



AITKIN COUNTY HISTORY & ANECDOTES

Volume 27, Issue 3 Summer 2020



History cannot
give us a
program for the
future, but it can
give us a fuller
understanding of
ourselves, and of
our common
humanity, so that
we can better
face the future.

~Robert Penn
Warren



COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING
THE HISTORY OF AITKIN COUNTY,
NOW AND FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS

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OPEN HOURS

October-April
Wednesday-Friday
10am-4pm

May-September
Wednesday-Saturday
10am-4pm



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**ACHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CURRENT MEMBERS**

Cheryl Meld, Interim President, Term: 2018-2021

Laura Thornbloom, Secretary, Term: 2018-2021

Kirk Peysar, Interim Treasurer, Term: 2019-2022

John Hendrickson, Term: 2018-2020

Roxy Appel Wigton, Term: 2019-2022

Mark Wedel, County Commissioner Liaison

**ACHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PROPOSED MEMBERS**

- John Hendrickson will renew his term on the Board for a further 2 years, 2020-2022.

In lieu of an Annual Meeting, the ACHS is sending this special issue of the ACHS newsletter to our membership for the election of new Board of Trustees members. To have your vote count, tick the boxes below for your choices and return the form to:

Aitkin County Historical Society
P.O. Box 215
Aitkin, MN 56431

ACHS Board of Trustees Election Ballot

John Hendrickson	

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From the Acting President

Greetings to all friends of the Aitkin County Historical Society,

I am writing this message to you in my capacity as acting President, a role necessitated by the resignation of ACHS President Jennie Hakes. We have also experienced the resignation of Colleen Bremner as treasurer. These two resignations have reduced the size of our board, creating a need for board member recruitment as well as requiring all remaining board members to share greater responsibility for organizational tasks.

As summer has progressed the impact of COVID 19 virus has touched the lives and livelihoods of many people and businesses in our County. The ACHS and Depot Museum are included in this group. Working as a team, the ACHS Board of Directors and Administrator, Heidi Gould, have together weighed many factors to determine a best course for the organization. As much as we would love to have the museum open and operating to the extent possible, we have decided to remain closed for the entire year 2020 and use the next several months to focus on creating new exhibits and complete much needed building maintenance. Our Grand Re-opening can be anticipated with excitement and curiosity! No date has been set yet, but members will be among the first to know when plans are underway.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Hello Members! I sometimes still feel like I am getting my feet wet and learning the ins and outs of ACHS. However, some milestone projects have been completed or are in progress. The Conditions Assessment Grant is progressing. The first site visit occurred in June, with the next coming in July. Final report and guidelines is due in October. This final report is a necessary guideline for any future repair and/or restoration of the Depot, as the structure is on the National Register of Historic Places.

I am working on organizational documents and procedures. One project completed was getting the ACHS a logo, now featured on Facebook and all marketing materials. I recently submitted a large grant draft for a complete Collections inventory. After getting feedback and guidance, the final grant will be submitted later this month. Fingers crossed!

The inaugural Annual Fund Drive letter was mailed to the membership in April. This will become part of our yearly fundraising calendar, along with more local/on-site events like the Garage Sale, Cookie Walk, and Raffle. The Annual Fund will allow our non-local members opportunities to contribute and support the ACHS in coming years.

You may have seen on the website or Facebook pages, but the Board and I made the tough decision to close for the remainder of 2020. We will miss our summer visitors, but having already been closed, it seemed a good opportunity for a behind-the-scenes overhaul. Updating collections storage, records, exhibits, and coming back with a fresh new museum in 2021.

As always, we are looking for volunteers for a number of projects—gardener, collections, digitizing and library work. If you know any young adults or teens, college students, they are also encouraged to volunteer and intern!

2	Cash, savings, and investments	91,305	22	81,635
3	Land and buildings	46,852	23	46,852
4	Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	52,974	24	30,592
5	Total assets	191,131	25	159,079
6	Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)	19,993	26	582
7	Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	171,138	27	158,497

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III ☒

See Schedule O

Expenses
(Required for section
501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)
organizations; optional for
others.)

