NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1/Issue 1/April 2018

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

John Colstad, President

Mary Dibble, Viec-President

Doris Arn, Treasuer

Ann Marie Ott, Secretary

Jim Hoesly

David Hustad

Larry Klassy

John Lienhardt

Denise Anton Wright

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the New Glarus Historical Society was held on Saturday evening, March 17 at the Chalet Landhaus. John Colstad announced the retirement of Board member Gail Beal, thanked her for her many contributions and service, and ended with a round of applause from the group. John Lienhardt was nominated by Board members to fill the vacancy left by Beal's retirement and, along with incumbent members, John Colstad, Larry Klassy and David Hustad was unanimously elected to serve a three year term.

The membership in attendance unanimously approved a proposed change to the by-laws of the Historical Society to reduce the number of Board Members from eleven to nine members.

The annual financial report was accepted by the group. Revenue exceeded 2017 expenses by $3043. Any member wishing to receive a copy of the 2017 financial report may contact Secretary Ann Marie Ott at: amott@tds.net or 608-523-4250.

Vice-president Mary Dibble provided an overview of the newly developed paid coordinator position that will be implemented this season. This new staff person will take responsibility for training and scheduling guides and cashiers, monitoring website and phone inquiries, coordinating tour groups and responding to and facilitating routine maintenance on the property.

Following dinner, attendees enjoyed a presentation by Paul Reckner, an archaeologist from the Wisconsin Historical Society who spoke about how our area, with its combination of river valleys and the upper regions of the Driftless Area, supported early peoples for thousands of years.

Recent Donations

We received two $500 donations, one from Arlene Marty in memory of John Marty and another $500 from Jan Silbaugh and Jan Freitag in memory of Judy Reuter. The funds will be used to purchase memorial benches for the grounds of the museum. In addition, we received an immigrant traveling trunk from James Binninger from Mundelein, IL who is a great-great grandson of Jakob Steussy, an early New Glarus resident.

NOVEMBER AND FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The November meeting was devoted to planning for the operations of the Museum in 2018. Key challenges identified during 2017 included:

- Difficulty finding a cashier and or guide for all of the days we are open
- Having only one staff here alone on some days and that not being safe
- Not having someone to open and close the museum on all the days we are open, when a guide is unavailable
- Having things go wrong and nobody responsible to be in charge to fix them - no maintenance staff
- No one on the Board wants to routinely schedule cashiers, guides, cleaners and openers/closers and make calls to fill in gaps for the entire season
- Lack of volunteers
- Concern for maintaining operations with current financial resources

To address some of the identified issues, the Board made the following decisions:

- Change the May schedule for visitors to be limited to scheduled group tours at any time during the month and open to the public Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend when we will begin daily operations through October 15.
- Develop a paid coordinator position and hire a person who will assume coordination responsibilities in addition to regularly scheduled shifts as a cashier and/or guide.
- Increase focus on building maintenance through the Building and Grounds Committee members and seek professional assistance, whenever necessary

We withdrew $2417 in available income from our account in the Southern Wisconsin Community Foundation Fund to support stabilization of the Log Church. The Foundation fund asset, totaling about $17,000 is not available for withdrawal. Michael Yaker, who performed the restoration work on the Settler's Cabin has agreed to begin the work, recommended by a structural engineer this Spring at an estimated cost of $3500. The stabilization work will allow us to permit visitors inside the building for tours, once the work is complete.

We were notified that our Community Foundation grant application to restore the mural and flower bed behind the Hall of History was approved in the amount of $2000.

The Board voted to continue participation in the Blue Star Museum program offering free admission for active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In addition, we will collaborate with the Chalet of the Golden Fleece to offer $1 off admission coupons.

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The March meeting of the Board of Directors focused on discussion of and action on the following topics:

- Discussed options for investment of organization assets; no decisions were made at this time
- Building maintenance and painting particularly the Hall of History, Sausage shop and Print Shop
- Recruitment of volunteers, cashiers and guides to support museum operations
- Scheduled work days for preparing the buildings, exhibits and grounds for the 2018 season
- Event planning for the 2018 season
- Adopted a formal membership policy and did not increase membership dues for 2018
- Took steps to establish an organizational email address rather than rely on Board members' personal accounts for communication with customers

NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEES 2018

Board members and current volunteers will serve on these operations committees in 2018. We hope that you will consider joining us as a volunteer! **Please contact us if you are interested or you know someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer. Call the Museum office at: 608-527-2317.**

- **Advertising**: Denise Anton-Wright, Doris Arn, Miranda O'Rourke (Coordinator)
- **Facebook**/Website: Ann Marie Ott, Denise Anton Wright, (volunteer pending recruitment)
- **Archives/Collections/Exhibits**: Mary Dibble, Ann Marie Ott, Gail Beal (volunteer)
- **Buildings and Grounds**: Larry Klassy, Dave Hustad, John Colstad, Jim Hoesly, John Lienhardt
- **Finance**: Doris Arn, Mary Dibble, John Colstad (Volunteers roles are not available for this committee)
- **Gift Shop**: Doris Arn and Gail Beal (volunteer)
- **Group Tours** – Miranda O'Rourke (Coordinator) and Gail Beal (volunteer)
- **Labor/Hiring/Volunteers**: Ann Marie Ott, Miranda O'Rourke (Coordinator), Finance Committee
- **Membership**: Ann Marie Ott
- **Newsletter**: Mary Dibble and Ann Marie Ott with printing support from the Bank of New Glarus
- **Flowers/Prairie Plot Planting and Maintenance** – Larry Klassy, Green County Master Gardener Volunteers; student volunteers
- **Genealogy Research requests** – Ann Marie Ott, Bob Elmer (volunteer), Sherry Anderegg, Green County Genealogy Society (volunteer)

COLLABORATION WITH THE NEW GLARUS PUBLIC LIBRARY

We are pleased to continue our collaboration with the staff of the New Glarus Public Library to make Historical Society materials available to the public. At the end of each calendar year, the Library will publish the Historical Society for the past year on the Genealogy and History page of its website. So if you are missing an edition of the newsletter you can access the 2016 and 2017 collection here: www.newglaruspubliclibrary.org/genealogy

IT'S A NEW LOOK FOR THE NEWSLETTER IN 2018

We hope you will enjoy the new format and look that we have adopted for the Historical Society newsletter. The newsletter will be published April through November during 2018. We welcome your feedback about each issue and suggestions for topics for articles each month. We thank the Bank of New Glarus for their support through printing the newsletter. Please consider receiving the newsletter via email, if you don't already do so, in order to reduce Historical Society expenses.

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NEW SCHEDULE FOR THE SWISS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Due to low attendance (less than 10 visitors) Mondays to Thursdays in May during 2016 and 2017 the Board of Directors developed a new scheduled for the 2018 season.

For the month of May, the museum will be open to visitors Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm until Memorial Day when the museum will begin daily operations. Group tours may be scheduled for any day in the month of May by prior arrangement. The museum will close effective October 15, but like for the month of May, group tours will be scheduled upon request and by prior arrangement through the end of October.

Contact Us

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