

January, 2023

Dear Fellow Victorians,

The last few years have been financially difficult for many organizations due to COVID, and we have not been immune. Our membership has fallen dramatically compared to our pre-pandemic numbers. We now have only about 50 members and we are in danger of closing our chapter. Other chapters of the Victorian Society in America have folded, and without your help this will be our fate as well.

Here are some financial facts that our members don't know:

Women's Club rental: \$130 per meeting
Custodian fee: \$85 per meeting
Speaker fee: \$150 per meeting
Insurance: \$56 per meeting (\$560 per year)
Total cost per meeting: \$421 (\$4210 per year)

These figures do not include substantial additional overhead costs, such as our Preservation Awards, VSA National dues, Post Office Box, Website fees, Postage fees, and refreshments. These overhead costs add up to about \$1000 more per year.

The membership dues paid by our 50 current members are not sufficient to cover our financial costs for this year. To address this problem in the short term, the eleven members of the board have personally donated \$100 each to squeak us through the remainder of our meetings until June.

Interesting programs are on our schedule: lectures on the Morris Canal, the famous British Victorian gardener Gertrude Jekyll, and an upcoming preservation meeting with a private members tour of the Krueger-Scott mansion in Newark. Our ever popular Garden Party is on the calendar for June, and we are working on a bus trip to a local historical site.

Many of our long-term members have formed friendships and have memories of our wonderful trips, programs and parties. The demise of this chapter of the Victorian Society is not a situation that any of us could ever have imagined.

Any amount that you can contribute to our chapter will be greatly appreciated.
Donations to **VSA-NNJ** are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to: **VSA-NNJ, PO Box 717, Montclair NJ 07042,**
Or you can bring your donation to our next meeting on February 20th.

Please contribute so that we can survive.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter:

Jane McNeill	Carylmead Eggleston
Christina Mayer	Richard Grossklaus
Kevin Cooney	Judyann Affronti
Adriana O'Toole	James McParland
Eileen Sutera	Yolanda Silverio
Pat Sanders	