NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2/Issue 2/May 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To be Determined, President

Larry Kla1ssy, Vice-President

Doris Arn, Treasurer

Erica Loeffelholz, Secretary

Mary Dibble

Jim Hoesly

David Hustad

John Lienhardt

Denise Anton Wright

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board elected its new officers for 2019 at its April meeting and are listed at the left, with the office of President pending at the time of the printing of this newsletter.

Erica Loeffelholz was newly elected to the Board of Directors at the March annual meeting. Erica is the Assistant Director of the New Glarus Public Library and was a Docent at the Wisconsin Historical Society's Pendarvis museum site in Mineral Point in her youth. Erica will also become a member of the Board's Collections and Exhibits Committees.

Mary Dibble volunteered to initially supervise our museum Coordinator, Miranda O'Rourke who is returning to this position for her second season. Mary will also support Miranda in ensuring the museum is ready for operations and that cashiers and guides are scheduled beginning Friday, May 24 for the season.

Hall of History project committee members Mary Dibble and Ann Marie Ott spent time with Duane Freitag during April to secure input for the project and also met with Brian Bigler, Exhibit Project Consultant during the last week of April. Duane provided a preview of his book on the early years of New Glarus and Brian reviewed the outline developed for the project and will work with us to complete a project inventory for planning purposes in the coming weeks.

Recent Donations

Robert "Buzz" Holland donated some of his personal Wilhelm Tell Play memorabilia including photographs, programs, scripts and correspondence from various years. See Buzz pictured at the left in a photo from the collection that he donated to the Historical Society. The photo depicts the iconic "Rütli" scene of the Wilhelm Tell Play. We also thank new Board member Erica Loeffelholz for scanning slides of the Tell Play from the Historical Society collection, in order to preserve the images in a digital format.

The 2018 end of the year financial report presented and approved by the Board of Directors at its April meeting is provided to you below. Please send any questions or comments to the Board at: admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org

Swiss Historical Village

P.O. Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574
(608) 527-2317

Museum Location
612 Seventh Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31.2018

BALANCE, DECEMBER 31.2017			$ 159,180.07
INCOME			
ADMISSION		35,524.67	
MISC. SALES		8,072.91	
FOOD+SODA		2,612.04	
ROYALTY, TSCHUDY		94.97	
MEMORIALS		1,945.00	
DONATIONS		2,081.02	
BUILDING FUND, JAR		274.60	
MEMBERSHIP		2,300.00	
SALES TAX		429.80	
COM. FOUNDATION GRANT		4,212.98	
INTEREST/CHECKING		144.58	
INTEREST/CD		518.81	
		$ 58,211.38	$ 58,211.38
			$ 217,391.45
EXPENSES			
PARMITS, BOX RENT, AASLH+CHAMBER DUES		781.00	
DONATIONS+MEMORIALS		131.04	
BANQUET		1,085.60	
LIGHT, WATER+GAS		5,065.34	
TELEPHONE*ALARM		1,327.77	
INSURANCE		3,788.00	
VILLAGE GARBAGE COLLECTION+SNOW REMOVAL		416.90	
WIND RIVER, MASTER, VISA CHR.		978.11	
WEBSITE, DOOMA		134.96	
ADVERTISING		790.51	
POSTAGE		569.60	
HALL OF HISTORY, PAINT, ROOF REPAIR, ELECTRICAL UP		6,137.46	
FURNACE USED, DONATED BY BAUSCH, LABOR ONLY		888.50	
MOWER REPAIR		379.99	
MISC. SALES, BOOKS		5,024.42	
FOOD*SODA		1,583.43	
EXTERMINATOR, FIRE EXT.+SERVICE		875.29	
RO CLEANING		1,828.25	
MISC. SUPPLIES		1,089.29	
PRINTER+COMPUTER		784.95	
WALL MURAL HALL OF HISTORY		780.00	
BENCHES, MARTY+REUTER		1,620.00	
CHURCH REPAIR		3,700.00	
TREE TRIM		1,900.00	
FLOWERS+ YARD		1,528.12	
TAXES 2017		560.00	
SOXIAL SECURITY		2,937.23	
LABOR: OFFICE+GUIDES		16,913.79	
MOWING		332.47	
		$ 63,931.94	$ - 63,931.94
			$ 153,459.51
SAVINGS	$ 100.40		
CD/BNG	15,373.80		
CD/BNG	20,000.00		
CD/UB+T	60,000.00		
SASH IN CHECKING	57,985.31		
BALANCE 12-31-2018	$ 153,459.51		
12-31-2017			

