



Motor Bus Society Newsletter Spring 2008

Albert E. Meier 1941-2007

Since the last issue of the *MBS Newsletter*, the long time editor of the Society's magazine *Motor Coach Age*, passed away after a difficult battle with cancer. Al served as *MCA's* editor off and on for nearly 40 years; he also edited *Motor Coach Today* for a short time before it was merged into *MCA*. He is survived by his wife Sandra and three children.

The Society's Board of Trustees has decided that to honor Albert's many years of tireless work, that the seven 2006 and 2007 issues of *MCA* that he was unable to produce because of ever-worsening pain, will be published under his editorial flag and with those dates. When this has been completed, regular publication will commence with sequential dates, starting with the winter (January-March) 2008 number.

Taking over the work that was done by AEM by himself are two long time MBS members. Eli Bail, who had assisted both Al and Mac Sebree with story research and development, continues in that role with the added responsibility for editorial content. Assuming the responsibility for production, map development and conversion of photos to digital format as well as document layout, is Gerald L. (Jerry) Squier. Both people are also MBS officers--Jerry is Secretary and Eli is Vice President-Pacific Coast.

In the six months since Al's passing, the new editorial team has produced the remaining three 2006 issues of *MCA* (Norwalk, Beloit and Plymouth & Brockton) and hopes to have the four 2007 issues published in eight months (by February, 2009). For the final issue of 2007 (October-December), it is planned to do a memorial to Al Meier. This will include publication of the last story that he completely researched and wrote himself--a piece on Southern Bus Lines (Continental Southern Lines) and a proper epitaph. Albert was a private and unassuming man, but the breadth of his accomplishments needs to be acknowledged. If anyone has anything he wishes to contribute to the epitaph, please submit it to the editorial staff for consideration.

Election of Officers

The MBS bylaws state that there shall be an election every two years. The election is to take place in even-numbered years, with elected persons taking office on January 1st of the succeeding odd-

numbered year. The four corporate offices, President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected for two year terms. In addition, two of the six Board of Trustees members are elected every two years on a rotating basis for six year terms.

Nominations for the four officers and two trustees are now open and will close on September 30, 2008. Submittals should be sent to the attention of the Secretary at the MBS post office box or by e-mail to "secretary@motorbussociety.org."

Qualification for the four corporate offices and the two trustee positions are three consecutive years of paid-up membership in the MBS. In addition, candidates for trustee must be a resident of the state of New Jersey

Nominees (or their representative) for office or trustee will be allowed to make a brief statement of their qualifications for election at the Annual Meeting which is to be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Oakville-Centre in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. The meeting is to commence at 8:00 PM (20.00 hrs). Ballots will be sent to paid up members by November 1st and must be received by the Elections Committee by December 1, 2008.

Dues Policy

At their May 2008 meeting, the MBS Board of Trustees established a new policy on dues. This policy supersedes all previous statements:

In order to remain active, all MBS members must pay annual membership dues for 2008. The primary reason for this policy is that the Society is required to hold an election of officers and trustees in 2008, and only active members will be eligible to vote.

This policy eliminates the former quarterly renewal process, and all members will henceforth be billed at the same time once a year. Now that *Motor Coach Age* is back in regular production, we anticipate publishing six issues per year until we are caught up. In accordance with this goal, it is further anticipated that dues invoices will be sent out on July 1st in 2008, on April 1st in 2009 and on January 1st in 2010 and at the first of each year thereafter.

Starting on July 1st, invoices for 2008 Annual Dues will be sent in a separate first class mailing to all members that are presently on

the MCA mailing list, except for those persons who have already paid dues in 2008 either as an existing member without an invoice or as a new member. The deadline for receiving dues payments is September 1, 2008. After that date persons who have not renewed their membership will be dropped from the active rolls, including the MCA mailing list. Included with the dues invoice will be an opportunity to make a monetary donation to the Archives Endowment Fund for a possible relocation of the archives in the next year or two. Now that our Income Tax Deduction status issues have been resolved we will also be asking for donations to the general fund.

The Fall (October-December) 2006 issue of MCA is the last one that will be sent to un-renewed members. Furthermore, only those members who have paid their 2008 membership dues will be eligible to run for a corporate office or the Board of Trustees.

Conventions

Southwest Ontario: The fall convention of the MBS will be held on the three-day weekend of October 17-18-19, 2008, with headquarters in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Registration and event details are included in the Fall Convention brochure, which is included with this mailing. **U. S. Citizens who are planning to attend this convention are reminded that they will be required to have a valid U. S. Passport to enter and leave Canada.**

The garage and facility tours are intended to cover all sizable cities southwest of Toronto and as far west as London. The headquarters site is located adjacent to the GO Transit Lakeshore commuter train station in Oakville. The site is centrally located for the three one-day tours, allowing for an eight to nine hour round trip.

Although the official activities of the convention will be limited to Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a group of attendees are planning a separate side trip to Toronto is planned for Thursday; this activity will be led by a local member. Transportation will be by scheduled common carriers at the attendee's expense. One possible activity may be a charter using one of TTC's New Look GMD buses. See the enclosed announcement for further details.

Denver, Colorado: Over 60 members and guests attended the MBS Spring 2008 convention in Denver, Colorado during the three day April 25-26-27 weekend. Headquartered at the Ramada Inn hotel, about a mile east of downtown, the meeting featured three days of multi-modal transportation activities.

The usual facility tours included a jaunt up to Cheyenne, Wyoming on Friday, with stops at Boulder, Loveland, Greeley and Fort Collins, Colorado; the highlight of this day was a ride on Fort Collins' restored Birney car line. Saturday's tour took the group south to Colorado Springs and Pueblo, where two of the few production model Millennium RTS buses were seen in operation. Sunday was spent in Denver, with visits to several Regional Transportation District facilities: the light rail maintenance and operating base, the Veolia-owned contract operator's bus facility and the RTD's Platte Division and general repair shops. Seen at the latter location were

three historic vehicle: No. 119, a GM TDH-5105, No. 519, a pre-war Brill trolley coach and the body of a streetcar. All three vehicles had been owned and operated by the Denver Tramways Corp. The sunny Sunday afternoon was capped-off with a ride on the Platte Valley Railway's 15-bench open streetcar, with power generated by an on-board engine.

Refunds: The Board of trustees has ruled that that refunds will be made for Pre-Registration fees if the person was unable to attend any of the convention days. Requests for refunds must be made within 90 days of the date of the convention.

Appointments

In recent months, a number of changes have been made in MBS administrative positions:

Board of Trustees:

- Richard Phillippi resigned his position on the Board of Trustees to devote his full attention to his job as MBS Treasurer and manager of magazine back issue sales.
- Replacing Rich on the Board is longtime member Sidney Keyles, who will fill the remainder of Rich's term.
- At its May 2008 meeting, the Board elected Murray Kramer as its Chairman and Sidney Keyles as Secretary.

Membership Committee:

The longtime Chair of the Membership Committee, Paul Semindinger is resigning from his position on July 1, 2008, with the mailing of the 2008 dues notices. Replacing Paul on that date will be Andrew Gold, who is also Regional Vice-President, Canada and Foreign

Appointee Term of Office:

Regional Vice-Presidents and committee chair's term of office is indeterminate, as they serve at the pleasure of the President and the Board of Trustees.

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