

March News Release: New England Traditions Mini-Convention

The second meeting of the 2008 New England Traditions Mini-Convention (NET) took place March 8, 2008. Convention Chair, Carol Kernozek, reiterated the 2008 goals to increase attendance, increase income and reduce expenses. The Registration Contest and Chapter Incentive Program will be used to increase attendance. If every chapter increases their attendance at NET by just 5 members, it will give us an 8% increase.

NECC passed the NET registration fee increase to \$75.00 (late fee, \$85.00) and the daily registration to \$30.00 (late fee, \$35.00). Also, the price of the 2009 catalog will be \$8.00.

Parking at RICC is the same as last year but subject to change as of July 1, 2008. Should there be an increase, it will only be \$1.00 a day.

We will have room blocks in two hotels this year, The Westin and the Marriott. Attendees should be encouraged to stay in one of these hotels to support the convention.

Along with the Appreciation Drawings held at NET (for registered guests/room block/Monitor for the day), we are continuing our Registration Raffle (for individuals recruiting new attendees), Chapter Incentive Program (Chapter having the largest percentage increase of members who register) and NET Committee Incentive Program (to encourage attendance at the committee meetings). Please note that the pattern for this year's registration contest design will be available in the Country Store.

There will be two contests during lunch (11:30-1:30 at the 5th floor lunch area) at NET. On Wednesday, the contest will be for painted clothing. On Thursday, the contest will be for painted bags. Judging will be on the most interesting use of color.

A Scavenger Hunt will be held Wednesday through Saturday. Registered guests will get new clues each day. You must attend the banquet to win the top prize of free registration for NET 2009.

Provide-A-Ride Incentive drawing will be held at the chapter level. Bring someone else to NET and save on parking. The driver will submit their name for the drawing to get their parking paid by NET.

The NET website (www.newenglandtraditions.org) has been updated and will continue to be updated as information is received.

Currently, we have an advertising promotion to put an ad into the catalog and/or program booklet for \$15 for one, or \$25 for both.

This year the Art Show categories of "Zhostovo" and "Other" have been changed to "Animal" and "Holiday".

This year we have selected 63 teachers to teach 129 classes and 3 special events. Several of the teachers are new to NET including several from Canada and one from Australia.

We are starting to get vendors lined up for the Exhibit Hall. A Girl Scout program to do a decorative painting badge will take place at NET this year. The girls and their parents will get free admission to the Trade Show on Sunday. Also, there will be a red flag sale event at the show on Sunday.

CSDP did a paint-in at their last chapter meeting for the Painting for Freedom program. Chair, Kathy Cross is requesting all the other chapters to do the same. All cards done prior to NET will be on display in a display case. Everyone who paints a card before NET or at NET will get their name in the drawing for a patriotic painted table

runner. Painting these cards helps chapters qualify for the SDP Chapter Achievement Award.

The motto for Volunteer's this year is "It's a piece of cake." Volunteer awards from 2007 were passed out to take back to chapter member recipients. Recycled bags are needed for both the Monitor's Station and the Country Store.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please contact your chapter liaison or Carol Kernozek, NET Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McClure
Communications/Public Relations Chair