Minnesota Renaissance Festival

INQUISITOR

VOLUME XVIII

'Inquisitive Minds Want To Know!'

1988 SPRING EDITION

LEO SEEN OVER FESTIVAL SITE!



Aliens disguised as villagers caught trying to steal the King's Nuts!

A CRAFTER CONFESSES:
"When the moon is full, I
turn into an icthyocentaur!"



Queen Caroline kidnapped by gang of "Mole-People" living beneath Crown Theater Stage!

And they said it wouldn't last . . .

Eighteen years ago, the first Minnesota Renaissance Festival was held. It was small, very counter culture (as were the times), and sparsely attended. Fourteen years ago I was a hawker at the race track and the Festival was growing, innovating, and creating a tradition. That tradition is why we are all still here.

The tradition of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival was founded by many individuals who collectively created an entity truly greater than the sum of its parts. But what continues to drive that tradition of unique creation is change rather than conservative preservation of what happened before. Change is now the creative element of the Festival, and our mutual and collective desire to nurture and foster positive change is what will take us from merely being an idea that wouldn't last, to a vibrant, stimulating and successful Festival forever.

I know that those statements are a bit philosophical and grandiose, but I believe them. As a hawker I was educated in the art of street theatre; as a site crew worker I learned about the physical needs of our grounds; and now as General Manager I am learning how to balance all the aspects of producing a quality event such as ours.

The greatest lesson I have learned is that we all need to depend on each other to reach our goals. Craftspeople need the entertainers just as much as the food vendors need the crafters, and so on. No one element of what we do at the Festival is enough. All the elements have to work together.

To help make that happen, Mid-America Festivals has the finest staff of professionals anywhere. They are your best resource for making your participation as enjoyable as possible. The only thing they ask is that we all understand that change is what keeps the Festival tresh and alive, and that together we all work as hard as we can to be as successful as we can.

At the same time we can also have a lot of fun. Let's make 1988 the most fun we've had in years.

tounde Contres

Timothy L. Ruedy, General Manager Sir Edwin Sot K.O.D.C

RENAISSANCE HARPERS SELECTED TO PERFORM

Rebecca Root and Gaylord T. Stautfer have been selected through audition to perform this July for the Third Blennial Conference of the Society of Folk Harpers and Craftsmen in Logan, Utah. And Craftsmen in Logan, Utah. Thursday evening. July 14, concert along with three other artists from New York state and Texas.

Gaylord will also be providing solo harp music for one of the informal brunches during the conference, as well as providing three workshops concerning the folk harp in both harp and other instrumental ensembles.

CAMPGROUND DIRECTOR WANTED

The position of Campground Director for the 1988 Minnesota Renaissance Festival is available. You must be available August 1, 1988 through September 30, 1988. For more information, contact Brian Huseby at the Festival Office, (612) 445-7361.

COSTUME SWAP SET FOR JULY 7, AUGSBURG

What: A get-together to swap, sell, or buy Renaissance costume pieces.

Where: Renaissance Acade by Augsburg College

When: July 7, 1988.
Who: All Festival Participants are invited to bright their goods or to attend examples.

All items must be "period-appropriate."

COSTUME HANDBOOK

A new costume handbook has been assembled and is available from the Renaissance Festival office. It includes guidelines for constructing your costume, suggestions for commercial patterns, and shopping tips for ready-made items.

A list is also being compiled of costumers available for hire to make costumes. If you are interested in being on the list or receiving one, please contact MaryBeth Gagner at the Festival Office (612-445-7361).

A REMINDER TO ALL SHOP OWNERS

Note:

Each shop must have a fully charged 5-lb. ABC underwriter approved fire extinguisher easily accessible at all times. Lost extinguishers or those not in working order must be replaced within 24 hours of notification by Safety Services. Fire extinguishers must be checked and tagged every year. The tag must be current during the show. This service is usually available the first weekend of the show for a nominal charge.

