



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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MAY 2013

May 21: The Way We Wore

From Bonnets to Ball Gowns, Trousers to Top Hats, Experts to Eye How Fashion Shaped Sangamon County's Daily Life

Ever wonder how our female forebearers made it through a warm spring day in Sangamon County, heavily petticoated in long skirts, high button shoes and bonnets? And how their male counterparts fared in top hats, morning coats and peg top trousers?

You'll get the answers to those questions and much more when a team of experts looks at *"The Way We Wore: How Fashion Shaped Society Here in the 1800s and Early 1900s."*

Sharing the Tuesday, May 21 program will be Holly Kent, an assistant professor of history at the University of Illinois, Springfield, and Jane Ehrenhart, Supervisor of Reference and Technical Services

at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Kent is an internationally known expert on the history of fashion and beauty culture in the 19th century United States. Ehrenhart oversees the creation of the line for line copies of period fashion that are used at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, includ-



ing the bonnets that were fashionable in Lincoln's time.

The speakers are expected to provide an overview of what people wore and why, how it shaped their daily lives, where they got their clothes, and who and what influenced their choices.

Ehrenhart will be displaying some of the bonnets of the period and will provide insight into the way historians and researchers approach recreating period fashions.

The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 5:30 p.m. at Springfield's Lincoln Public Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Carnegie Room North.

Annual Dinner, Elections to be Held June 25 at Historic Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Sangamon County Historical Society will hold its annual dinner and elections on Tuesday, June 25 in the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield starting at 5:30 p.m. Ticket information and a reservation form will be included in the June issue of *Historico*.

Traditionally, the Society invites the president of the organization from
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Historico, SCHS Arts Celebration Win Awards From State Society

Historico, the monthly newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society and the Society's "Sangamon County Through the Arts II Celebration," two-day salute to local history as expressed through the arts, were among the winners of the Illinois State Historical Society's 2013 Annual Awards program. President Roger Whitaker accepted the awards on behalf
(Continued on page 6)

ISHS president Russell Lewis (left) with SCHS president Roger Whitaker at the Awards Ceremony on April 27.





Exploring a Postcard From the Past

Some mail never makes it to the post office, which can be a good thing, especially if you're a historian...or a historical society.

That was the case several weeks ago, when I received an e-mail from Barbara J. Wilkinson, director of the Quincy Museum in Quincy, Illinois. The Museum, she said, had been given a collection of antique postcards and among them was one from a woman's clothing store in Springfield. What especially caught their eye was that it also carried an illustration from the *Illinois State Register* showing Lincoln on horseback outside his Springfield home, being greeted by the hometown crowd. They thought we might want it and not just because it carried a rendering of Lincoln.

We did and the Sangamon Valley Room at Springfield's Lincoln Public Library will be all the more richer for it. The card is going into its collection.

The card was a blend of history and advertising, a promotional piece for Newman's, a "Shop for Ladies" where they could purchase "cloaks, suits, furs, waists, and petticoats." It declared Newman's one of "Two Places of Interest in Springfield, Illinois," the other, of course, "the Lincoln Residence."

Newman's faded into history (more about that later), but Lincoln and his home did not.

We had a little time to look more closely at that card. There were some additional history lessons to be learned from it.

The caption under the illustration described it as the "Lincoln-Douglas Campaign, 1856." Historians could debate the date. Lincoln actually faced off against Douglas (and lost to him in a race for the U.S.

Senate) in 1858, but in the process, gained national recognition. On the other hand, Lincoln publicly commented about his future political rival in 1856. We'll let you decide the card's accuracy on that count.

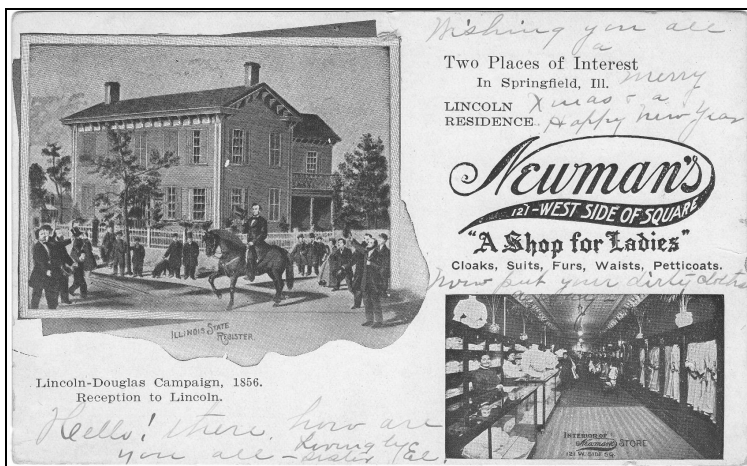
As for Newman's, it was the career starting point for Sam A. Barker, who was named manager of the Springfield store in 1906. At the time, Barker was 21 years old. Jacob Newman, who owned the shop, lived in Chicago but spent some time in Springfield, staying at the Leland Hotel, according to Curtis Mann, head of the Sangamon Valley Collection. At the time, Newman's was one of the first in Springfield to specialize in women's clothing.

