and sympathy to these persons.

Gayle has two tips for states which may experience quake or weather conditions that could damage village collections: 1) Porcelain houses that had been linked together with the Dept. 56 set of six light cords that has locking clips were saved in some cases. Those lit with a Christmas tree light string without the locking clips were thrown

the floor. 2) There are two products on the market that will help to secure your pieces in place: *Quake Hold*, 129 E. Colorado Blvd., #464, Monrovia, Ca 91016, 800-959-4053 and *Anchor-All* by Foster Research, 714 W. 17th St. #C-12, Costa Mesa, CA 92627. These products also secure the pieces from pet and people accidents.

The new Western Region representative is Muriel Burdick of the **Bay Area Villagers Club.** A big welcome to you, Muriel! A joint meeting of the **Bay Area Villagers**, San Jose, the **Valley Villagers,** Sacramento, and the **Village Keeprs**, is planned for April 23 at the Holiday Inn, Fairfield, CA. Call Muriel at (408) 295-5637.

**New England & Canadian Region**

**MA, VT, NH, MS, RI, CT, Canada**

Marge Pelletier, is the regional rep, and is hosting a Regional Networking Meeting on April 23, at 3:00, at Homestead Realty, 19 Western Ave., Winthrop, Maine. This is the same day as the **Village Maine-iacs** Swap and Sell Show (see NCC Calendar). Marge can be phoned at 207-3787-8158 or 207- 377-2223.

**North Central Region**

**MN, WI, ND, SD, NE, IA, and now MI**

Diane Knowlton is the regional representative (612-771-2449). She tells us eight of the 11 clubs in the North Central Region have joined the NCC. (Ed. Note: This does not include the new state, Michigan.)

Gary Newton is working to organize a new club in the Largo, ND, area.

Reminder to clubs, Diane would like to be put on your club's newsletter mailing list. She will be in touch with all regional clubs soon. Happy Spring!

Diane and others from her local area will be very involved in helping with the NCC National Convention preparation.

**Southeastern Region**

**FL, GA, AL, MS, AR, NC, SC**

Rebecca Fulton (305-565-6239) is the regional representative and reports that she has been working with a number of people who are starting new clubs. So far, there are no plans for any regional events for this area.

**Northeastern Region**

**NJ, NY, PA, DC, MD, DE**

Secaucus (see NCC Calendar) is the next big event for this region. The NCC will have a club table at the event. Member clubs are invited to bring flyers about their club to recruit new members. There are plans for a Dept. 56 collectors dinner and a retailer sponsored seminar about villages. Details may be obtained at the NCC club table.

The next chance to get together in this region will be at the Northeast Regional Convention, in May, in Rochester, NY.

## Club to Club

- **California 56 Collectors**, Fullerton, CA, prints its executive board minutes in its newsletter.
- **Bay Area Villagers Collectors**, San Jose, CA, had its third annual Christmas Potluck.
- **Valley Villagers**, Sacramento, CA, is planning a full day of learning display techniques ("Make & Take" Day).
- **Connecticut Village "NUT"meggers**, Windsor Locks, CT, had Peter and Jeanne
- **The Village Landlords**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, has a club member in charge of tracking buy, sell, or trade items. It also has "Show and Tell" as an on-going event at meetings.

## To the Clubs

The NCC has sent each NCC Member Club a copy of the now completed *Guide to Starting a Club.* For a $6 fee it was also sent to individuals who are hoping to start a club. Regional representatives have asked clubs to tell them of any new clubs in their area.

NCC Member Clubs were separately sent a notice about the Dept. 56 Brite Lites Adapters (Item #5225-6). If you did not receive your notice, notify the NCC, please. Be sure to share the Brite Lites information with your club members.

## Club to Club

A review of the club newsletters shows some clubs carrying out similar activities, although only one is mentioned here.