Upcoming Parades

The following is a schedule of parades which have been set. Please note that the St. Paul Grand Oid Day Parade will take place before the Veterans meeting, so I don't have a list of people who want to participate. This parade is great fun and not very long. Those who are interested should call me ASAP so that I can send you the information. For the rest of the parades there will be sign-up sheets available at the Veterans Meetings. Please take time to sign up for the parades which you can altend. Information about where and when to line up for a specific parade will be sent to the people who have signed up.

I must take a moment to thank and congratulate all those who give of their time and participated in the parades. I constantly receive compliments about our parade participation and the excitement which our group radiates. I watched as our group ignition the Aquatennial Torchight Parade audiences with our antics (and not our torches). I also want to thank you for your patience while you waited for the parades to start (especially Hopkins). Maybe this year I can schedule juggling and mime classes to fill time as we wait.

Well, enough. Here are the dates and times:

St Paul Grand Old Day Parade June 5, Noon

akeville Panorama of Progress
July 10, Alternoon

Aquatennial Grand Day Parade July 16, 11:00 AM

Hopkins Raspberry Parade July 17, 2 PM

Aquatennial Torchlight Parade July 20, 8:30 PM

Crystal Frolics July 31, 1:00 PM

GASTLE OUTCHEN NOTES

Castle Kitchens Saves Participants \$2.50 on Food Coupons
Participant Food Coupons will cost \$5.00 for \$7.50 worth of coupons.

They can be purchased on show days only and are available from:

Location Time

C-Gate 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. B-Gate 1:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Limit of one book per I.D. per day. Please purchase them early in the day, whenever possible.

This year, Participant Food Coupons will be honored only at the food booths specified on the coupons.

BAD MANOR BREAKFAST

Come one come all and join your friends for breakfast at Bad Manorl From 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. we'll be serving a "charge up" breakfast for only \$2.00.

RENAISSANCE PARTICIPANTS GET 10% OFF AT TRAVELLERS SHOPS

All participants can take advantage of a 10% discount on travellers shop merchandise. Just show your photo LD. at the time of purchase.

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL FUN FACTS

The following bits of trivia were collected as a means of filling space in this Newsletter issue. While we cannot vouch for their accuracy, they are pretty darn close to the truth. Study them carefully – there will be a test on this material.

- The Renaissance Festival is 18 years old this season.
- There are currently over 3000 costumed participants in the show.
- The amount of fabric used for new costumes and banners for the 1988 Festival would make a path 1 yard wide and over 5 football fields long.
- 1984 holds the record for the Festival's largest attendance year, with over 312,000 people visiting our Renaissance Village.
- 75,000 people purchase tickets through group and company discount programs.
- In 1987, 1,678 people attended the Feast of Fantasy.
- The visitor who has come the farthest to eat at the Feast of Fantasy was from Australia.
- Over \$15,000 in quarters are required each day by our accounting department in order to provide change for all of the shops and hooths.
- Each year, more than 300 buses from all over the U.S and Canada travel to Shakopee, bringing visitors to our Festival.
- The costume shop must do 16 loads of laundry each weekend during the Festival, in order to clean costumes for the next weekend.
- Over 186 Satellites (outdoor biffys) are located on site, much to the relief of our patrons.
- This year, 700 lbs. of grass seed was used to renew the site lawn.
- Unofficially, the coldest temperature during the Festival show was 42° F. The warmest temperature was 91° F.
- In 1988, the Festival will serve over 90,000 lbs. of turkey legs during its 15 day run.
- Over 16,000 official Renaissance mugs and gobiets will be produced this year in order to satisfy mug and goblet collectors.
- Approximately 1,125,000 oz. of wine will be served to patrons this year.
- Close to 2,845,000 oz. of beer will be rented by our village visitors this year.
- 1988 will be the best Minnesota Renaissance Festival ever!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This summer, keep and eye open when you are in your favorite grocery store. Special 2 liter bot-les of Coke products will have an ofter for free Renaissance lickets. People who save 6 specially marked Coke liabels may redeem them for one free adult admission with the purchase of adult admission at the gate. The ofter will be good only on August 13th & 20th and September 5th & 24th.

Advance tickets will again be available at a major convenience store chain throughout the Twin Cities. Last year's sales were super, and we anticipate an even greater demand for them this year.