Originally at 121 S. Fifth Street, in 1914, Barker moved it to 500 East Adams, at the corner of Fifth, into a four-story building—Springfield's first "skyscraper"—that was previously occupied by the Hall & Herrick Clothing Store. Knowing that year helped us more accurately date the postcard, at first believed to have been distributed between 1905 and 1910.

After the death of Newman, Barker purchased the store with Nathan Hahn, Albert Meyerstein and Andrew Meyerstein and changed the name to S.A. Barker Co. The store moved to the Illinois Building on the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams in the 1930s. S.A. Barker Company ceased operations there in the 1980s but had a store for several years at White Oaks Mall before it too, closed.

And while we're on the subject of changing economics, that postcard (which we suspect was enclosed with a Christmas gift rather than sent to its intended recipient in Kirksville, Missouri) would have cost the sender a penny if it had been mailed to someone in the United States or Mexico. Going overseas? It would have set you back two cents!

Roger



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, sangamon-history.org or sancohis.org.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, Photographer

**19th Century Floor Covering Expert to Speak May 23
on Edwards Place Carpet Styles, Function, and Installation**

Dan Cooper—one of the nation’s foremost experts on historic flooring—will talk about the evolution and styles of 19th century Victorian era carpeting when he speaks here Thursday, May 23. His lecture will be held at Edwards Place, the historic home and headquarters of the Springfield Art Association which is sponsoring the free presentation. The “brown bag” event begins at Noon.



Cooper, historic floor coverings consultant for the English Wilton Company in Portland, Maine will discuss the evolution of styles and types of historic

carpet in Victorian era in general and as they pertain specifically to Edwards Place. He will also focus on the appropriateness of pattern for both style and function in different rooms. Installation techniques and the different types of carpeting such as Wilton, Axminster Brussels, Venetian and Ingrain Carpets will also be discussed.

For over 22 years, Cooper has traveled throughout the United States and Canada consulting on historic floor coverings for museums, state capitols, governor’s mansions and private residences. He has assisted them in selecting and reproducing authentic patterns while overseeing their production, delivery and installation. During this time, Cooper also published two books and over a thousand magazine articles on the topics of historic interiors, antiques and architecture.

Old State Capitol Foundation Elects New Officers, Trustees

The Old State Capitol Foundation, the fundraising and service arm of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, has elected a new president and vice-president and two new trustees.

The new president, Elizabeth Simpson, succeeds Sandy Pecori, who served as president for 11 years. Pecori is a member of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Elected vice-president was Mary Alice Davis, who is completing her term as secretary of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Davis also serves as chair of the Illinois State Museum Board.

Elected to trustee posts were Barbara Malaney and Linda Moulton. Moulton is also a member of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Coming Soon: 2013-2014 Dues Notices in New Format

Society members will be getting a special mailing this month, in most cases a renewal notice with something extra!

“We’d really like to know more about our members,” says vice-president Claire Eberle, head of the Society’s membership committee. “The new renewal form will give you an opportunity to tell us more about

yourself.” In addition to the normal check-offs, the customized letter provides space to list special interests and skills, vocational and educational background and more. “We’re a growing organization. You can be part of our future by serving on committees or on our board,” she adds.

Renewals will be due in June.

MAY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Society welcomes its newest members:

Susan and Alan Brinkoetter, Randy Miller, Kathryn Cartwright, John Lupton, Jack Rooney, Beth and Blake Bradley, Barbara Ferrara, Ann Jameson and Andrew Goleman.



