NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2/Issue 1/April 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS 3/31/19

John Colstad, President

Larry Klaissy, Vice-President

Doris Arn, Treasurer

Erica Loeffelholz

Mary Dibble

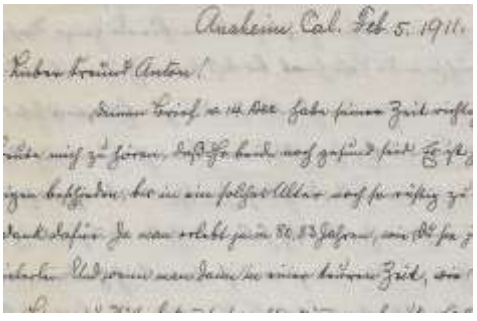
Jim Hoesly

David Hustad

John Lienhardt

Denise Anton Wright

Ann Marie Ott, Volunteer Archivist



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2019, at which time the Board will elect officers for this year.

At the annual meeting the membership voted to accept the nomination of Erica Loeffelholz to the Board. Erica replaces Ann Marie Ott, whose term expired. Ann Marie intends to continue to support the Board by assisting with publishing the newsletter, working on enhancements to the Hall of History and managing the archives. Doris Arn and Mary Dibble sought re-election and were approved.

After reviewing the attendance data for the month of May for the past several years, the Board decided to begin daily operations of the museum beginning Friday, May 24, 2019. We will accept reservations for bus tours beginning May 1. As of the time of this publication, 11 bus tours have already been scheduled for the 2019 season. In addition, the Board documented, reviewed and approved an admissions policy that continues admission prices at $9.00 per person 14 years of age and older, $3.00 for children ages 6-13 and free admission for children less than six years of age. We plan to continue to participate in the Blue Star museum program, offering free admission to active military members and their families and collaborate with the Chalet of the Golden Fleece to offer a $1.00 off coupon for admission, if an individual visits both venues.

We developed an outline for the enhancements to the Hall of History displays for 2020, presented them to the membership attending the annual meeting and secured feedback. Our next step will be to meet with museum planning consultant Brian Bigler to review the outline, obtain his input for revisions and to develop the work plan to implement the proposed changes. Please contact us if you would like to participate in this project.

Recent Donations

Member D.L. Camarigg recently donated his time and talent to translate a 1911 letter from former New Glarus resident, J.C. Zimmerman to Anton Ott after Zimmerman had moved to Anaheim, California. Both men were active in the early Swiss Reformed Church in New Glarus. The letter shares Bible passages, a brief description of life in Anaheim and the report that Zimmerman has joined a Lutheran Church in his new community.

For those who were unable to attend the annual meeting, the summary of 2018 activities of the Historical Society are reprinted below. The annual financial report was unexpectedly not available due to Treasurer, Doris Arn's health recent health issues. The financial report will be shared with the membership in the an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Membership & Board of Directors

- The New Glarus Historical Society is comprised of 16 single members, 24 couples, 9 families and 47 lifetime members (96).
- The membership approved a reduction in the number of Board members from eleven to nine members.
- Gail Beal retired from the Board and Al Lienhardt joined the Board.
- Continuing Board members were: John Colstad, Larry Klassy, Doris Arn, Denise Anton-Wright, Jim Hoesly, David Hustad, Ann Marie Ott, and Mary Dibble.
- Board of Directors Officers for 2018: John Colstad, President, Mary Dibble and most recently Larry Klassy, Vice-President, Doris Arn, Treasurer, Ann Marie Ott, Secretary

Financial (Doris Arn, John Colstad)

- We received monetary donations of more than $20 from: Emy Gartzke, Kris and Penny Kubly, and the families of John Marty and Judy Reuter, Joe Bloom, Daniel Duerst, Barbara Nelson, Kim Tschudy, Joe and Pat Krantz, and the New Glarus School District PTO, D.L. Camarigg, Nancy Luton, and Pete and Sherri Weix.
- Museum visitors made voluntary donations to support the log building restoration projects totaling $193.00.
- Received two grants from the Community Foundation to hire a consultant to support improvements to Hall of History exhibits and to purchase dress forms for costume and clothing displays. The grants total $2295.00

Events (Board of Directors & Volunteers)

- Annual meeting was held in March 2018 with a presentation by Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologist, Paul Reckner
- New Glarus School District teacher, Amy Legler brought summer school students to the museum schoolhouse for a week in June providing visitors a glimpse of rural school activities.
- We hosted a "meet the artist" event in July showcasing the new mural painted by Emida Roller.
- The 59th Annual Commemorative Church service was held August 11. Reverend Petra Streiff conducted the service with music by the New Glarus Yodel Club, which was accompanied by Shirley Lueschow using a keyboard provided by Sandy Colstad. Proceeds from the voluntary collection were given to the Green Cares Food Pantry.
- Harvest Fest was attended by 239 individuals, including 53 members, coming to the grounds of the Swiss Historical Village Museum despite continuous rain throughout the day of the event.

Buildings and Grounds (Larry Klassy, Dave Hustad, John Colstad, Jim Hoesly, Al Lienhardt)

- Restoration work on the Log Church was completed by Michael Yaker, doing business as *Wood Joiners* with assistance from local resident and craftsman, Keith Rockett. The church was reopened to allow guided tours.
- New Glarus High School students cleaned the grounds in April with volunteer support from Roseann Ott and also helped organize materials in the archive as part of the School District Community Service Day.
- Larry Klassy ensured flowers were watered, trimmed, grounds mowed and plantings maintained throughout the season. Green County Master Gardener Volunteer Mary Nelson grew perennial plants and donated them for planting on the grounds.
- The exterior of the Hall of History was painted by Coplien Painting and a minor roof repair was completed in the fall.
- Several dead ash trees were removed from the grounds.