Negotiations are underway for a giveaway trip for our patrons and, of course, there will be a 1988 Photo Contest. (Incidentally, 3 of the photos from the 1987 Photo Contest were used in this year's MRF brochure. Terry Kubista, who provides the slide show at the closing party, also contributed some photos.)

SEVEN SPECIAL FESTIVAL WEEKENDS

As we've done in the past, this year's Festival run will use a theme for each of the seven weekends. We are constantly seeking new ideas within these themes, and invite anyone with constructive thoughts on the subject to submit them to us, whether by phone or in writing. The following are brief descriptions for each of the this year's seven weekends, and are subject to some minor changes:

A ROYAL FAMILY AFFAIR

By the King's Command, our village is in Royal celebration of the coronation of a new Queen. Witness the excitement and challenge of Amored Contact Jousting. Children can thrill to a Royal Treasure Hunt. Royal Rewards and festive Favors will abound for all.

CARNIVAL ITALIA. August 20 – 21
Our Kingdom honor Renaissance Italy by presenting activities with a distinctly Italian flavor – pleasurable and educational Wine Tasting, high-spirited Grape Stomping Contests, a Juggling Extravaganza, and the beloved characters of "Commedia del Arts."

BRITISH ISLES FANTASY

September 3 – 4 – 5

Revel in the merriment as the music and dance of the British Isles – Morris, Scottish and Irish – set toes a-tapping. Hobbits, Leprechauns, Wizards, & other magical happenings need only you to complete the fantasy.

SPORTING HOLIDAY. September 10 – 11
Competition reigns supreme during this weekend of unusual gaming events. Wave the colours of your favorite at the Joust. Cheer the coursing dosp or racing elephants as they wie for honors. Engage in peasant games such as the Wench Press, Sof Put or Tug of War.

LOVE AND ROMANCE. September 17 – 18
Love embraces our village as wedding vows are renewed in the chapel, Poets rekindle
romance with words of charm and beauty, and the tender strains of love songs fill the air.

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW. September 24 – 25 Since we must bid farewell, we do so in true Shakespearean style. Budding actors and actresses will compete to determine the most worthy presentation of the great Bard's words. Experience the latest in 16th Century fashion at our 2nd Annual Flenaissance Style Show.



What's Wrong With This Picture?

PHOTO I.D. RULES

Any photo I.D. issued or validated in 1987 must be turned in for 1988 validation, regardless of condition. It can be re-laminated at no charge to you.

If you have misplaced a 1987 validation pass, there will be a \$5.00 charge for a 1988 Photo I.D. A generic pass can be issued to you in 1988 without charge; but remember, you will have to check in each day with a generic pass. A properly validated Photo I.D. may be presented at any participant entry gate without daily check-in.

Returning craftspeople whose I.D.'s are still in need of '88 validation, please send them to us before July 1, 1988.

Entertainers, please turn them in at the Veterans Meeting on June 11 and June 12 at Augsburg, if you have not already done so. They will be returned properly validated with entertainment contracts, or at future sessions of the Academy after approval by the Artistic Director. Castle Kitchens returning workers will receive information on validation procedures at their employment interviews.

You will need an appointment to have a Photo I.D. made, whether it is new or a replacement. These are the hours and locations the equipment and personnel will be available:

AT THE FESTIVAL OFFICE:

July 12 thru July 28 Tues, & Thursday,

10:00 a.m. - Noon 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

August 2 thru August 12 Tuesday thru Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Appointments may be made for photos on-site at Gate B ONLY on the following schedule:

Saturday, August 6 & Sunday August 7 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ALL DATES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

AT SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Castle Kitchens Food Independents August 4, 7:00 p.m. at Bad Manor.

Castle Kitchens Orientation August 6 at "B" Gate on Festival Site.

Entertainers at Renaissance Academy at Augsburg College, 725 23rd Ave: South, Minneapolis

The Photo I.D. program becomes more valuable each year in maintaining site security. If you are authorized to carry a Photo I.D., be sure you have one which is validated for 1988 - and keep track of it!

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE COMING TO THE OFFICE TO HAVE AN I.D. MADE. CALL 612-445-7361

NOTICE TO CRAFTERS

August 7th will be the date of our Media Preview Party. The party is held on the Festival grounds from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The media is invited to attend and preview the Festival.

