



MOTOR BUS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

Presidential Message

Members:

Al Meier passed away early in December after a years long battle with cancer. He had served as editor for approximately five decades. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for his years of service to Motor Coach Age. Thank you, Al. We will never forget him.

For the present and foreseeable future, we have some capable people taking over as co-editors--Eli Bail and Gerald Squier; Jerry has brought his son, Brandon, on board as page layout technician. They are working hard to get our publication up to date.

Thanks to the generosity of Al Meier's wife, Sandra, access to their apartment was provided and MBS Trustees Jim Gilligan and Murray Kramer along with RVP-East Dino Mandros (who provided the use of his company's van), were able to move all of the MBS and MCA materials that Al had on hand for future MCA articles, to the Society's Archives prior to Al's passing.

It is still the intention of the President, Officers, and Trustees to one day have a permanent replacement editor for Motor Coach Age. Should you or anyone you know have the technical skills needed in this digital age, and some sort of technical background, who would be interested in being the editor, please submit a statement of your background and experience, plus your computer expertise, to Eli, Jerry or Jim at the Editorial address listed on Page 2. We want to bring Motor Coach Age into the digital age for faster preparation of articles.

Two great conventions are in preparation for next year. We will be in Denver in April and southwestern Ontario in October. Dino Mandros consistently provides great experiences for the attendees. If you have not attended many conventions, either of these will be well worth your time. We always encourage as many members as possible to attend.

Please think about possible articles in your area for publication in MCA. The publications staff and your officers are more than willing to assist you with your writing efforts. Check with your Regional Vice-Presidents. They will be happy to help. We will all assist you in your article preparation.

Finally, in a few short weeks, I will be celebrating my first anniversary as President. So far, my term has been a really wonderful experience. I have learned a lot and will be more effective next year. What makes me happiest is the support I have received from so many of you. You are a wonderful group with whom to work. I cannot adequately express my appreciation.

Thank you so much.

Bill

Status of Motor Coach Age

With the death of MCA Editor, Al Meier, many of you may not be aware of what is happening with our publication, Motor Coach Age. Some information appears in the President's Message, but here is a more thorough update:

Eli Bail and Gerald Squier have taken over Al Meier's chores as Associate Editors of MCA. Eli is responsible for the content, and Jerry handles getting the material laid-out and published.

The first issue is the April-June 2006 number, and it is enclosed with this Newsletter. We are already at work on the July-September 2006 issue which will be on Beloit, Wisconsin and a follow-up visit to Terminal Island, California.

With the April-June 2006 issue, we are trying a more up-to-date process than what Al Meier used: all photos are scanned in-house or are original digital photos, and all material is e-mailed to the printer. The results will be evident to the reader, but unknown to the publications staff as this is being written. Your comments and input on how well this new process worked out are welcome.

On the production end, the April-June 2006 issue has been a learning experienc--not only on the use of the software, but the condition of the text and table input as well. Production of the first issue from our end took six weeks, partially due to our desire to maintain the high degree of quality and professional look that Al Meier established. We are hopeful that future issues can be completed in half that time.

The MBS Trustees have decided that all back issues of MCA will be published under their original dates (three for 2006 and four for 2007) and that all members will receive the issues they have paid

for. Members who paid for 2005 will receive the three 2006 issues; members who did pay for 2006 (although not billed) and those who were billed and paid for 2007 will also receive the 2007 issues. After the last 2007 issue has been received, bills will be sent to all active members for the 2008 issues.

To eliminate the backlog, it is our goal to produce one issue of MCA each 4-6 weeks and to be caught-up with the 2008 issues by the end of next year. As soon as one issue is sent to the printer, we will start work on laying out the next one, so that it can be done while the issues are at the printer's being set-up and printed.

Conventions

Columbus-Dayton: The Fall 2007 convention was held in the Columbus-Dayton area of south-central Ohio during the Columbus Day weekend (October 6-7-8), and was headquartered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. The gathering was attended by over 80 people during the three days. The tour included a trolley coach excursion of Dayston's TC network on Sarutday, using two different buses. On Sunday, the group rode charter buses south to Cincinnati and Fort Wright, Kentucky to visit the South-west Ohio RTA (Queen City Metro) and the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) as well as displays of restored buses. The meeting was wrapped-up on Monday with a visit to Columbus and the Central Ohio Transit Authority and the Ohio State University bus operation. We extend out thanks to members of the Cincinnati Street Railway Association for helping to make this convention so successful.

Denver, CO: The Spring 2008 MBS Convention will be held during the last weekend of April (i.e., April 26, 27 and 28) in the Denver, Colorado area. See the enclosed separate announcement for details.

Future Conventions: Dates and locations for MBS conventions for the remainder of the 2006-2010 period are listed below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Probable Third Day</u>
2008	Spring	Denver, CO	April 26-27	Friday, April 25
	Fall	Southwest Ontario	October 11-12	Friday, October 10
2009	Spring	Kansas City, MO	April 25-26	Friday, April 24
	Fall	Eastern Virginia	October 10-11	Monday, October 12
2010	Spring	Vancouver, BC	April 24-25	Friday, April 23
	Fall	East-Central PA	October 9-10	Monday, October 11

U. S. Citizens who are planning to attend the Southwest Ontario and Vancouver BC Conventions are reminded that under new regulations, they will need to have a valid U. S. Passport for travel across the border into Canada. Since the process for obtaining new or updated passports takes six to eight weeks, applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

Elections

In accordance with the revised MBS bi-laws, the elections for terms beginning on January 1, 2009 will be held during the fall of 2008. At that time, elections will be held for Officers (President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) for a two-year term

(2009-2010) and for Trustees for a six-year term (2009-2014) as well as for any Trustee who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of a Trustees who resigned his or her office.

Requirements for nominees for Officer and Trustee positions are continuous paid-up membership for at least three years; in addition, nominees for Trustee must also be a resident of the State of New Jersey. Nominations for any and all offices are due by September 1, 2008, and should be sent to the Secretary at the MBS business address.

Back Issues

Each time one of our magazines was published, a number of extra copies were printed for possible membership expansion and back issue sales. For the benefit of new members and others who may have lost or have had a previous issue damaged, we periodically produce a list of the old issues that are still in stock; the most recent up-date is enclosed

In recent years, a considerable backlog of previously released copies of *Motor Coach Age* as well as *Motor Coach Today* has been generated, and the capacity of our storage area is being reached. To encourage the purchase of more back issues, it has been decided to offer reduced prices on certain bundles of back issues. Details of these offers are included in a separate enclosure.

A third group of back issues that we are offering for purchase are *rare* back issues. These include collections of MCA that are now out of print that have been donated to the MBS. A list of the rare issues and an order form is also included as an enclosure.

Archive Contributions

The Society has and continues to solicit contributions of bus materials for its archives. While we do appreciate all contributions, we do not need more than two copies of any one article (such as the same issue of a schedule or map). Space limitations do not allow us to store duplicate material. Please be more selective with your contributions of materials that are obviously duplicates.

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