OFFICERS

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Vice-President.....Claire Eberle
Secretary.....Mary Alice Davis
Treasurer.....Richard Herndon

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Term Ending June 2013

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 Bruce Beeman
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Term Ending 2015

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 Membership Relations Chair
 David Scott,
 Special Projects Chair

SCHS Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS
 Box 9744
 Springfield, Illinois,
 62791-9744



There was nothing trivial about History Trivia Night at the Old State Capitol on April 27. Even the questions were tough...but that didn't matter to the more than 200 players who turned out for the sell-out benefit for the Lincoln Troubadours. To the delight of the crowd, the Troubadours entertained early in the evening, drawing hearty applause. The warm spirits continued throughout the night as two floors of trivia buffs—and some novices at the game—pondered over the questions written and spun out by Dan Usherwood, president of the Pleasant Plains Historical Society (think Clayville) who was the primary emcee of the evening. Groups also competed for the best table décor (examples at top). The Sangamon County Historical Society had 40 players in the game. Ticket sales and proceeds from a silent auction (left) raised several thousand dollars for the Troubadours, talented high school and college students who, donning costumes of the period, spend their summer performing Civil War era music *acapella* at historic sites around Sangamon County. The students are selected by competition and are trained by Lincoln Land vocal coach Sue Hamilton and Springfield High School vocal director Damien Kaplan. The event was staged through the joint planning efforts of several history organizations including the Sangamon County Historical Society, the Old State Capitol Foundation, the Illinois State Military Museum, Iles House, Edwards Place/Springfield Art Association, the Illinois State Historical Society and the Pleasant Plains Historical Society.

Donna Catlin photos





THE HALLS OF JUSTICE: John Lupton (left), acting executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, details the history of the court at the start of a tour for Sangamon County Historical Society members on April 16. Tour takers had a chance to see and hear about the extensive art work, history and individual court and attorney rooms and visit the its library. The building will close in June for a 12-to-18 month renovation project. The Society hopes to tour it again once the work is completed. Donna Cutlin photos

Lincoln Land Readies Series to Train Site Volunteers for National Certification

A series of workshops and courses in step with the County's coming tourist season will be offered starting this month through Lincoln Land Community College's Community Education Program.

The series kicks off on May 15 with "Welcome Visitors" workshop to prepare volunteers at parks, historic sites, museums, nature centers, zoos and more that offer informal heritage education programs for the public. The 6:30 p.m. workshop at Lincoln Land's Trutter Center, for which there is a \$10 fee, will be taught by Grandy Manus, a Certified Interpretive Trainer and Certified Interpretive Planner. Grundy is chief of interpretation and an adjunct professor at the Daniel Boone Home in Defiance, Missouri, owned by Lindenwood University.

The workshop will be followed by additional sessions from Thursday, May 16 through Sunday, May 19 the successful completion for which participants can qualify to receive the National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide designation. The series will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and will also be taught by Grundy.

Lincoln Land will be offering related courses throughout the next several months including a session on "What to Display at Your Museum or Site," July 18, "Writing Labels for Exhibits/Displays," September 25, and "Period Workshops: Illinois 1860s," November 9. For information, call 785-2432.

Annual Dinner Meeting June 25 Will Honor Memory of Past President Doug Pokorski

(Continued from page 1)

decade earlier to give the keynote address. That honor would have gone to Doug Pokorski, a veteran reporter for the **State Journal Register**, who led the Society from 2002 to 2003. Pokorski, 53, died from a heart attack in April, 2003, two months short of the end of his term.

At this year's dinner, six Society leaders who were close to Pokorski will share reminiscences and remembrances of the popular president who was not only highly regarded by fellow members, but also by his journalistic colleagues around the country.

Pokorski won a number of awards for his education coverage, including a first-place national award from the Education Writers Association for a five-part series on school finance credited with helping spur passage of a temporary tax increase for education. But it was for reporting on Abraham Lincoln and other historical topics that Pokorski came to be recognized well beyond central Illinois. He also did much of the research about individuals buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery for the Society's cemetery walk.

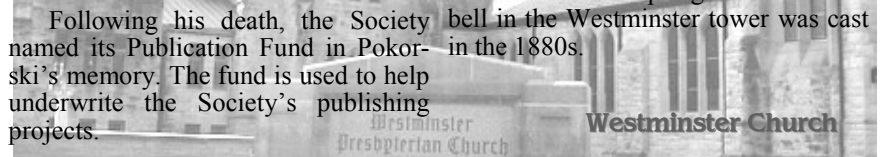
Following his death, the Society named its Publication Fund in Pokorski's memory. The fund is used to help underwrite the Society's publishing projects.

Speakers will include Kathryn Harris, Director of Library Services for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, **State Journal Register** city editor Mike Kinzler, historian Dave Brady, Springfield City historian and past president Curtis Mann, head of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, and past presidents Dr. Virgilio Pilapil and Richard Hart.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, at 535 Walnut Street, traces its beginnings to May 26, 1835 when 30 people started the Sangamo Presbyterian Church, later to become the Second Presbyterian Church and then Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Construction began on the current church building in 1906. Dedication followed in 1908. The Springfield church featured a modified 13th Century English Gothic design.

