

## NRHS Bulletin Back Issues

Since the NRHS is moving out of National Library Relocators, the *NRHS Bulletin* back issue inventory needed to be moved to a location I can easily access. In consultation with the Officers, we determined that it was best to move it to a storage locker near my home. I received the collection the first week of May consisting of about 60 boxes on two pallets and it is in a 10x10 storage locker about 5 minutes from my home in Bucks County. Many thanks to Joe Maloney for handling the planning and logistics for the move.

I did an initial assessment of the material and frankly the volume is overwhelming. The boxes are extremely heavy and difficult to manage in a small space in such a large quantity. In consultation with the Officers, I made the strategic decision to significantly reduce our back issue inventory based on the following criteria:

- We only handle a few dozen or so back issue requests per year so our current stock of magazine will take hundreds of years to sell off. For some issues of the *Bulletin* we have nearly 500 extra copies. We simply will never sell these.
- We are moving to an electronic archive product (see Bulletin scanning report) and so it doesn't make sense to also be retaining hundreds of copies of the printed product.
- The storage locker cost about \$1,300 a year. With such low sales we are taking a heavy loss on the back issues resale program.
- Without storage in a climate controlled facility, the paper product will quickly degrade. With such low revenue, it is difficult to justify the significant additional costs of climate controlled storage.
- Reducing the number of copies we retain will make it easier to afford climate controlled storage or move the inventory into my home.

So, the path forward that I have determined for back issues is as follows:

- We will retain 2 almost complete collections of the *NRHS Bulletin* for archival purposes. I say almost complete because there are some issues in the 1930s and 1940s that we are missing entirely or only have one copy.
- We have retained 3 copies of each *Convention Trip Guide* and *Yearbook* that we have in inventory. The remainder have been recycled. In nearly 20 years of managing the *Bulletin*, we have only sold two *Yearbooks* or *Trip Guides*.
- We have retained an archive of one copy of each *NRHS News* that has been published. All remaining issues of the *NRHS News* have been recycled. We had thousands of copies of about 5 issues and they have no commercial value. Additionally, there is an archive of recent issue in PDF format on [admin.nrhs.com](http://admin.nrhs.com).
- We will retain a maximum of 5 copies of each issue of the *Bulletin* from 1937 to present for limited back issue sales and reference.

The remainder of the *Bulletins* will be disposed of with the following priorities:

- Recent issues (post-2005) where we have hundreds of copies we will offered to the Chapters for free to be used in PR. This inventory is provided in a separate report and

will be published in the *NRHS News Extra*, email and the *NRHS News*. Chapters will have 6 months to a year to claim material they desire.

- We will make a reasonable effort to notify libraries that issues are available to complete their collections. Magazines will be provided for free to interested institutions.
- The membership will have a last chance to purchase back issues for the next 12 months or so. Once I have a reasonable inventory, notification will be made via Facebook, the website and the *NRHS News*. Issue published post-2005 have already been offered for sale. Sales have been very slow (less than 15 magazines sold).
- The public will have a chance to purchase back issues. This has also been done for issues published post-2005. Sales have been very limited (less than 10 magazines)
- Offered to vendors who sell back issues of historical magazines (for example railpub.com)
- Anything remaining - I expect it will be most of the material - will be recycled.

I expect that it will take 12-18 months to complete this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Jeff Smith at [bulletin@nrhs.com](mailto:bulletin@nrhs.com).

Thanks,  
Jeff Smith  
Editor, *NRHS Bulletin*