1987, several crafters attended and demonstrated for the media. We were well pleased with the interest raised by their demonstrations and hope some of you will be available to participate this year

Please contact Sonja Almlie at the Festival Office, 612-445-7361, if you are interested.

→ ★ MEET THE OFFICE STAFF → →

The size of the year-round staff required to run the Minnesota Renaissance Festival is large enough that we're certain many participants don't know who everyone is, or what they do. We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the staff to you and let you know what their jobs are. If there is something they can help you with, most can be reached during our normal office hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Festival Office phone number is (612) 445-7361.

Sonja Almile - Special Projects Coordinator Sonja does all the stuff related to advertising and P.R. and anything else we call "Special."

Karen Baxter - Ticket Sales Clerk If we make a sale, Karen makes sure the tickets get out and the money is collected.

Sam Berens - Entertainment Coordinator A new kid on the block who is here to make sure that contracts are done before August 13.

Mike Challeen - Graphics Coordinator This guy makes all our printed material pretty and he does it with a Macintosh by gosh.

Randy Dewitz - Computer Services Mr. Computer Chip and Dr. First Aid. An all around guy

Arnie Erp & Site Crew

Arnie works with a great bunch of people who build, repair, mow, clean and "whatever" the site.

Patti Fowler - Administrative Assistant Patti does all the stuff that makes our office run. If you call, you'll talk to her first

MaryBeth Gagner - Costumer MaryBeth is leaving us in September, so please be sure to bug her about your costume before she goes.

Marilyn Hagerman - Director of Comm. Affairs Marilyn is also in charge of special events, and yes, she is the mother of the Rat-Catcher.

Lois Hendries - Crafts Administrator Lois knows more about the Festival than anyone. That's why she's in charge of almost everything.

Brian Huseby - Director of Operations
He's a tall, bespectacled fellow who keeps the lights on and the place running. If you do anything on the site, he'll know about it.

Bonnie Jacobson - Director of Food & Bev. If you're hungry or thirsty, don't blame Bonnie. She makes sure our patrons enjoy our magnificent board of plenty.

Bill Lochen -Sales Manager Without patrons we'd have no need for a Festival. Bill helps to pack them in (even when it's raining).

Marcia McLaughlin - Accounting Marcia works mornings in the accounting department. Someone has to get Randy and John off to a good start.

Gary Parker - Artistic Director
Gary's motto is, "Don't tell me, show me."
This year, let's show him a lot (but not too

Lars Paulson - Designer You won't see much of Lars because he's probably in Kansas City, but he designed most of the neat new things at the Festival this year.

Tim Ruedy - General Manager Tim's job is to write these cute job descriptions about the rest of the staff.

John Vchulek - Financial Coordinator Need money? Don't we all. John makes sure the bills get paid. Treat him nice.

Bill Weinschenker - Site Operations C.K.C. Bill turns the ovens on in the morning. He also makes sure we have hot coffee. which makes him a very valuable guy.

Other names you should know: Jim Peterson - Owner David Pearson - Owner

Now you can own your own

SATIN FESTIVAL JACKET!

with your choice of Flannel or Quilted Lining.

Includes the Festival Unicorn Logo and your real or character name embroidered on the front.

Simply complete this form (be sure to indicate size, jacket color, and lining type desired), enclose a check or money order made payable to "BOOKER T's" and send to:



This will be the only order for this year. For information call Bill Lochen at (612)-445-7361.

SITE INFORMATION

- The new lawn on the Festival grounds has been planted. Please drive only on the roads. If you need to drive on the grass prior to the opening date of the show, please get permission from the site manager.
- During the summer months, portable tollets can be found at the following locations: "A" Gate, "C" Gate, Outside First Aid, and the inner circle of 600/700. Please do not use any other units.

NEW ITEMS ON SITE FOR 1988

Toplaries: The front gate area, along with other areas throughout the site, will have sculpted plants (topiaries) in the shapes of horses, unicorns, lions, peacocks, people and geometric shapes. All will be life size or larger.

