

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine

Newsletter of the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc., A Not For Profit Organization Founded in 1976

NEW YEAR BRINGS REVISED BY-LAWS

The Association's by-laws, originally drafted at the time of its incorporation in 1982, have been revised to reflect our current practices and anticipated needs in the future.

At the next Association meeting on Sunday, January 27 (see page 3), members will be asked to ratify the new by-laws. Your officers want to be sure that everyone understands the new opportunities they offer.

Major changes include creation of a Board of Directors, extension of membership to interested spouses of members, simplification of voting procedures, creation of junior and honorary memberships, detailed descriptions of each officer's responsibilities, creation of standing committees and their chairpersons, moving the fiscal year to begin on January 1, and provision for distribution of assets in the event of dissolution.

The revised by-laws pave the way for application to the IRS for recognition of the Association as a tax-exempt organization. The by-laws assure that members will not draw direct financial benefit from the Association's activities and that in the event of dissolution, its assets will be passed on to a similar organization.

The original draft called for a board of directors consisting of those identified in the 1982 Certificate of Incorporation as initial



The Association's Anderson diesel at the Canton, June 2001.

directors. The Association had not used a board before, but it was felt that having one would be beneficial. So a first meeting of the board was held with the initial directors on the 23rd of last December. These included Paul Shirley, Ed Fincham, and Bill Pharoah.

This initial board then elected the present officers of the Association to also serve on the board and to direct its interests. In the future, the board will consist the officers elected by the membership. Each new set of officers will then select new board members that will serve during their term.

Spouses who wish to be active in the Association can now have full membership status by simply giving notice that they wish to be so. If their spouse has paid his/her dues, then they shall not be required to do so. They will have full voting rights.

Junior membership was recognized for those not more than 18. They will pay reduced dues but will receive all the public correspondence of the Association. They will not be permitted to vote. If they are 14, they may chose to be full members.

An honorary membership was established. It will recognize those who have had a special relation to the Association. Hon-

(Continued on page 3)



Bill Pharoah puts his milking machine to work at the Old Fashioned Harvest Days show, Labor Day weekend, 2001.

coming events...

January 27	Members meeting, Sunday, 2:00 PM, Jim McGraw's house, 3385 US Hwy 11.
April 7	Annual Banquet, Sunday, at the Louisville Community Center near the Volunteer Fire Department, Louisville, NY.
June 8-9	20th Annual Gas & Steam Engine Show, Canton, NY.
July 13-14	Massena bicentennial parade and display, Massena, NY.
July 28	Member's family picnic, Sunday, Hutchinson cottage, near KOA south of Ogdensburg, NY.
August 10	Festival of North Country Folk Life, Massena, NY. Contact Ed Fincham.
August 31-Sept. 1	Old Fashioned Harvest Days at Hutchinson Farm, Heuvelton, NY.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The new year brings more chances than ever to participate in your hobby and support the Association. The new by-laws create committees which need to be filled and chaired. More villages and towns want us to display our engines and machines.

Last year we had such successful shows that we can expect even more interest than ever this year. This means more planning, setup work, and cleanup afterward.

We have a small steam engine, drag saw, and other antique equipment that need restoration and care. We need more space for storing an ever increasing volume of machines.

There are pictures to be taken, cooking, gate watching, writing, data gathering, and teaching, not to mention bringing out your own old iron for all to see and enjoy.

Each member has a given amount of time and energy that he or she can give to their Association. If you are looking for a way that you can do more, just put up your hand and let us know. This year, more than ever before, there is plenty to do. Happy New Year. ⚡

SLC Chamber Distributes Matching Funds

The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce administers New York State matching funds used to promote tourism in the region.

Your Association has received a grant of \$613 for the 2001-2002 season. This grant must be matched by our own expenditures.

The total \$1,226 will be spent on advertising for the June Show at Canton and the Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show on Labor Day weekend.

The Canton Sportsman's Club will share our costs for advertising the June show. This year they have no matching funds of their own.

