



MOTOR BUS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2006

Conventions

Miami: The Spring Convention of the Motor Bus Society was held during the three day weekend of April 29 through May 1 in Miami, Florida. It was attended by nearly 60 people who enjoyed cool Spring weather. From the Clarion Hotel & Suites headquarters in downtown Miami, on Saturday the group visited garages and transit centers in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County Transit), West Palm Beach (PalmTran); then on Sunday to the Miami-Dade Transit Central and Coral Way bus garage, the Metro Rail maintenance shop and the South Miami Busway finishing at the facility of southwest county operator JGT Transportation. On Monday the tour visited charter and inter-city bus operators, with stops at two Greyhound locations as well as the 7871 Inc. and American Coach Lines garages. Director of Convention Operations, Dino Mandros wishes to acknowledge and thank Miami MBS member Joe Peres for his work in making the arrangements for the facility visits, and to Joe and fellow MDT operations supervisor Bob Hale for accompanying the group on its visits to Miami-Dade Transit facilities.

Quebec (City): The Fall 2006 Convention is set for the Quebec city area during the Columbus Day weekend on October 6th through 8th. Even though the policy is now to have the third day of Fall Conventions on the Monday Columbus Day holiday, the Canadians celebrate their Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October. It is desirable to avoid having any activities on this day because it would cause problems for our Canadian members and some facilities that we may wish to visit might be closed.

The itinerary tentatively includes visit to the Prevost factory on Friday, Trois Riveres and Sherbrook on Saturday and Quebec city on Sunday. U.S. citizens planning to attend the convention are reminded that a U.S. Passport or government issued birth certificate are required for entry into Canada and return.

2006 Election

The only matter of business to come up at the Spring 2006 meeting in Miami on April 29th was nominations for offices and members of the Board of Trustees. The by-laws for the new non-profit corporation specify that there shall be four elected officers (President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) who will each serve terms of two years, being elected in even numbered years and taking office on January 1 of odd numbered years. The by-laws also established a Board of Trustees consisting of six persons each of which must be a resident of the State of New Jersey, serving terms of six years. These six Trustees fall into three classes, each consisting of two members, each class serving staggered terms (as in the U. S. Senate) with one class being elected every two years along with the Officers. The 2006 elections are thus for four Officers and two Trustees. The by-laws stipulate that nominations for each office may be taken from the floor at the Spring regular meeting

in even numbered years. Nominations (including self-nominations) may also be made in writing to the Elections Committee by June 30th

Nominations: At the Spring meeting, nominations were taken from the floor. The only nomination received at that time was for Bill Vallow as President. Since that time, the Election Committee chairman Charlie Sullivan has received nominations from Dino Mandros for President, Jerry Squier as Secretary, Rich Phillippi for Treasurer and Mike Ferlise and Mike Seft for the Board of Trustees. Due to the lack of any nominations for the office of Executive Vice President, Charlie Sullivan nominated himself for that office. Ballots will be sent to members in good standing in early September and must be received by November 30th. The by-laws also specify that candidates will be introduced at the Fall meeting (to be held in Quebec City on October 7th) and be given the opportunity make some remarks on behalf of his/her candidacy.

Regional Vice Presidents: Also becoming vacant on December 31, 2006 are the seven Regional Vice-Presidents. These positions are not elected, but are appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Members who are interested in being appointed to one of the seven regional positions should advise the Elections Committee in writing by December 1st. The seven regional positions are (1) New England, (2) East, (3) Mid-West, (4) Pacific Coast, (5) Southwest, (6) South and (7) Canada and foreign. Candidates for these positions should reside in the area they wish to represent.

The John P. Hoschek Memorial Library

The fact that the Society has a library, which was named for the late MBS founder John P. Hoschek, may be known by members, as it has been mentioned in the current membership brochure, on the MBS website and in *Motor Coach Age*. But most members have no idea exactly where it is, what is in it, who may access it and how materials are handled.

Formation: The library got started as the so-called Bus Information Office. But as the BIO expanded, the original caretaker ran out of space in his home, and it was moved to the basement of John Hoschek's new home in Trenton, New Jersey, at which time it became known as the MBS Library. Eventually the collection outgrew John's basement, and it was moved to a nearby storage facility in Hopewell Township. This facility was selected for both its low rent and its proximity to John's home, since he was the exclusive caretaker and filer. This facility featured office-like units with walled sections, with an environment that was clean, dry and conducive to doing research and filing. This facility has lighting, tables and chairs as well as numerous filing cabinets and storage shelves.

Collections: The facility houses large photos, maps schedules reports, rosters and other operator papers and they are filed by company and location. There is a second set of cabinets that house small (4x6 and less) prints, that are also filed by company and location. Storage shelves house oversize and rolled items as well as reports and binders that will not fit in the vertical (legal size) file cabinets. There is also a large collection of reference books.