Games Area: The Games Area will be enlarged and improved. The most notable addition will be a giant swing-ride called the Hippogriff.

Shake the Dragon: A new addition to the Children's Play Village will be a sixty foot long, brightly-colored Dragon floating through the trees. Children will be able to manipulate various parts of the Dragon by pulling on ropes, causing it to shake and move in the

1988 SITE HOURS

January 1, 1988 to May 31, 1988

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Monday thru Friday Closed - Saturday and Sunday

June 1, 1988 to July 31, 1988

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Monday thru Sunday

August 1, 1988 to August 11, 1988

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Monday thru Sunday

August 12, 1988 to September 26, 1988

7:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Monday thru Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. — Friday thru Monday Gates locked Mondays from 2:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. All gates will be locked after 10:30 p.m. on Festival weekends except back gate near Chestnut

and Hwy, 41 "C" Gate will be locked at midnight on weekends during the show.

CAMPGROUND

August 1, 1988 Close: October 3, 1988

> Please register with the Campground Director upon check-in

LORD HIGH SHERIFF TO MARRY TRACK HANDICAPPER

The Lord High Sheriff (Bill Lochen) announced on April 1st that he will be wed to Cassandra (Laura Stead), the Queen Mum's Equestrian Expert, on September 9th. Although he denied it fastidously, there is a rumor that the Sheriff is marrying Cassandra to improve his chances when he bets on the King's horses at the races. Cassandra swears she was drugged at the time and can't remember anything

JOB OPENINGS

Safety Services and Gate Guards

Three (3) shifts available for Safety Services

One (1) shift available for Gate Guards.

For more information on weekend positions, call 445-7361 and ask for Randy.

1988 MINNESOTA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL **ENTERTAINMENT AUDITIONS**

Saturday, June 4th & Sunday, June 5th When:

12 noon - Queen Auditions

Submit picture and resume to Festival office by May 25.

2 p.m. - Village character auditions Prepare 1 - 3 minutes of something;

Costumes not required.

4 p.m. - Act auditions

Prepare 3 - 5 minutes of act presentation music, magic, theatre, juggling, etc.

Where: Augsburg College, Stage 2 Theatre (green- peaked roof next to football field)

725 23rd Avenue South, Minneapolis (off 194 at the Riverside exit)

1988 Festival Dates:

Saturday, June 11 (noon)

Saturdays, Sundays, & Labor Day August 13 through September 25

For further information, please contact: may

Minnesota Renalssance Festival 3525 145th St. West Shakopee, MN 55379 612-445-7361



1988 RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

The Academy provides training and rehearsal in subscript place to The Academy is free and open to all participants Jags, and Academy sessions are held at Augsburg College Stage 2 Theat/e25 225 Avenue South,

Minneapolis (330-1257) Academy sessions are from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Veterans

Veterans

Schedule

Jaire-folk.com Meeting (come one day only) Meeting

Sunday, June 12 (noon) Monday, June 27 Newcomers Tuesday, June 28 Newcomers Wednesday, June 29 New Thursday, June 30 Veterans Tuesday, July 5 Now Wednesday, July 6 New Thursday, July 7 New

New Acts

New & Vet

New New Vot New & Vet

Monday, August 1 Tuesday, August 2 New & Vet Wednesday, August 3 New & Vet New & Vet Thursday, August 4

Sunday, August 7 (noon) Monday, August 8 Tuesday, August 9

Friday, July 8

Monday, July 25

Tuesday, July 26

Wednesday, July 27

Thursday, July 28

(TWO WEEK BREAK)

Wednesday, August 10 Thursday, August 11 Saturday, August 13

All entertainers New & Vet New & Vet New & Vet New & Vet

Improvisation/characterization

Improvisation/characterization Improvisation/characterization Rehearsal Improvisation/characterization

Improvisation/characterization Costuming /Language Costume Swap Auditions/Rehearsal