Also new this year, these funds can only be used for advertising outside of St. Lawrence County.

Ads have already been placed in two 2002 directories featuring gas & steam engine shows. ⚡



At the 2001 Old Fashioned Harvest Days show, Labor Day weekend, at the Hutchinson farm: (above) Case 2236 thresher-separator purchased from Ed Sheppard and (left) a 1940 Allis Chalmers combine donated to the Association by Richard Brown and restored by Gary Crowe.

Dear Association Officer,
I want to be an active member of the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc. and participate in its activities. My name is _____ [print] .My spouse already is a member. I understand that as long as his/her dues are paid that I do not have to pay any.

My spouse's name is _____ . ✂

Signed: _____

Date: _____ [Give this form to any Association officer.]

Other Events:
July 20-21: Hopkinton Bicentennial. Association members are invited to bring engine and equipment displays and to participate in the tractor pull. Contact Gary Hargrave or call the event coordinator at 315-268-0840.

By-Laws Revised (from page 1)

orary members will pay no dues and may not vote. They may also be a regular member if they wish to be so.

Voting was simplified to better match our actual practices. During the year, almost all of the membership takes part in one or more of the Association shows. However, meetings typically attract about 10 percent of the membership, and this was set as the requirement for a quorum.

Voting by proxy was added. Without being present at a meeting, a member can give written authorization to another to vote on his/her behalf. A sample proxy which may be used is shown below .

A member may vote only if his dues for the current year have been paid.

The responsibilities of officers was set our more clearly. The major changes are for the Vice President who will be responsible for the organizing programs for meetings and for the Treasurer who will have expanded budgeting and accounting responsibilities.

January Meeting at Jim McGraw's on Sun. 27th

Please note that the location of the next members' meeting has been changed to the McGraw home at 3385 US Hwy. 11.

Just south of the intersection with State Hwy. 812, look for a house next to a long John Deere tractor shed on the west side of the road.

This is an important meeting, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Green jackets are not required.

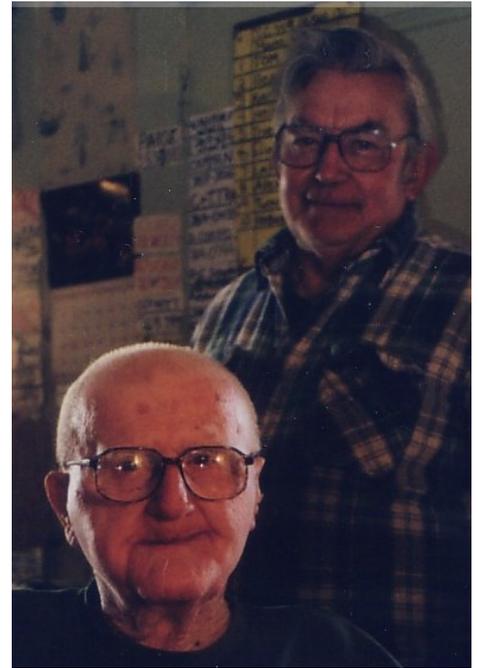
The President will appoint chairpersons to three standing committees. The Safety committee will assure safety at shows. The Curator committee will keep detailed records of all of the Association's antique assets.

The Antique Equipment committee will oversee the renovation, maintenance, and safe operation of the Association's antique equipment. This committee will also develop programs for training and certifying operators.

Temporary committees can be created by the president for shows, fund raising, or other special purposes.

Anyone wanting to review the revised by-laws should contact the Secretary by email at rsaustin@accucomm.net or at (478) 453-3640 before January 18 or at (315) 344-7470 from January 23 to February 15.

The Association officers and other members of the board hope to see many members at the January meeting. If you can not make the meeting, why not use the proxy below.



Joseph Doboze (l) and Paul Shirley at Joe's house on October 20, 2001.

Empire Thresher Was Still in the Barn

This story just missed the deadline for the last issue, but it is still worth telling.