Security: The main problem we face with the library is security. We have never had a full-time paid librarian to control the contents of the library. Instead we have depended upon volunteer help to do filing, research and fill requests. Before John Hoschek passed away, he controlled the contents, but since his passing access has been expanded, but controls are limited. A number of known items have disappeared from the library because of the lack of security, however some of them may have been misfiled. The Board of Trustees has now formulated new policies to correct some long standing problems with the library collection and this problem. More about this later.

Purpose: Another issue of great importance that has not been addressed heretofore is **what is the purpose of the library?** The by-laws state that a library may be established, and what it should include, but does not address the question of purpose. It appears that some members consider the Library to be a source of material to enhance their personal collections. Perhaps the problem is the word *library*. Some consider a library to be a place to take items from, not to put things in or even (necessarily) to return borrowed materials. To be viable, the library needs contributions and must grow as time passes on.

As described in the by-laws, the library was established to store photographs, documents, materials and other items relating to the operation, regulation, development and facilities used in the bus transportation and related industries. The Board of Trustees has now formulated a policy that establishes the purpose of the library as follows: **The purpose of collecting and maintaining the library is to educate and enlighten primarily the membership, but to a lesser degree the general public.**

MBS Archives: The term *archive* connotes a location for the storage of historical materials that are of a limited use and accessibility. To lessen the impression that the library is an unlimited source of items for personal use, the name has been changed from “**Library**” to “**Archives**.”

The primary way in which the Society disseminates information to its members in general is through its publications, currently only *Motor Coach Age*. For this reason, all unpublished materials are deemed to be dedicated to use in our publications. But once a story has been published, material on that subject or property will be available for use by others for duplication and use fees.

Archives Committee: A new MBS Archives Committee has been established, consisting of the MBS President, one member of the MBS Board of Trustees, the MBS Director of Publications (and *MCA* editor) and the three previous Library Committee Members. The committee will determine which materials should be reserved for future internal use, and which can be made available for outside use. All borrowed items that are acquired for publications are subject to a use fee, and publication must include a credit line for the Motor Bus Society.

The Officers and Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the three former Library Committee (and present Archives Committee) members, Fred Eisinger, Charles Donnarumma, Joe Mahawash for their tireless and volunteer work in getting materials filed.

Who Has Access to Archive Materials? The first claim on archival material will be for authors who are compiling articles for *MCA*. These

authors and researchers must be doing serious work on articles that have been approved by the Director of Publications. Secondary availability goes to members who are doing research on various aspects of the bus industry that may be of use for future publication in *MCA*, this research is subject to the approval of the Committee and such persons must agree to supply the archives with a copy of the results of his or her research. Third call on material will be by non-members who are serious scholars or researchers working on a specific topic. The final class includes members and non-members who desire copies of materials for their personal use. The third and fourth groups that require copies of documents will be subject to a fee for copy and use. Members in the first category may check-out files and material on their approved projects.

To help control the circulation of Archival items, a computer, scanner, and a high-end photo printer have been purchased, so that only copies of some items, not originals, will ever leave the facility; the reproduction fees are intended to cover the cost for reproduction materials.

How Does One Gain Access to the Archives? Any person wishing to visit the Archives must make arrangements with a member of the Archives Committee for a time and date for such a visit and get to the Hopewell NJ location at his or her own expense. Persons unable to travel to Hopewell may request copies in writing, but completion of these requests will be subject to staff availability and fees.

Publications

The publication of *Motor Coach Age* is still about a year behind schedule. The Spring 2005 issue on Oshkosh was distributed in the Spring of this year, and the Summer 2005 issue on Des Moines was released in July. The Fall 2005 issue on Passaic NJ is nearing completion, and should go to the printer in August. The first of the 2006 issues will probably be the final chapter of Andre Kristopan's Chicago epic. There are at least three more stories that are capable of being completed by the end of 2006, but whether they will actually be distributed before the end of the year is still unknown at this time.

New Members

This issue of the need for new members was addressed in the last *MBS Newsletter* but we need to stress the importance of recruiting new members. The Miami Convention was dedicated to the memory of two long time MBS members and convention goers, John McKane and Charlie Akins, who had recently passed away. In order to keep the Society viable, we need to attract new members to replace the attrition we are experiencing as our original and early members expire. If every current member would sign-up just one new member, we would double our membership and be at the level we were at 10 to 15 years ago. The

Membership Brochure: To interest non-members in joining the Society, and to assist existing members in recruiting new members, a brochure was developed. An updated version of this piece is now available, and can be seen and downloaded at the MBS website, www.motorbussociety.org.

MBS Newsletter

The MBS Newsletter is an information piece for members to keep them apprised of activities and issues affecting the Society. It is designed to accompany the first-class mailing of semi-annual convention notices and biennial election materials.