- **California 56 Collectors**, Fullerton, CA, have a column in their newsletter called "Communication from the Board" which reports on the Executive Board meetings.
- **Valley Villagers** of Sacramento, CA, enjoyed a half hour swap and sell prior to its meeting, then watched slides of the Bachman's Gathering at a recent meeting. This club asks for membership renewal by the November meeting. If not paid, no membership renewals are accepted until after the house tour dates. Only members in good standing may make reservations for the house tours.
- **Bay Area Village Collectors** of San Jose, CA, reported on *The Dickens Project,* a University of CA at Santa Cruz week of lectures, performances, discussions, and film shows (7/31 - 8/5/94). Campus rooms/meals are available at reasonable prices. Call Linda Hooper, Kresge College, UCSC, (408) 459-2103 for info
- **56 Reasons** of Oakland, CA, had a program presentation about the Bachman's Village Gathering. A club member had been able to get behind the scenes" and even photographed the pre-order pick-up area with its thousands of white boxes.
- **The Village People**, Edmonton, Canada, has two members of its club who are acting in a murder mystery called *A Christmas Peril.* It is set seven years before the famous *A Christmas Carol* story on the night of the death of Jacob Marley. What a great club outing this would be!
- **Windy City 56ers**, Park Ridge, IL, is working with a newly formed flub on some joint events.
- **Fibber Magee's Orlando Villagers**, FL, has red membership I.D.'s for 1994 memberships. Renewing members keep their original membership number, however.
- **Tampa Bay 56ers**, Tampa Bay, FL, have Members Only Raffles for special collector's pieces.
- **Bluegrass 56ers** of Lexington, KY, are in the midst of house tours to see club member's village displays and to socialize.
- **Kentuckiana 56ers**, Louisville, KY, held its second Derbytown Social in October. On Friday evening, the club members and visitors came dressed as their favorite Dept. 56 figurine. 1st prize was won by a SV Garbage Can; 2nd by Father Christmas; and 3rd by Tiny Tim, Scrooge and Bob Cratchit. Must have been a fun time!
- **Dept. 56 Adventurers**, Shreveport, LA, reminded club members to consider fire safety; use GE cool light bulbs in their displays and fire retardant snow..
- **Village 56ers, River City Chapter**, of Omaha, NE, also enjoyed a hands-on workshop. Their subjects were split rail fences, wood stacks, mountains (three different choices), tombstones, and anything else for which there was time.

- **Mid-America Collectors Club**, Shawnee Mission, KS, arranged for displays of club members to be video taped for showing at the convention they are sponsoring (April 8 and 9, see NCC Calendar).
- **Village Travelers Club**, Geneva, IL, will be having a secondary market educational meeting. Club members will be asked to bring to the meeting newsletters/books/ ideas they would use to determine market value and to obtain an item. Small groups will be formed, one person in each given an amount of "money", and the groups will each figure out the market value(s) and how to get the piece(s) the person wants.
- **Chesapeake 56 Club**, Harve De Grace, MD, has invited the **Delaware Valley 56ers**, Bensalem, PA, to hold a joint function this summer.
- **Northern Lights Collectors Club**, Minneapolis, MN, collects photos from members for a photo scrapbook. The club has a swap and sell every six months following its regular meeting. The Membership Committee has a Welcome Packet for new members. The club recently proposed that its committee chairpersons have alternates to facilitate communication in their absence.
- **Saintly City 56ers**, St. Paul, MN, is planning several trips, including the Amana Colonies, Iowa; South Bend, Indiana; Spooner, Wisconsin; and Windam. After one year, membership is 80 plus.
- **Garden State Village Collectors**, NJ, now accepts advertising in its wonderful newsletter to help pay printing costs.
- **Village Keepers**, Canandaikgua, NY, is sponsoring the Northeast Regional Convention, see the NCC Calendar. Also, the club's Charity Committee is holding its second annual charity raffle.
- **Capital Region 56ers**, Westerlo, New York is hosting a conference (see the NCC Calendar).
- **Buckeye 56ers**, Elyria, Ohio, was last listed under "New Club - Fryberger", but now has a name; has already had display tours; and allows swap and sell, 2 pieces per member per meeting.
- **Delaware Valley 56ers** , Bensalem, PA, established a phone committee to call members when important information becomes known. The club obtained liability insurance after finding it difficult to obtain meeting areas without it. The club is tentatively talking with the **Garden State Village Club, NJ,** about a picnic.
- **Dept. 56 Villagers of Central PA,** Hershey, PA, is planning a covered dish social and party. The club is accepting nominations for three of the positions on its Executive Board, with the remaining officers continuing their terms. This provides stability and some experience members always being on the Board.
- **Ocean State Villagers** of Warwick , RI, featured a story about the NCC, with its logo on the front page, in its newsletter; the club has named a liaison to the NCC; name tags are used at meetings and fines are issued when they are not worn; retailers are being invited to become associate members of the club; at the club's holiday party, the centerpieces were given as prizes.
- **Cobblestone Peddlers,** Nashville, TN, had its Christmas Party at a yacht club. Among the decorations was a Christmas tree with Cobblestone Peddler ornaments.
- **Pyramid 56ers**, Memphis, TN, has three types of "active" memberships; regular/individual (1 vote/1 member), regular/dual (1 vote/2 adult members), and junior (0 vote, 1 member under age 18). The club also has two "auxiliary" memberships; honorary and associate/ retail dealers. A recent program had eight retailers present in a round table discussion.