Last October, Paul Shirley gathered Bill Shirley, Ed Fincham, and Roger Austin. A short trip down the road took them to the Doboze home where they were welcomed by Joe himself (above photo) and the smell of cooking soup.

After offering some of nature's best bottled beverages, Joe revealed the history of the Empire thresher he was donating to the Association (see page 4).

The group then went to a barn that you only hear about in stories. There she sat, buried beneath dust and the accumulation of ages. Up close you could read "Empire, Minard Harder, Cobleskill, NY, 1876."

Joe had said that it had only been out of the barn twice in all the years he knew of it. The paint on the wooden sides has faded, but only because the original oils are mostly gone. The pigment is still there, right down to the pinstripes. It just needs careful cleaning and the right paint oil to bring back the old color .

The Association has agreed to restore and to keep the Empire thresher under cover. It is a generous contribution to the our collection of antique machines.



PROXY

I, _____ (print), a member of the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc. and having kept payment of my dues current, do hereby authorize _____, also a member in good standing, to vote on matters coming before the Association on my behalf .

✂ Signed: _____ Date: _____

This authorization valid until _____ (date not to exceed 11 months).





Officers

President: Gary Hargrave, 10 River St., Norwood, NY 13668. (315) 353-2888. E-mail: Harg43@aol.com.

Vice President: James (Jim) McGraw, 3385 US Hwy. 11, Dekalb Junction, NY 13630. (315) 347-2362. E-mail: j_mcgraw@tds.net

Secretary: Roger Austin, 179 Lakecrest Drive NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061. Phone (478) 453-3640 (Nov. through April) or (315) 344-7470. E-mail at any time: rsaustin@accucomm.net.

Treasurer: William (Bill) Shirley, 50 Lincoln Dr., Massena, NY 13662. (315) 769-7912. Email: carjunky62@aol.com.

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Side panel on Doboze's gift thresher.

THRESHING MACHINE REFERENCE FOUND

The Empire threshing machine recently donated to the Association by Joseph Doboze was manufactured by Minard Harder's Empire Agricultural Works in Cobleskill, New York.

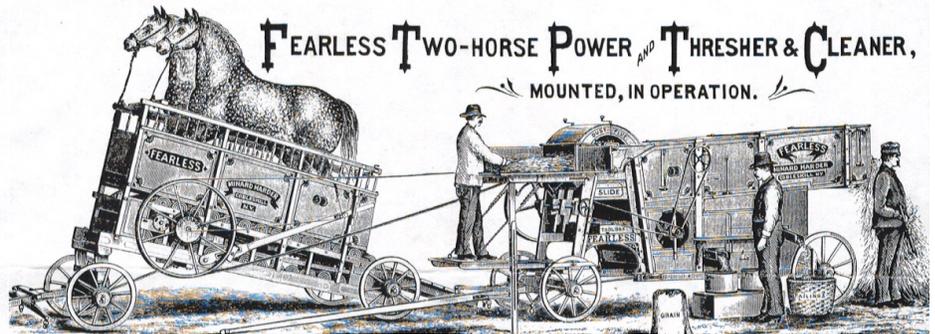
The company was founded in the 1840's, and the model donated probably was built near the end of that century.

Rather than being powered by horses, Doboze remembers an engine being mounted on his thresher. Today the wheels and engine are absent.

American Farm Progress reported that these early machines were able to produce 200 to 300 bushels a day. Models of the thresher ranged in sizes requiring up to three horses (sometimes oxen) walking on the plank belt of an inclined platform called a bridge.

The popularity of early engines can be understood considering their relative ease of use compared to owning and maintaining animals for the same purpose.

As these early engines became adapted to tractors, and tractors became more versatile, the age of horse powered farms



Engraving of an Empire thresher driven by horses.

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam

inside...

Association by laws revised and updated.
 Matching advertising funds received.
 More about the thresher donated by Doboze.
 Cut-out forms for voting by proxy.
 Active spouses invited to have voting rights.

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc.
 Roger Austin, Secretary
 410 Stevenson Road
 Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680

Place
 Postage
 Here