

The Tribby Tribune

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Happy Birthday AAPA

PRESIDENT LINDA DONALDSON has called for a huge bundle to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the American Amateur Press Association. Here's hoping we can make her goal of 60 papers.

The future of AAPA has always seemed shaky. The logistics required to launch a national organization of isolated members were daunting, and it had to be done on a shoestring budget. World War II removed many members from participation, then bickering among AAPA officers took its toll on activity.

Depending upon the goodwill of volunteers is a risk for any organization. Even with today's robust treasury and thick bundles, many of us wonder how long the AAPA can continue unless we find a way to attract new, younger members.

The words I used in 1986 to mark AAPA's golden anniversary still apply: "Those of us who have joined since 1970 have enjoyed some of AAPA's strongest years: many regular publishers, thick bundles, and membership total consistently over 250. We owe a debt of gratitude to those members who have gone before us: to the charter members, who broke away from existing amateur journalism groups and proved there was a new way to do things; to those active in the 1940s and '50s who provided strength during some of AAPA's

leanest times; and to those who reawakened AAPA's spirit in the 25th anniversary Silver Spur campaign."

Sadly, none of the charter members are still with us. However, we are lucky that the hobby attracted young people: some who were active in the 1930s and '40s remain a vital part of the association today.

The NAPA was sixty years old when the AAPA was formed. An intense rivalry quickly grew between the senior organization and the young upstart, but over the years competition has become more friendly. Today we realize differences with fellow amateur journalists are far outweighed by common interests.

Somehow the organization has made it through sixty years of ups and downs. Every few years someone seems to step forward with fresh activity (or a return to activity). Making it this far is almost a miracle. I imagine there must be more surprises awaiting us down the road.

Colophon

The Tribby Tribune has been published for the American Amateur Press Association since 1971 by David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. This issue was prepared on Dave's home computer, a 1987-vintage Apple IIgs.

Bookman is the typeface: 12 point for the text, 18 point bold italic for heads, and 24 point bold for the flag.

Visit the AAPA World Wide Web site:

<http://members.aol.com/aapa96/>