Advertising (Denise Anton Wright, Doris Arn)
Website/Facebook (Ann Marie Ott/Denise Anton Wright)

- The cooperative coupon project between the Swiss Historical Village and the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, initiated in 2014, continued in 2018 with visitors receiving $1 discount when purchasing an adult admission to either venue.
- For the eighth year we have offered active military personnel and their families' free tours from Memorial Day through Labor Day in alignment with the national Blue Star museum program guidelines.
- Casey's and the UB&T Bank supported our advertising efforts through financial contributions.
- Our Facebook presence grew from 370 to over 500 followers during 2018.
- A segment of Around the Corner with John McGivern featuring New Glarus was filmed at the museum for presentation on Wisconsin Public Television in January.
- Advertising venues included: New Glarus Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide, AAA, Hidden Valleys Visitor Guide, Green County Visitor Guide, Driftless Explorer Visitor Guide and numerous press releases in area newspapers throughout the season.
- Wes Morgan of Spoken Frame Media filmed a video for Facebook advertising in 2019. The filming was paid for by the New Glarus Chamber of Commerce as a membership benefit.

- We collaborated with the Monroe Evening Times to provide photos and text for the Times' "Celebrating our Past" feature including photos of New Glarus' 70th anniversary celebration, the Swiss United Church of Christ and milk delivery to PET Milk.

Archives and Collections (Mary Dibble, Ann Marie Ott)

- Artifacts (too numerous to mention in this summary) were made by local and out of the area residents. Specific items are listed in the 2018 monthly newsletters.
- Planning is in progress to review and update displays in the Hall of History in 2019 for the 175th anniversary of the founding of New Glarus in 2020.

Museum Operations

Gift Shop (Gail Beal, Doris Arn), Staffing &Volunteers (Miranda O'Rourke, Ann Marie Ott), Group Tours (Miranda O'Rourke, Gail Beal, Ann Marie Ott), Newsletter (Mary Dibble, Ann Marie Ott)

- Implemented a paid coordinator position with Miranda O'Rourke assuming that role and related responsibilities.
- Guides included: Steve Gmur, Peter Etter, Larry Klassy, Ann Marie Ott, Marie Pagel, Lucas Thelen, Miranda O'Rourke and Stephanie Janssen.
- Cashiers included: Gail Beal, Ann Marie Ott, LouAnn Bodenmann, Philomena Hanna, Denise Anton Wright and Miranda O'Rourke.
- A computer and printer was purchased with financial support from Kim Tschudy and a Historical Society email account was established.
- Museum attendance was 4560 individuals representing tourists from Switzerland as well as 21 other foreign countries, all states in the U.S. except Hawaii, Vermont and West Virginia and 50 of 72 counties in the State of WI. Twenty-two tour groups, (the same number of groups as in 2017) including adults and children visited the museum.
- The newsletter was published with support from the Bank of New Glarus from April through November and we noted an increase in the number of electronic deliveries which reduces mailing costs.
- Collaborated with Erica Loeffelholz and the New Glarus Public Library to provide public access to the Historical Society newsletter.

Appreciation

We acknowledge the efforts of and thank the following individuals:

- New Glarus High School Students for raking and clearing the grounds and organizing archive materials.
- Brownie Troop 7531 and its leader, Carrie Czerwonka for adopting the Schoolhouse and helping with exhibit maintenance.
- Mary Nelson, Green County Master Gardener for growing and donating annual and perennial plants to enhance the grounds.
- Member Rebecca Forbes for assisting with planting flowers in the spring and with archives projects.
- Baus Heating for donating a used furnace to replace the one in the entrance building.
- Roger Clark for repairs to Blacksmith Shop and assistance with installation of the mural on the Hall of History.
- Bob Elmer, who continues to assist with genealogy requests made to the Historical Society.
- Sherry Anderegg and representatives of the Green County Genealogy Society for supporting genealogy research requests.
- Kim Tschudy for assisting with inquiries about local history and a printing press and other materials for use at Harvest Fest.
- The many volunteer demonstrators, performers and helpers that braved the rain and made Harvest Fest a success!

Do You Know?

Do you know the history of the New Glarus High School yearbook or annual? The very first yearbook was published in 1917 and was titled the *Old Guard*, which later became the name of the school newspaper. No yearbook was published again until 1942 when the *N.G. Review* made an appearance. Another break in publication took place and in 1946 the tradition was renewed. In this year, a contest was held to name the yearbook and Senior class member, Don Jenson's submission, *The Glarian* was chosen. *The Glarian* has been published regularly since that time. The school district maintains electronic copies of nearly all editions on its district website. The availability of this material is a great way to take a trip down memory lane and may help you with family history research, too.
http://www.ngsd.k12.wi.us/district_information/district_information/history_and_alumni/the_glarian_yearbooks

New Glarus History Milestone

Congratulations to the New Glarus High School Boys Basketball team for making a milestone in New Glarus history by winning the Division 4, State Championship!

Contact Us

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We thank the Bank of New Glarus for their support in publishing the New Glarus Historical Society newsletter.

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