



MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM
LIBRARY
LONGFELLOW HOUSE
MAINE MEMORY NETWORK

O.F.P.R.
2009 SEP -8 AM 8:17

Sept 3, 2009

Grant Pennoyer, Director
Office of Program and Fiscal Review
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0005

OFFICERS

Philip H. Jordan Jr.
President
E. Christopher Livesay
1st Vice President
Roger Gilmore
2nd Vice President
James F. Millinger
Secretary
Robert P. BaRoss
Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Eric S. Baxter
Suhail Bisharat
David A. Cimino
Linda M. Cronkhite
Priscilla B. Doucette
Harland H. Eastman
Joseph R. Hanslip
Horace W. Horton
Peter G. McPheeters
Preston R. Miller Jr.
Margaret Crane Morfit
Jane McKay Morrell
Eldon L. Morrison
Carolyn B. Murray
Mary P. Nelson
Katherine Stoddard Pope
James M. Richardson
Neil R. Rolde
Donna M. Ryan
Imelda A. Schaefer
Lendall L. Smith
Frederic L. Thompson
Jotham A. Trafton
Paul A. Wescott
Charles D. Whittier II
Jean T. Wilkinson
Nicholas H. Witte

Richard D'Abate
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Pennoyer,

This letter is in response to the request of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs for information regarding program priorities in our agency (an email version has also been sent to you).

As you probably know, Maine Historical Society is a private non-profit organization, chartered by the State of Maine in 1822 and supported in small part since then by various forms of State appropriation. Since the 1940s this assistance has taken the form of an annual block grant, which the Society uses in a variety of ways to further the public understanding and appreciation of Maine history. Our current annual grant is \$46,544. While these funds represent only 3% of our unrestricted operating budget, they are essential to our mission in that they support the Maine Memory Network (MMN). MMN, built and operated by Maine Historical Society, is the State's free, collaborative, online museum and educational resource. It now serves over 200 contributing-partner institutions and over 300,000 annual visitors and school children (www.mainememory.net).

In addition to the appropriation mentioned above, Maine Historical Society, in its role as a member of the Cultural Affairs Council of Maine, has received intermittent support through the New Century Community Program, included from time to time in either the Governor's budget or voter-approved bond packages. These funds, too, are used exclusively for the support of the Maine Memory Network and related digital services. MMN has been our only state-funded program—and our priority—since 1999. To the best of our knowledge it is not duplicated anywhere else in State government.

I hope this helps. If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard D'Abate
Executive Director

489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101-3498
T 207-774-1822
F 207-775-4301
E info@mainehistory.org
www.mainehistory.org