

The President's Corner

As I write this column, it is almost the middle of August and the time is rapidly approaching for our annual meeting. So far, registrations are lagging way behind anything I have experienced since becoming involved in tracking registrations prior to the meeting. I hope it is a case of people waiting to the last minute to register as opposed to not coming at all. By the time you are reading this, the meeting will most likely be over and we will know.

As some of you may know, we have been experiencing problems with our Web site. When a Web site was first proposed, Jimmie Alford (#0500) very generously volunteered to let the Association have space on his business's Web site at www.alford.com where we have resided for several years. Kim Savage (#0258) was AAFA's very first Web master. She did an excellent job of setting up the Web pages and maintaining them over the past few years. Kim ignored some personal tasks she had at hand and concentrated on the AAFA Web site. This year, the time came that Kim felt she could no longer devote the time necessary to keep the site updated by ignoring the personal chores she had been putting off, so she resigned her position as Web master. The Association and all its members owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Kim for all she has done with the creation and maintenance of the Web site.

Fortunately for the Association, Stephanie Alford (#1163) recently became a member of the Association. Her career involves designing Web sites. She had already been enlisted to assist Kim with Web site duties. When Kim resigned, Stephanie agreed to become the new Web master.

In the meantime, it had been decided a meeting or two ago that the Association should pay its own way as far as the Web site was concerned. Initially, there was going to be only enough information on the Web site to whet one's appetite for more information about the



Association and Alford genealogical research. Now, with so much information available via the Internet, it was decided that there should be more information placed on the AAFA Web site. The directors at the time decided it would not be fair to Jimmie if we used more than a minimum amount of space on his server so it was decided that the Association should find another facility whose sole function was to provide the servers and space for organizations that wanted a presence on the World Wide Web. A new domain name, www.alfordassociation.org, was registered in the name of the Alford American Family Association. Stephanie located a server that would let us have space on a "no charge" basis which everyone thought was a great deal. Kim and Stephanie were in the process of copying data from Jimmie's site to the new site when, out of the blue, the new server pulled the plug on not only us but also others who had a presence on their server. Basically, since we were not being charged and we had no written contract, we had no recourse for getting them to re-establish our site. The Association has since contracted with a paid Web hosting service and through the efforts of Stephanie, www.alfordassociation.org is now up and running. Stephanie is updating and adding new information as time permits.

I urge each of you with access to the Internet to visit the site (<http://www.alfordassociation.org>). Use it and then let us know what you think of it. We are always open to constructive criticism. All you have to do is click on the Contact AAFA link and an email window will open which will allow you to share your views and comments with the officers and directors.

Max Alford, #0233, Member AAFA Hall of Fame