In the nave, the original hanging pendant lights designed as gaslights were converted to electric lights, prior to the dedication of the church, when electric power was newly introduced to the west side of Springfield. The iron bell in the Westminster tower was cast in the 1880s.



(Continued from page 1)

of the Society at a special ISHS reception held on Saturday, April 27, at the Executive Mansion.

Both received "Certificate of Excellence" Awards in recognition of work of "exemplary quality showing considerable creativity, serious scholarship, and/or an efficient utilization of resources." The awards were announced by Mark W. Sorensen, chair of the ISHS Awards committee.

Five other Sangamon County individuals or groups were among the 43 honorees:

◆ The Pleasant Plains Historical Society for *Prairie Dreams: The Story of Clayville and Its People*, an outdoor theatrical production that it produced at its Clayville Historic Site last fall.

◆ *State Journal Register* photo editor Richard Saal of Springfield

◆ State Archivist David A. Joens of Springfield

◆ The State Library's Illinois Digital Archives

◆ Former Illinois State Historical Society president John Weck of Springfield.

In entering *Historico* in the Non-Book Materials category, President Whitaker pointed out that the newsletters to provide readers with "more than the typical announcements of a coming event." Where possible, he noted, "the articles explore in greater depth information about the speaker or topic, the result of individual interviews and/or additional research to whet the appetite for even more. Photo essays provide a visual extension of the story-telling process. *Historico* reaches close to 1,000 readers each month.

The Society's *Sangamon History Through the Arts II*, co-chaired by Mary Alice Davis and Vicky Whitaker, was entered in the Special Projects category. The two-day event that was held on Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8 at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, was a re-worked and improved version of the previous year's celebration, this time with new, broader features.

In keeping with a visual arts theme, the Friday evening event featured Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Alison Davis

Wood, who introduced her film, *Lincoln, Prelude to the Presidency*. Afterwards, Wood was joined by Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Curator James Cornelius and Lincoln historian Guy Fraker for a lively discussion on the art of making historical documentaries.

Saturday was family oriented, offering theme-related displays and activities to attract a general audience. The Society also offered a series of free mini-lectures throughout the day. Fifteen local history organizations and sites were invited to set up tables at no charge, to make the public aware of their existence and activities.

The Sangamon County Historical Society nominated the Pleasant Plains Historical Society project for recognition in the ISHS Award Program's Public Programming category. In making a case for the honor, SCHS detailed the

1929-1935" exhibit and brochure.

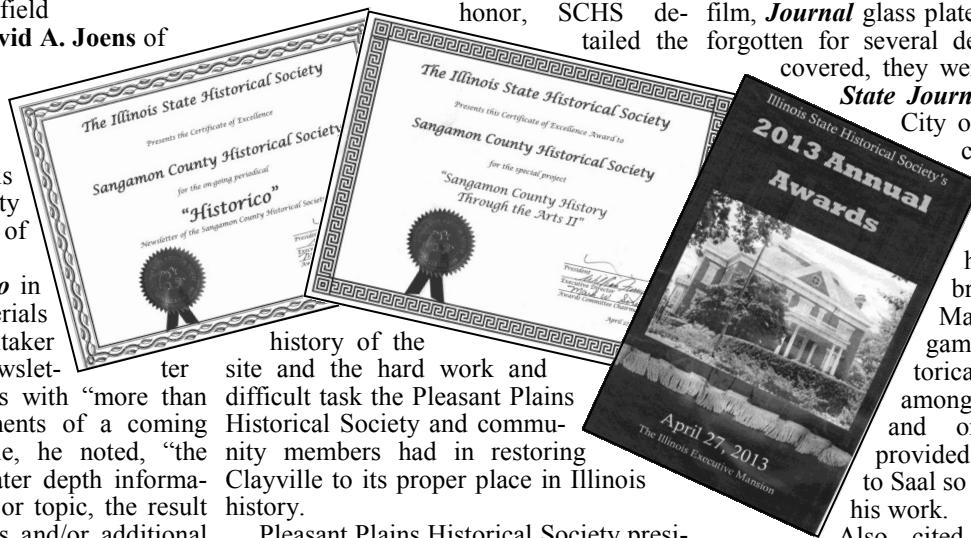
Based on the ideas that 20th century newspaper photographs are primary source documents valuable to historians, Saal transformed more than 80 glass plate negatives for a photo exhibit organized to show every-day life in Springfield as captured by photographers at the long defunct *Illinois Journal*. The morning *Journal* was one of two daily newspapers in Springfield during that period. The other was the *Register*, an afternoon newspaper. In 1974 they combined into one publication, the *State-Journal Register*.

