



From the President

Hi, Everyone!

I hope everyone is starting to enjoy the great weather we have been having. Since it has been both cold and rainy, and hot and muggy over the last several weeks I suppose that should cover just about everyone unless you live in a cave! There are several items and dates that I want to update everyone on. Here goes!

1. At our May meeting we discussed an outing for June 26th but at our last meeting I did not get a great response when I asked who was planning on going along that day. I am assuming at this point that June is just a little too busy to get together. Please email me and let me know if you were counting on the outing. I don't want to go further with the plans if the group will be really small. We will just try again in the Fall!
- 2 Plans for our **club pool party and picnic** are coming along. Dee has volunteered to organize the event so you will hear more from her. In the meantime, please mark your calendar for afternoon of July 17th and think about a dish to pass. We will be arranging for the club to supply some meat to grill and some beverages. We will need appetizers to get us through the afternoon until dinner time. Dee would like to start the party at 2 o'clock to make best use of the sun for the pool!
- 3 We have received an invitation to the **D-56 Homeowners meeting on Monday, July 19th**. Their new club president is interested in our clubs getting together for more activities. I think this is a great opportunity for both clubs. The Homeowners have a member or two bring in vignettes for each of their meetings. The theme for that night will be a summer or patriotic theme. If your creative juices are flowing, put one together for the meeting. The Homeowners meet in Bloomington at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We will forward more information as we know it.
4. I did not get many responses for a club display at the gathering in Michigan and with summer in full swing I believe we need to table this idea. More time to work on our Fall Displays!
5. The officers of the club will be meeting this weekend [We've met! -ed] to discuss our Fall and Winter meeting activities. Please send your ideas, feedback, concerns etc. to one of the members to bring to our meeting. If you have a meeting idea let us know. I promise that you won't automatically be put in charge of the night! We also need ideas for some fall outings and of course our holiday celebration as well as the January House Hop. Send all your ideas along, don't be shy!

~shirl

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Dates to Remember:

July 17th: NLCC's Picnic & Pool Party
July 29th: NLCC visits 56 Homeowners
September 16th-19th, 2010: Michigan Gathering
October 22nd-24th, 2010: Williamsburg
September 29th-Oct. 2nd, 2011: Arizona Gathering

Save These Dates!

Saturday, July 17th ~ Annual picnic and pool party!

We will hold our annual picnic and pool party at Dee's. We will work out the details in the next few weeks before our next meeting but do plan to bring a dish to pass! Dee has a great built in pool and a hot tub for those willing to get into their swim suits! No matter what you are up for, there will be good food and great conversation! If you would like to help organize the food or a picnic activity, let me know! See the flyer on the next page for further info.

Remember to call Dee by July 15th to let her know you're coming.

Monday, July 19th ~ We're invited to the 56 Homeowners meeting!

The Northern Lights club has received an invitation from the 56 Homeowners Association club to attend their next meeting. It is scheduled for Monday, July 19th at 7PM and will take place at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington (1114 American Blvd W).

I know that our club has been talking about reaching out to other clubs in the area for ages. This will give us a chance to talk about the types of activities we participate in, what we do at our meetings, how to spur membership, etc. Hopefully, we'll also be able to start planning a joint activity. For those of you who participated in the Goody Bag stuffing for the 2008 convention, you know what a great group of people the homeowners are.

So far, Shirley, Diane and I are planning to attend the meeting. It would be nice to see a few other Northern Lights members attend if possible. I had a great discussion with Karen Rae Huerd (newly elected 56 Homeowners president). I think this will be a super event and the start of a great relationship with our closest MN D56 club.

~Tom

September 16th-19th ~ Seasons of Michigan Gathering

See page 8 of this newsletter for further information.

Saturday, October 22nd-24th ~ Williamsburg, Virginia

See full notice from Department 56 on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter.

September 29th-October 2nd, 2011 ~ Happy Trails to Arizona

See pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter for further information.



Come to the Northern Lights summer picnic, pool and hot tub party, to be held in Dee Yetter's backyard on Saturday, July 17, 2010, starting around 2 so that we can enjoy some of the afternoon sun.

Please bring a dish to pass, your own beverage of choice, a bathing suit and towel. The club will provide meat and buns and bottled water and soda. Dee and her family will provide a big bowl of sangria and paper products. The rest of you can bring a dish or two to share. Since we are starting so early, we'll need a few appetizers as well.

Please call 763-479-3975 by Thursday, July 15, for directions, to rsvp and let us know what you are bringing to share.

The more, the merrier! Bring some fun games!



June 21, 2010

Dear Collectors:

It is my great pleasure to write to let you all know about a wonderful collectors' event planned for this fall to introduce collectors to a new Village inspired by buildings found in "Colonial Williamsburg", Virginia. This will be an event that is different from any event we have ever hosted.

The event will take place at the "Woodlands" which is part of historical "Colonial Williamsburg". Some of you may remember attending a Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering there in the mid 1990s. The "Woodlands" cottages have been replaced with a beautiful new hotel and conference center.

