

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Charles D. Casbdollar*  
*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

For the last year and a half, the officers and Council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association have been considering the financial state of the organization in relationship to its commitment to high quality publications and programs. At its October 2007 meeting, the Council acted to increase membership dues for 2009. It has been seven years since the last rise, and over that time costs—especially of printing and postage—have risen significantly. By judicious use of grant support from the PHMC, prudent investment of funds, increased marketing of our publications, and frugal management, we have been able to delay an increase until now. Indeed, seven years is one year longer than the intervals before the Association's two previous increases. But, the inevitable cannot be avoided indefinitely. In 2007, our last complete fiscal year, income from all membership categories covered only 83 percent of the cost of producing *Pennsylvania History*. With costs projected to rise further, Council's action was prudent and necessary. Because PHA is committed to—and its members

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expect—a journal of the same size and quality, as well as strong publications in the *History Studies Series* and an intellectually engaging annual meeting, the new 2009 basic dues rates will be \$40 for individuals, \$30 for students, and \$50 for institutions. Optional membership categories will be \$75 sustaining, \$100 contributing, and \$2000 life. International rates will be \$55 for individuals and \$65 for institutions.

During these summer months, committees are putting the final touches on plans for our annual meeting in Bethlehem, October 16–18. This meeting takes us back to the same city that hosted our first annual meeting seventy-five years ago. Once again, sessions will be held both in the Hotel Bethlehem and on the campus of our host institution, Lehigh University. Local Arrangements chairs Roger Simon and Jean Soderlund are preparing interesting venues and gracious hospitality; Judith Ridner and her Program Committee have built an engaging schedule of plenary and concurrent sessions representing a good mix of topics and time periods. Among these is a Thursday evening lecture by Gabor Boritt, the Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies at Gettysburg College, and a Friday morning plenary panel discussion on twentieth-century Pennsylvania politics. You can find the complete program on our web site. I look forward to greeting many of you in person as we culminate our celebration of PHA's founding.

This issue of *Pennsylvania History* is also part of our ongoing celebration as it commemorates this journal's seventy-five stellar years of publication. Let me add my congratulations to Editor Paul Douglas Newman—and to Associate Editor Jeffrey Davis, who put this special issue together. We owe much to their generous contribution of time and creativity, and indeed to the similar dedication of fifteen previous editorial teams who managed the journal since 1933.

Let me also say that as our celebration continues we are still receiving pledges and contributions to the 75th Anniversary Fund. A suggested contribution in support of the endowment fund is \$75.00 per year for five years, but larger or smaller donations are equally welcome. Your support will help to insure that PHA is as strong in the future as it has been in the past. Checks payable to the Pennsylvania Historical Association and marked for the 75th Anniversary Fund can be sent to Business Secretary Karen Guenther, 216 Pinecrest Hall, Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA 16933.