

The Questers Quick-Guide of Information

- ❖ Purposes of The Questers Organization shall be to educate by research and study of antiques; to promote education in the fields of historical preservation and restoration; to donate funds for the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historical buildings, and landmarks; and to support THE QUESTERS international funds with respect to their tax-exempt actives.
- ❖ The Questers was founded in 1944 by Jessie Elizabeth Bardens, of Fort Washington, PA. 1st meeting April 6, 1944 and 14 people were to bring a sandwich and an antique. An antique blue syrup jug was the initial item to pique the curiosity of others. Jessie had a collection of tea caddies.
- ❖ In March of 1950, Mrs. Bardens organized six chapters into a national organization and in 1953 incorporated it under the laws of the Commonwealth of PA, as a no-profit corporation. She died in 1963.
- ❖ Jessie Elizabeth Bardens quotes: Jessie's answer to the question of "What is a Quester", her reply: "A Quester is a socially well-adjusted intelligent person who has curiosity, enthusiasm, imagination and a good memory. For the powers of the mind are memory and imagination, for without memory we have no past, without imagination, no future." "A Quester spends time constructively, does research about the history of antiques and collects knowledge. Sooner or later the 'Bug Bites' and they have acquired a hobby and are collectors."
- ❖ The Questers is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
- ❖ Questers Headquarters is in a Federal Period 3-story brick building at 210 South Quince Street, in Philadelphia PA 19107. Built in 1802, it has been certified by the Philadelphia Historical Commission as Historically Significant to the Area. The Questers purchased it in 1967.
- ❖ In 1991, The Questers became an International Organization with chapters in USA and Canada.
- ❖ There are 43 states with The Questers chapters: 21 chartered – 22 unchartered
- ❖ Non-Quester states: Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont.
- ❖ There are 2 Canadian provinces with chapters: 1 chartered province, Ontario - 1 unchartered, Alberta ❖ Non-Quester provinces: British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.
- ❖ Membership fluctuates continually, but there are approximately 10,000 members.
- ❖ Chapter totals fluctuate, but presently is just over 645 chapters.
- ❖ Eight people are required to form a chapter.
- ❖ 10 chapters or 150 members are needed before a state or province can become chartered. States and Provinces with fewer numbers remain unchartered until the minimum numbers are reached.
- ❖ "What's In A Name?" is a story chosen by each chapter from an historic item, person, site or happening which explains the name of the chapter. As an example, here is the story for Road Runners #1512, in Arizona: "The Road Runner is a bird that is native to the Sonoran Desert of the southwest. It is the largest member of the Cuckoo family and is a very fast runner and a good hunter. Road Runners seem to be relatively unafraid of humans and have a reputation for being fearless. We chose this bird as our mascot because it is fast and fearless and we will be the same in pursuing our goals.
- ❖ Active Members each pay International dues of \$28.00 which go to:
 - The International Preservation and Restoration Fund
 - The Quester Quarterly newsletter - published 4 times a year.
 - A per capita allotment of \$7 returned to the Chartered States and Provinces
 - International's Operational Fund and General administrative expenses
- ❖ Officers of States/Provinces and International Board are elected for two-year terms. Chapter officers typically serve a two year term.
- ❖ Meetings:
 - Chapter Meetings are usually held once a month, September through May.
 - State and Provincial Council meetings are held twice annually or twice a year in the Fall and Spring.
 - International Council meetings are held annually during the International Convention.

- ❖ International Conventions are held annually in the Spring with states and provinces taking turns hosting the 3-day convention. The host state or province showcases their region, cultures, historic sites and antiquities.
- ❖ Preservation & Restoration Grants are awarded for chapter P&R projects at International Convention in the even years. \$2.50 of the members' annual dues fund the P&R Grants program, along with individual donations, honorariums and memorials.
- ❖ Scholarship and Fellowship: Voluntary donations provide a two-year scholarship totaling \$34,000.00 to a student accepted into Columbia University's Master of Science Degree Program in Historic Planning and Preservation, and a three-year fellowship totaling \$40,000.00 to a graduate student accepted into University of Delaware/Winterthur Master of Science Degree Program in Art Conservation. The Columbia Scholarship began in 1973 and the Fellowship in 1997.
- ❖ Study Papers are done by the members and are sent in to headquarters. They are reviewed by the Int'l Second Vice President. Some receive a commendation. These papers can be ordered by Quester members to be used at their chapter meetings. All Commended Study papers are on our website and can be downloaded for free under Membership Tab, Resources.
- ❖ Annual Founder's Award given in memory of Jessie Elizabeth Bardens is the highest honor for research conferred on Questers by fellow members. At the current Convention, the Int'l Executive Board(IEB) picks the Founder's Award topic for the upcoming year with input from the state/province hosting that convention. Founder's Award topic will be announced at the Annual Luncheon. These have been given since 1962.
- ❖ Publications which have written about Questers:
 - "Antiques Weekly" Oct. 24, 2016 on The Questers o Scholar Alexa Beller;
 - The Antiques Journal, October, 1953 "How a Syrup Jug Started a National Club" Van Tassel, Valentine.
 - Early American Life, June 1974—"The Questers" by Yvonne Brault Smith;
 - Country Collectibles, "Join The Club" by Christine Mumma Booth;
 - The Busy Bee Trader, "The Questers: On a Quest for Antiques & Knowledge" by Sarah Campbell Drury. C. 2003;
 - Sun Life April/May 2003 AZ, For Questers, "The Search is on" by Cherie Lee;
 - Articles and advertisements also appeared in Mary Englebrite's Home Companion and Mary Jane's Farm.
- ❖ Motto: "It's Fun To Search, and a Joy To Find"
- ❖ Web Site: www.questers1944.org Use as resource under Membership tab, Password: Heritage. For inquiries use the CONTACT US webmail. State/Provincial Web Sites are linked to the web address above. State/Provincial Newsletters are also on the website.
- ❖ Facebook: Become a "friend" to experience an open forum where Questers members can interact to exchange ideas and information in a social networking setting.
- ❖ Headquarters address: The Questers, 210 South Quince St., Philadelphia 19107-5534
- ❖ Office Administrator: JoAnn Longo
- ❖ E-mail address: questers210@questerd1944.org
- ❖ Phone number: 215-923-5183 Revised 2017

- ❖ Arkansas State Questers: arkansasquesters.com