The dates of this event are October 22 – 24, 2010 and the convention fee will include a special event piece (available only for event attendees), a ticket to all "Colonial Williamsburg" exhibits including the buildings that inspired the new "Williamsburg" Village Series, a goody bag and private luncheon.

The luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd at 12:00 noon, and among the invited guests will be Jeff Junkins, the artist who designed the new series. Jeff will be on hand to sign your pieces before the luncheon. A historian from the "Colonial Williamsburg" Foundation will talk about holiday decorating in the Della Robbia style used in Williamsburg at the time of the Revolution and continues today. Attendees will be able to tour of some of the building designed for the Williamsburg Village series and the pass will be good for the entire weekend.

Jeff will be available to sign any "Williamsburg" Village piece you buy or bring to the event and answer your design questions.

The NCC will also be on hand to help with the event and answer questions. We may even meet some collectors who are interested in joining a collector's club.

To register for this event please call Department 56 Consumer Services at 1(800) LIT TOWN (548-8696). Included with this letter is a flyer with all pertinent information that can be reproduced and added to your next club newsletter.

You won't want to miss this opportunity! There are some surprises planned for you, too! You'll just have to attend to find out it!

Melinda Seegers
Consumer Services
Department 56/ ENESCO

Department 56, Inc. – Consumer Services, 6436 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
tel: 800.LIT.TOWN (800.548.8696) mslittown@dept56.com www.dept56.com

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Be it known that in accordance with the introduction of the Williamsburg Village Series, Department 56 will summon all collectors to participate in a special event in Williamsburg, Virginia on Saturday, October 23, in the year 2010.

Department 56 is pleased to announce a very special signing event to introduce the new "Williamsburg Village Series" of porcelain lighted buildings and accessories in Williamsburg, Virginia. This is the first new Department 56 Village to be introduced since 1998.

The event is scheduled to take place the weekend of October 22nd at the "Woodlands" hotel and conference center in historical "Colonial Williamsburg," Virginia, amid the very places that inspired this new series. Village artist, Jeff Junkins, along with Department 56 personnel will be on hand to visit with collectors who choose to attend this special one day event.

The complete event package price will include an exclusive "Williamsburg Village Series" accessory with special bottom stamp and packaging. It will be signed by the artist. Each attendee will also receive an eco-friendly cloth event bag filled with goodies, one adult admission to "Colonial Williamsburg" exhibits and a special private luncheon hosted by Department 56. This complete package will cost \$79.95. To reserve your spot, please call Melinda Seegers at Department 56 Consumer Services (800/548-8696) any weekday between 11 AM and 2 PM central time. We accept all major credit cards for payment.

The adult unlimited admission ticket to all Colonial Williamsburg venues for the entire weekend includes one day prior to and one day after the weekend event where visitors can view all exhibits, craft demonstrations and historical talks. Convention attendees will be able to tour several of the actual buildings that are now part of this wonderful collection.

Hotel accommodations at the "Woodlands" include complimentary continental breakfast each morning in the spacious lobby as well as free shuttle transportation from hotel, to conference center, lodge, historic sites and shopping areas. To make hotel reservations for this event, please contact the "Woodlands" PASSKEY reservation line at 800/261-9530. The reservation code to receive the group hotel rate of \$119.00 per night is 12589. (reservations must be made by September 24, 2010 to receive this group rate.)

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Accommodations for Y'all

We didn't want y'all to have to unroll your bedrolls under a saguaro out in the desert, so we've found you an ace-high place to tie up yer trusty steed and rest for a spell. Ya have to admit—they beds look mighty soft.

The Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa is an intimate retreat that blends casual elegance with the charm of authentic Arizona. A one-of-a-kind resort destination with a spirit all its own, the Wigwam features 331 guest casitas including 72 suites crafted from traditional territorial adobe architecture surrounded by lush landscaped walkways, fragrant citrus tree-lined enclaves and floral and rose gardens. Offering an unforgettable experience to reconnect and escape the hustle and bustle of daily life, the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa is located in Litchfield Park, Arizona in the West Valley of greater Phoenix.

Fer the feller's: The Wigwam is home to the only 54 holes of golf in the Southwest, and features three champion-ship golf courses including the Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed Gold and Blue Courses. I have to tell ya, I don't even play golf, and this course makes me want to learn, It is beautiful!

Fer the ladies: A signature Red Door Spa... ooh, you can just relax those worn out tootsie's from your long journey and enjoy a wonderful massage poolside!

If yer hungry, there is Red's Steakhouse (which is AAA Four Diamond rated) and the

legendary Arizona Kitchen. Those vittles will be sure to get yer mouth to waterin'.

When Good-year Tire and Rubber Company discovered that long-staple cotton extended the life of the tire, the company purchased 16,000 acres of Arizona land in 1916 to begin cultivating cotton. The first building on the site was established in 1918 by sales reps supplying equipment to the ranchers, and was known as the "Organization House." Many of the guests staying on business suggested that it would be a great place to spend a winter vacation. Goodyear executives agreed, and on Thanksgiving Day in 1929 "The Wigwam" officially opened its doors as a guest ranch with enough rooms for 24 guests. A portion of the original structure remains as the cornerstone of The Wigwam's authenticity and southwestern charm.



