

Sauk County Historical Society
Executive Director's Report to the Board of Directors
For March 15, 2010

First of all, let me thank you all for the warm welcome to your community and the opportunity to get to know you, your friends and Sauk County. I look forward to working with you in your mission to protect, preserve and effectively share the treasures of your county's history. Over the last few weeks I've had a chance to meet some of you. I've gotten a peek at your house and its exceptional collections even if some of them are boxed or wrapped on a shelf. I hope to meet with each of you soon to learn from your perspective how we can best work together.

While my personal history grounds me in Wisconsin's Ozaukee and Washington counties, my immigrant German family settled along the Milwaukee River to farm as many of your people did here. The soft soil, temperate climate and the company of other Germans who settled earlier made the hard work of putting down roots in a new country manageable. Even my memory holds moments palpable with sweat and warm lemonade as well as raucous celebrations with hard, thumping music and sweet smells of cake and beer!

While looking back grounds us and connects us to each other, it also prepares us for the future, to personally finding our unique role in the universe and making way for our families and descendants to learn from our mistakes and build upon our successes. With this in mind, then, let us together move forward.

Paul, Mark and Joan have sketched for me the historical essence of the Society and its current financial situation. I appreciate their time and patience as I get up to speed and ask repeated questions. Bill has provided me a binder with basic board, bylaws and business communications. I've talked with staff and hope to continue direct, honest dialogue with them.

The Fundraising Committee met to discuss operational and History Center funding needs. We have work to do. We must approach fundraising for the History Center succinctly and with one mind. Our message must be clear and necessary. Hesitancy by any of you will be read by the public and potential donor as lacking conviction in the purpose and plans of the Center. It will compromise our goals before we have begun. Capital fundraising, especially in this economic climate, is always challenging. You, as a Board, must agree to its timing, its direction and its success.

Funding for organizational operations may not be dire, but is certainly no less important. Borrowing from endowment funds is a slippery slope and can be a difficult trend to reverse. It is easily interpreted by the public or members as poor management. It is imperative that the board review its program, projects and events. Agree to a minimalistic course of action rather than to overdraw your resources. Don't spend your membership dollars or pledges until they are in the bank. I have experienced this before and the results were unfortunate for board, staff and ultimately, the organization.

I hope I don't put you off the mark with my direct style. And if my preliminary perceptions are wrong, I won't mind being corrected. I don't want to rain on your parade, but I'd rather see a doll house on a child's wagon than an intricate float set behind a tractor waiting on the side of the road for fuel.

I see my role at SCHS as facilitator to the program of work established by the Board of Directors. My decisions related to staff and resource management must sufficiently and economically support day-to-day operations of the house, membership communications and community outreach initiatives. My position is as an advisor to the Board. I will report my findings and make recommendations.

My focus moving forward is to:

- Continue to meet with individual board members for background and insight
- Regularly meet with committees to plan and determine action
- Help staff to define and align their tasks with the Board's policies and goals
- Safeguard and maintain financial and personnel records
- Assist with fundraising endeavors set by the Board of Directors
- Broaden membership into the business sector of Sauk County

This is a broad and varied program as well as an ambitious one for a part time position. I encourage your review and direction in setting priorities and benchmarks. I hope for your continued involvement in the operations of the house, identification and training of volunteers, protection of collections and communication with the public and each other.

I am excited to get started. Thank you for your guidance and perspective. I hope we will be partners through SCHS for a long time and claim a future that is greater than we imagine today!

Submitted by Kathy Gosewehr
3/8/2010

**CURATOR'S REPORT
MARCH 2010**

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

EDUCATION

- SCI continued at East School
- Presented short presentation at East School on our Paleo-Indian artifacts.
- Confirmed SCI program for LaValle School.

EXHIBITS

- Continued research for current exhibits.
- Began installation of a temporary exhibit in the fourth bedroom featuring hats from our vast collection.
- Oversaw installation of the St. Patrick's Day card exhibit on the upstairs landing.

COLLECTIONS

- Worked with Destinee Udelhoven from Indian Agency House to pull artifacts for an exhibit she is doing this summer.
- Continued working on numbering and sorting collection.
- Began analyzing artifact conservation needs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Confirmed Sherman Funmaker as our speaker in April. He will be speaking on the Ho-Chunk. He has not given me the actual topic of his talk yet, however his grandmother had a book written about her (*Mountain Wolf Woman*) and he may be speaking on that.
- Met with Bill and Bob D. to plan the museum garden this year.
- Made poster for photo contest.

OTHER

- Will meet with the museum committee.
- Finished writing a grant for a partnership with Imperial Multimedia to put our SCI program on touch screen computers for county schools to use.
- Continued bill paying and deposits. This process has recently been turned over to Kathy.

Submitted by Sue Teska

3/9/10

Report to the Board from Mary Farrell Stieve

March 2010

Visitor tally for Feb	2010	2009
Adults	32	31
Children	4	4
Researchers	17	17
Volunteers	56	35
Emails received	97	
Emails sent	103	

Special event tally Feb

No special events

Work since last board meeting

Archive management

Continued work on cataloging photo collection

Worked with volunteers on how to index the scanned newspaper clippings

Accessioned some donations.

Accepted some donations

Trained volunteers to begin cataloging Devils Lake files and index subject headings for Outline Sketches

Worked with volunteers on new cataloging system for newspapers and how to transfer from old to new numbers smoothly

Special events

Tour of Historic Homes – called for sponsors, emailed volunteers, attended meetings,

Gave tour to Baraboo High School history club and talked to them about ways they could help us and we could help them.

Research

Worked with researchers on: Almy, Skillet Creek township, Wright, Reislahnd, high school yearbooks, mining artifacts,

Researched accession information for artifacts that may be loaned to Historic Indian Agency House

Contributed archive material to a new museum exhibit

Office management

Daily, weekly tally sheets

Backed up laptops and main computer to server shared drive.

Ordered Indian Mounds of Sauk County from John Broihan

Worked with John Bennin setting up the new computer for my area, new server for the network, printer server and another new laptop

Retrieved data on memberships, visitors, local city maps, research, and several other items for new director