Final casting/Group meetings Character rehearsal

Costuming/Language/Protocol Costuming/Language/Protocol Group/Act Rehearsal

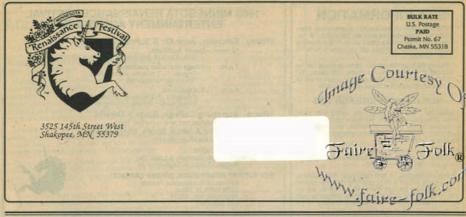
Group/Act Rehearsal Group/Act Rehearsal Group/Act Rehearsal Costume Check On-Site Dress Rehearsal

Group/Act Rehearsals Group/Act Rehearsals Group/Act Rehearsals Academy Graduation Festival Opening Day

The Augsburg space is available on the above dates for alternoon rehearsals or extra work-shops, if needed. Arrangements must be made in advance with the Academy staff.

1988 Festival Dates: Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day, August 13 through September 25, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (7 weekends, 15 days)

For information: Gary Parker Sam Berens



1988 MINNESOTA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL WEEKENDS AND LABOR DAY August 13 – September 25

Hey Booboo, how about a "Pic-a-nic?"

If your employer has a Picnic or Company Day event, let me know. Renaissance Festival offers great prices for Company Events held at the

For more information call Bill Lochen at 445-7361.

only have one "minimum premium."

policy would be substantially less.

STUFF YOURSELF AT THE FEAST OF FANTASY!

Seats are now being reserved for the 5th Annual Feast of Fantasy.

For a discounted ticket, please call Bill Lochen at 445-7361. This offer is only good while supplies last.

DISCOUNT TICKETS

Does your employer offer Minne-sota Renaissance Festival Ticket Discounts to their employees?

If not, let me know and I will help make it easy to provide a discount.

Call Bill Lochen at 445-7361.

FREE TICKETS!!

Our Group Sales Department is looking for new Accounts to offer Discount Tickets. If you know of:

Churches Schools Bar/Restaurants

Businesses Youth Groups Employers

that might offer or buy Group Dis-count Tickets, and we open a Group Discount with them, then I will give you 2 First Weekend Complimentary Tickets to the 1988

Please call Bill Lochen for more information (445-7361).

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Does your school have weekend field trips?

A school bus trip to the Renaissance Festival can be both fun and

educational and at a great price. Call Bill Lochen at the Festival Office (445-7361) for information

WE CAN HELP!

We (Bill Weinschenker and Arnie Erp) in the food and site operations departments are here to help you with any needs that may require our assistance in expediting the success of your task. Our only request is that you provide us with reasonable lead times for planning in order to get the job done to your satisfaction. Thanks!

GROUP LIABILITY POLICY FOR FOOD VENDORS & CRAFTERS D. All claims are reported to Risk Protectors for We have been approached by our liability insurance carrier (Risk Protectors) to put together a "group poli-cy" for the exhibitors. This policy would have a limit of handling

E. All purchasing of liability coverage is direct with Risk Protectors. Billing is done by Risk Protectors.

F. The premium cost is based on your sales. (All liability insurance is based on sales). Sales receipts are reported to Risk Protectors, not Mid-America Festivals, Castle Kitchens Corp. or Festivals Inc.

> Premium Charge \$250

Sales \$1 - \$5000 \$5,001 - \$10,000 \$400 \$10,001 & Over

If you are interested, please call: Bill Velin

Risk Protectors, Inc. 7801 E. Bush Lake Road Edina, MN 55435 612-835-2727

This coverage will be mandatory in the future, so it will be to your advantage to get in on the ground floor.
If you have any questions, please call Bill Velin.

putting together would have only one minimum. Therefore, the cost to each exhibitor using this master The following are features of the insurance program:

liability of \$1,000,000 for each exhibitor. The big ad-

vantage of this type of policy is that it will cut the cost

for each policyholder due to the fact that the policy will

Presently, when you purchase your own policy, each one has a "minimum premium" on it. The insurance companies will not issue a policy for less than \$400 to

\$500, even though your receipts would not generate

that much premium. A master policy such as we are

- A. The insured is covered at any Mid-America Festivals, Castle Kitchens Corp. and Festivals Inc. produced show in the United States in which you participate.
- B. The deductible is \$0.
- C. The coverage is for Comprehensive Liability (does not include property insurance). This includes Products Liability.