Doris Arn

American Legion Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

This is the centennial year of the non-profit Veterans' organization called the American Legion which includes 13,000 Posts worldwide, one for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Phillipines. Here in New Glarus, the Steussy-Kuenzi Post #141 is also celebrating its 100th anniversary.

World War I had a sobering impact on the United States of America, its men and families, and brought growing concerns about overall morale in this country. A group of officers who had served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France proposed the Legion Post concept as a means to address the concerns. The first organizational caucus convened in March 2019 with 1000 men attending the event. Among the group of AEF officers was Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. whose support helped lead to the official charter of the American Legion by Congress in September 1919.

The American Legion's mission as a patriotic organization for Veterans is "devoted to mutual helpfulness, mentoring youth" and "dependent on membership participation and volunteerism worldwide." This mission appealed to many across the country and the membership quickly grew in the early years to more than a million individuals. As soon as November 1919, the first American Legion convention met in Minneapolis, Minnesota where attendees voted to locate the national headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana and also passed a resolution to support the Boy Scouts of America. The already large membership set to influencing policy and focusing volunteer efforts on supporting veterans across the nation which resulted in the creation of the United States Veterans Bureau, now known as the Veteran's Administration.

The first, individual Post was created in Washington, D. C. and named after General John Pershing, the commander of the AEP on the Western Front during WWI. In our area, the New Glarus Post newspaper reported the establishment of a Legion Post in Edgerton in September 1919, the month in which the national organization was chartered. An announcement in the newspaper on September 25, 1919 invited Veterans to attend an organization meeting in Monroe and it was noted in the October edition that "a good meeting was held in Monroe with several New Glarus men in attendance."

However, by December, New Glarus Veterans set to establishing their own Legion Post. On December 11, 1919, the New Glarus newspaper reported that the Legion Post had been organized as the second in Green County with Monroe preceding New Glarus by only a few weeks.

Twenty-five members signed up to join the New Glarus group, agreeing to follow the American Legion Constitution and to meet on the second Monday of each month. The first officers of the local organization included: Post Commander Leo Gmur, Vice-Commander John Syvrud, Adjutant Dewey Hilton, Historian Arthur Theiler, Master-at-Arms Thomas Disch and Chaplain Robert E. Wittwer. The groups' initial business meeting concluded with plans to host a dance on New Year's Eve to raise money for the new organization. The Post was originally named after Walter Stuessy who died during WWI just days before the November 1918 armistice. The name was later changed to the Stuessy-Kuenzi Post after the death of Sergeant Otto Kuenzi during WWII in Belgium, where he remains buried today.

These local leaders and the other original members of Stuessy-Kuenzi Post #141 joined the national ranks of Veterans working in the 1920s to lobby Congress to provide adequate funding for Veterans' benefits, drafting a flag code and developing its American Legion Baseball program. Other programs promoted nationally and locally have included Boys State, to help educate youth about the workings of government, the GI Bill of Rights and support to the American Heart Association. Today, nearly 2,000,000 members continue their work to promote patriotism through community service. To learn more about The American Legion's history and contributions, as well as those of its Auxiliary visit this website: https://www.legion.org/history

Attention All Members

Please consider providing us with your email address so that we can send you an electronic version of the Historical Society Newsletter. The electronic option saves paper, volunteer time for mailing preparation and most importantly, postage costs. If you are willing to receive the newsletter via email, please send your email address to: admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org

Thank you for considering this request to make the switch!

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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