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐ 28a 33,632

9

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐ 29a

0

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐ 30a

1 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐ 31a

2	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)	32	33,632
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Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

[illegible]

Thank you to all ACHS Donors, New and Renewing Members May-July 2020

New and Renewing Members

Barbara Kane
Mike & Darla Wayrynen
J. Mark Wedel
Gary C. Reiter
Dave & Sue Benson
Gravelle Plumbing &
Heating
Elaine Hill
Marion Gilmer
Ken & Charlotte Johnson
Lael Carlstrom
Noel & Alma Bailey
Phyllis Morris
Judy Ryan
Bryan & Karen McGinnis
Dennis & Laurel Lamke
Robert & Doris Harder
James Gustavson
Larry & Lynn Foote
Fay Closuit Morris
Mille Lacs Energy Coop
Lu Leistiko
Robert & Janice Kolodji
Katherine Ella
Doris Doty
Gary Reiter
Bob Wickman
Carol Wermter
Peter Wallis, Jr.
Annette Von Bargaen
Ted Landgren
Dorothy Insley
David & Sharon Cooper
Richard Burman

Kurt & Cathy Buhlmann
Tom & Pam Brand
Butch (Harold) Tibbetts
Betty Young
Gary Tibbitts
Gary & Gloria Rogers
Barbara Monnier
Richard Lowe
Richard & Lorraine
Liljenquist
Gary Jacobson
Christine & Gary Hedberg
William Gabrio
Ron Fox & Carol Thamert
Roberta & Glenn Elvecrog
Fred & Beverly Donner
Sara & Clint (Tim)
Beckstrand
Betty Pasell
Ron Kemmett
Ross & Vicki Wagner
Rick & Kim Liljenquist
(R&K Cabinets)
Vern Peterson
Bill Bradlich
Bob Shields
Dr. Paul Kuiken
Christine Bailey
Sandy Lake
John Doherty
Ardys & Gus Carlstrom
Allen County Public Library
Anne Marcotte
Terry & Wendy Johnson
Sorenson, Root, Thompson
Funeral Home

Zola Thompson
Aitkin Motor Company

Donors-General
Lakeside Township
City of Aitkin
Beaver Township

Donors- Annual Fund Drive

Michelle Block
Barbara Monnier
Vern Peterson
Christine Bailey
Carolyn Kuechle
Paul & Rose Boucher
Bremer Bank- Aitkin
John & Joyce Grimsbo
Allen Peterson
Gordon Prickett
Harold & Mary Larson
Jill Stebbins
Richard & Beverly Burman
Bryan & Marilyn Johnson
Allen Renstrom
Terry & Wendy Johnson
Dennis & Laurel Lamke
Sara Beckstrand
Donald Marpe
Rich & Lorraine Liljenquist
Elaine Hill
Byron & Diane Schlagel
Hasskamp Bros. Well
Drilling
Virginia Van Horn
Lu Leistiko
Phyllis Morris

Ken Johnson
MyRene Magdsick
Donald McKay
Shirley Davies
Sue & Dave Benson
Robert Kolodji
Jerry & Joan Thompson
Dirk Murphy
Maggie Mackaman
Arnold Alanen
Sally Prill
Russell & Mary Peterson
Carol Wermter
Robert & Marjorie Wold
Dr. John & Diane Newstrom
Mary (Cordy) Strand
Mike & Darla Wayrynen
Stanley Doten
Dick & Luanne Beyreuther
Julie Hansen
Ronald White
Larry & Lynn Foote
Gary Tibbitts
Erik Svenkerud
Goble's Sewer Service
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Barb Spaeth
Joe & Cindy Walz
Bob Wickman
Sharon & David Cooper
Valerie Narr
Clara Dahle

thank you!

2020 Memorial Donations May-July

Monica Westerlund, in memory of Al & Elvina Westerlund and son Allan

Aitkin County Historical Society
20 Pacific St. SW
P.O. Box 215
Aitkin, MN 56431
www.aitkincohs.org
(218)927-3348

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP ____ new ____ renewal

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Senior (over 60)	\$7.50
Life	\$200.00
Business or Club	\$30.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Amount Enclosed: _____

☐ I would like to receive the newsletter via email instead of US mail

☐ I am interested in volunteering

☐ Make checks payable to: AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL or ACHS

Mail check and application to: **Aitkin County Historical Society**
P.O. Box 215
Aitkin, MN 56431

Board of Directors:

TBD, *President*

Cheryl Meld, Tamarack, *VP*

Laura Thornbloom, Aitkin, *Secretary*

TBD, *Treasurer*

John Hendrickson, Aitkin

Kirk Peysar, Aitkin

Roxy Wigton, Aitkin

Mark Wedel, Aitkin,

County Commissioner Liaison

Staff

Heidi Gould, Aitkin

Administrator

achs@aitkincohs.org

If it's time to renew your yearly membership, or you know someone who should be a member, use this handy form.

If you are unsure of your member renewal date, please call (218)927-3348 or email achs@aitkincohs.org