Light sensitive, with an emulsion of silver-salt, glass plates were commonly used by photographers here in the early 20th century. Eventually elbowed out in popularity by the more convenient roll of film, *Journal* glass plates were stored and forgotten for several decades. Once discovered, they were donated by the

State Journal-Register to the City of Springfield Lincoln Library's Sangamon Valley Collection in 1989. The exhibit, at the Library, opened in May 2012. The Sangamon County Historical Society was among four individuals and organizations that provided financial support to Saal so he could complete his work.

Also cited was David A. Joens, for his book, "From Slave to State Legislator: John W.E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Legislator," that details the story of John W.E. Thomas, the first black to serve in the Illinois General Assembly. His book was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2012. Dr. Joens, Director of the State Archives, also accepted an award for the State Library's Illinois Digital Archives. Abraham Lincoln Association.

Former ISHS president John Weck of Springfield was one of four Illinois residents who received the ISHS Lifetime Achievement Award for devoting life, resources, and energies to promoting and preserving the history of the Prairie State.



history of the site and the hard work and difficult task the Pleasant Plains Historical Society and community members had in restoring Clayville to its proper place in Illinois history.

Pleasant Plains Historical Society president Dan Usherwood, who accepted the ISHS Award, came up with the idea for an outdoor production after learning that Clayville once was the site of live theater. He mentioned the idea to Bette Franke who formed a committee and retained Tara McClellan McAndrew to write the show. In making its case for awarding the honor to Pleasant Plains, the Sangamon County Historical Society pointed out that *Prairie Dreams: The Story of Clayville and Its People* "without question promoted knowledge and appreciation of our heritage."

Also honored was *State Journal Register* photo editor Richard Saal for his "Springfield Photographs: Images from The Illinois State Journal Glass Plates,

CALENDAR OF HISTORY EVENTS

Sangamon County Historical Society Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: *SCHS Board Meeting*, Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15: *Deadline for filing for SCHS history project grants*. For guidelines and filing information, check the April issue of *Historico* on line sangamonhistory.org. or sancohis.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 21: *"The Way We Wore: How Fashion Shaped Society Here in the 1800s and Early 1900s,"* a presentation featuring period fashion experts Holly Kent from the University of Illinois, Springfield, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's Jane Ehrenhart. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25: *SCHS Annual Dinner, Elections, Live Auction*, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield. Reservations required, Tickets: \$30 per person. Registration information and a form will appear in the June issue of *Historico*. See story, page 1.

Other History Related Area Events

SATURDAY, MAY 11: *Mother's Day Tea at Edwards Place*. Treat mom to a Victorian Tea Party at the Springfield Art Association's historic Edwards Place, 700 N. Fourth Street, Springfield, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The menu will include scrumptious sandwiches, desserts, and the Queen's favorite tea. The Tea Ladies will discuss a favorite Victorian summer pastime: the summer social. Picnic hats, lawn dresses and parasols will be on display. Tickets are \$25 per person. Register by May 7. For information call 523-2631

SATURDAY, MAY 18 & SUNDAY, MAY 19: *Clayville Spring Festival 2013*, Clayville Historical Site, Route 125, Pleasant Plains. For details and a schedule, go to clayville.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 23: *Evolution and Styles of Historic Flooring*. Nationally known historic flooring expert Dan Cooper discusses Victorian Era carpeting in a free presentation at historic Edwards Place, 700 N. Fourth Street, Springfield. Noon. For information, call 523-2631.

NOW THROUGH JULY 4: *90th Illinois Regimental Colors Exhibit*. Illinois State Military Museum, Springfield. This new display will feature a flag from Vicksburg campaign marking its 150th anniversary. The Museum is located at 1301 North MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield. For information call 761-3910.

History-related organizations can send their exhibit or event announcements to schspres@gmail.com. for inclusion in this calendar.

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Welcome Visitors! - Grady Manus, CIT, CIP | May 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Prepare for the interactions, the questions, the complaints, the customer service and MORE! Our instructor has a great reputation for engaging audiences and helping them appreciate what you have to offer! *Season kickoff event - Refreshments served!*

NAI Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training - Grady Manus, CIT, CIP |
May 15-19

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Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to sangamonhistory.org.



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Status

___ New Member

___ Renewal

___ Gift of Membership from:

Phone _____

Membership Levels

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700