- **Cowtown Village Collectors**, Ft. Worth, TX, had a raffle drawing at its Christmas Party. Proceeds were donated to the Ft. Worth Cook's Children Hospital.
- **Village People**, Lyndale, TX, is planning a club trip to The Collectors' Jubilee (April 16-17, Tulsa, OK); the club badges allow club members to add bars with the names of the villages collected on them.
- **Village Traders of Puget Sound,** Steilacoom, WA, circulated pictures of the '94 new pieces given to the club by their NCC regional representative, Gayle Farley; the club says that it has been having significantly bigger turn-outs for Sunday afternoon meetings; club business cards are being printed and will be made available to club members; has "special name tag door prize drawings"; enjoyed an hors d'oeuvres and dessert potluck and punch at the last house on the club house tour.
- **Dept. 56 Villagers of Southeastern VA**, Chesapeake, VA, has added an ethics statement to its bylaws.
- **National Capital Area Village Collectors' Club**, Sterling, VA, had a program about village backdrops; a retirement party at a country club; has been invited to join the **Delaware Valley 56ers** on their trip to the Bachman/NCC Gathering; and last year had a Christmas in July party.
- **Wishigan Collectors' Club**, Green Bay, WI, tells us it has members from Wisconsin and Michigan and is a part of Diane Knowlton's region.

If you have some news about your club that you would like to see appear in the ***Club to Club Bulletin***, please notify the editor. Remember to send your club's newsletter or minutes to the *Bulletin* editor so the NCC can share your ideas and events with the other clubs. Thanks!

## Addition to Handbook

Roger Mikos and Pat Ray want to thank those who contributed to the *Handbook for Clubs* and announce the next section will be a "Guide to Communications". Pat and Roger will edit the information related to the production of club newsletters, and they are eager for you or your club's editor to provide questions and suggestions for producing effective publications.

Topics to be addressed:

- Publishing your newsletter from start to finish
- Expenses of newsletter
- Good and bad experiences
- Advice for a new editor
- Club Library? Operations and materials offered
- Other subjects concerning communications

Send comments or suggestions to either Roger Mikos, 901 S. Lincoln Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068; or Pat Ray, 801 Carolyn Lane, Gallatin, TX 37066. Your name will be on the credit page, if not on the article itself.

## Thank you, Village Idiots

Thanks to Jane Sprando, Head Idiot of the **Village Idiots Club** of Oregon, all of the NCC member clubs can now play "House", a game similar to "Bingo", but with a village twist to it. Enclosed is the information needed to play. If you make improvements on the game, Jane would like to be informed.

## New Honorary Member

At the NCC Exec. Board Mtg. in Williamsburg, an enthusiastic and unanimous vote welcomed Paul Bachman as the NCC's newest Honorary Member.

# Club to Club Calendar

*April 1994*

8- 9 KS - Mid-American Collector's Club is hosting the Midwestern Regional Convention for D56 Collectors at the Holiday Inn Holidome, Overland Park, (800) 527-0582 for rooms. Call Bill Chadd (913) 469-1688 for show information.

8-10 NJ - International Collectibles Exposition, Secaucus

16-17 OK - Collectors Jubilee at Expo Square. Main show and swap and sell. Call (800) 453-1325 or (918) 298-8891.

23 ME - Village Maline-iacs Collectors Club is having its Swap and Sell Show, St.Francis Parish Hall, Route 41,Winthrop. Call Marge Pelletier (207) 377-2223.

29-May 1 NY - Northeast Regional Convention, Rochester, Marriott Thruway Hotel (716) 359-1800 for rooms. Call (716) 234-61111 for information. Sponsored by the Village Keepers Club.

**May 1994**

20-22 IL - Dickens Exchange Show, Oakbrook Hyatt Regency, Oakbrook. Reservations: (800) 233-12234. Windy City 56ers are helping out! Information from the Dickens Exchange: (504) 832-4157

*July 1994*

14-17 IN - International Collectibles Exposition, South Bend

*August 1994*

19-21 SC - Southern Regional Dept. 56 Village Gathering, Greenville, rooms - EmbassySuites, (807) 676-9090.

26-28 MN - National Council of "56" Clubs National Convention & Bachman Village Gathering - The NCC block of rooms is at the Hyatt Regency, (800) 233-1234

*October 1994*

7-9 NY - Great Northeast Collectors Conference, Thruway Inn, Albany, NY, (518) 459-3100 (sponsored by the Capital Region 56ers) Reserve early to get rooms. For further information, call Susan or Richard Zeh, (518) 797-3955.

***Watch for the next Club to Club Bulletin in June.***

# Club to Club Calendar

***March 1994***

4-6 VA - Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering, The Woodlands, Williamsburg
(800) HIS-TORY

***April 1994***

8-10 NJ - International Collectibles Exposition, Secaucus

29-May 1 NY - Northeast Regional Convention, Rochester, Marriott Thruway Hotel
(716) 359-1800

***May 1994***

See above.

***July 1994***

14-17 IN - International Collectibles Exposition, South Bend

***September 1994***

9-11 MN - National Council of "56" Clubs National Convention & Bachman Village Gathering

***October 1994***

7-9 NY - Great Northeast Collectors Conference, Thruway Inn, Albany, NY,
(518) 459-3100 (sponsored by the Capital Region 56ers)
Reserve early to get rooms.

*Club to Club Bulletin*
Marianne Moore, Editor
552 North Batavia Avenue
Batavia, IL 60510

***TO:***

# Show Your True Colors!

Order the first *National Council of "56" Clubs* pin, **now**.
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