"Authentic Arizona™ - An Unparalleled Experience awaits you at the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa..." Pictured above is the entrance to the resort.

In addition, there is 48,000 square-feet of indoor meeting space with 25 separate meeting rooms and outdoor meeting space that spans over five acres. Yer gonna love it!

Reserve your spot: To book your fabulous, authentic Arizona experience, We've rustled up a great rate of \$125/night (plus them pesky taxes)!! Call the Wigwam at (623) 935-3811 or (800) 327-0396 and mention **"Happy Trails to Arizona"** or enter the following code **HAI29A** if you book on line for the great rate at www.wigwamresort.com.



*Pictured above: One of the 331 Guest Casita's on the property.
Pictured right: a small glimpse of the beautiful rose gardens.*

Gathering Update

Seasons of Michigan Gathering

The Seasons of Michigan Gathering is scheduled for September 16 – 19, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Livonia, MI just outside of Detroit.

As we get closer to the time for the gathering I'm getting more excited. It's been almost a year since the last gathering in San Antonio, so I'm in need of a "D56 Fix". Getting together with old friends from around the country and experiencing D56 related seminars and activities is sure to do the trick.

The club had considered creating a display for entry into the display contest but it was decided not to pursue this. With everyone's hectic summer schedules it's hard to find the time for such an activity. Maybe next time.

The gathering website –

<http://villagecollectorsofmi.com/The%20Seasons%20of%20Michigan%20Gathering/Home%20Page.html> -

has been updated recently and now shows a list of Marketplace vendors and Seminar presenters. I was glad to see that one of my favorite vendors – Tracy's Collectibles – was on the list. They sell a wide variety of metal cast figurines. I've got a whole set of ball players that I use with my ballpark display. I've also got a set of malt shop people that I use with my American Bandstand building. The list of seminar presenters includes Kirk Wylie from Chicago. Knowing Kirk, that's sure to be a laugh-filled hour! The website also has registration forms which can be downloaded.

Thus far, we've got 6 members from Northern Lights most probably going to Michigan – Shirley, Janet, Darnell, Diane, Mel and Tom. It would be nice to have a few more. It's probably the closest get-together we'll have for the next few years, so why not join the party!

Happy Trails to Arizona Gathering

The Arizona Department 56 Clubs (the Arizona Village Collectors, Desert Villagers and Southwest Villagers, along with the volunteer posse from Region 10 and others) will be your hosts for the 1st gathering in Arizona. It is scheduled for September 29 – October 2, 2011.

History, charm and authentic Arizona await at the destination hotel the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa, 300 East Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park, Arizona. If you are flying you'll want to fly into Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix. Litchfield Park is just outside of Phoenix to the west -www.wigwamresort.com. They have rustled up a great rate of \$125/night (plus tax). Call the Wigwam at 623-935-3811 or 800-327-396 and mention "Happy Trails to Arizona" or enter the following code: HAI29A if you book on line for the great rate.

The Southwest Villagers website is updated as more information arrives - www.southwestvillagers.com. Here's the link to the gathering flyer - <http://www.ncc56.com/HappyTrailstoAZ.pdf>

Tom

Happy Birthday in July to:

Dan Aykroyd, July 1st

Bill Cosby, July 12th

David Hasselhoff, July 17th

Sandra Bullock, July 17th

Happy Birthday in August to:

*Shirley Willis, August 1st**Mel Ariemma, August 7th**Dee Yetter, August 19th**Myrna Hjellming, August 24th*

& Paul "Pee-wee Herman" Reubens, August 27th

Question: What do Dan Akroyd, David Hasselhoff and Paul "Pee-wee Herman" Reubens have in common, besides Summer birthdays? (See answer-it's upside down and backwards-below.)

Northern Lights Treasury Report - May 2010 By Tom Iacoviello

Balance	4/1/2010			\$1,723.39
Revenue:				
<u>Received From</u>		<u>Description</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Total Revenue				\$0.00
Expenses:				
<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Ck No.</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Robin Lee's Hallmark	3156	April Gift Certificate		\$25.00
Robin Lee's Hallmark	3157	June Gift Certificate		\$25.00
Total Expenses				\$50.00
Balance	5/31/2010			\$1,673.39

Answer: They were all born the same year as your fearless newsletter editor: 1925.

Northern Lights Collectors' Club
% Robin Lee's Hallmark
345 Willow Bend
Crystal, MN 55428 - 3969



D56 Collector Web Sites

Minnesota Clubs

<http://www.minnesota56clubs.com>

Get up-to-date information about the activities of various Minnesota D56 Clubs

Department 56

<http://www.department56.com>

Official Department 56 site with the latest D56 product information.

Department 56 Webring

<http://i.webring.com/hub?ring=dept56>

Links to web sites of collectors, retailers, and anything else related to Department 56 collecting.

National Council of 56 Clubs

<http://www.ncc56.com/>

News and information from the NCC.