

Sibley County Historical Society Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

(Postponed from January 22 because of bad weather.)

Attendance: The meeting was called to order by President Joy Cohrs at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Joy Cohrs, Diane Fredin, Tom Frauendienst, Verne Schlueter, Del Quast, Alice Strobel, and Becky Briggs. Absent: Shirley Black and Holly Harjes.
Guest: Ruth Ann Buck.

Presentation by Ruth Ann Buck: Ruth Ann presented information about her suggested county fair topic. After discussion, it was decided to not use that topic this year. Verne's suggestion of "Transportation" will be used.

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Verne and seconded by Tom. Passed.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the December 11, 2025 minutes was made by Alice, seconded by Diane. Passed. From now on, Joy will mail hard copies to those board members without email.

Treasurer's Report: The January 2026 Treasurer's report was reviewed. It was noted a lot of memberships had come in.

On a related topic, Diane asked about continuing to send newsletters to people who have not recently paid for a membership. It was decided to drop those whose memberships have gone unpaid since 2022 and 2023.

Motion to approve made by Diane, seconded by Alice. Passed.

Old Business:

1. Grant update: Because of a computer glitch, the grant application to pay for construction drawings could not be submitted. We will need to wait until the next cycle begins in April to submit to MNHS.
2. Joy and Verne attended the presentation made by Ken Seeman at the Winthrop museum. It was entertaining and interesting. Joy would like to use a video of the interview as the program for the annual meeting. Diane will ask the man who is now running the business to attend the meeting and give us an update.
3. Joy made a phone call to Charles Meyer to thank him for his December donation. Charles sent his thanks to all SCHS volunteers.

New Business:

1. The annual audit was conducted by Tom, Joy, and Becky. Everything looked OK.

2. The SCHS annual meeting will be held Sunday, April 26, 2026. Joy reported on the venues she checked with. It was decided to hold the meeting at the River Bottom Tavern in Henderson. We will charge \$20 for the meal. Any additional costs will be covered by Charles Meyer's donation money. Motion made by Alice, seconded by Becky. Passed.
3. There was discussion about the negatives from Gaylord photographers Duane Thiele, Jack Schuster, and William Wetmore which are stored in the Government Room. As far as anyone knows, there have been no inquiries about ordering reprints. Even so, the consensus was to not toss the negatives, but keep them. The display committee would like to put the space to better use and asked about moving the negatives elsewhere. Joy will talk to the display committee.

Meeting Odds and Ends:

- The Sibley County Senior Expo will be held April 9 at the Arlington Community Center. SCHS will not be a sponsor, but will reserve a full table for \$50. Diane and Joy will staff the table. We will have books for sale and some artifacts on display. A motion was made by Becky to use Charles Meyer's donation money to buy lunch tickets for Diane and Joy. Second by Alice. Passed.
- The Henderson Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an annual meeting evening. The plan is for multiple entities to hold their annual meetings then. The hope is that people who are members of more than one organization will have to use only one evening of their time. SCHS will not participate, as our annual meeting must be held on the 4th Sunday of April.
- Tom asked if we should again contract with Spring Touch to do spring yard care (4 applications for \$500). Diane moved we go ahead with that, seconded by Alice. Passed.
- Diane made a booklet about the log cabin and printed several copies. It was decided if they are put on the table in the dining room we should charge \$2 per copy.
- A Henderson police officer stopped by and informed the Thursday volunteers that SCHS is responsible for clearing the three steps at the bottom of the sidewalk going up to the school. There was some discussion, but no course of action was determined. Joy shoveled the snow that was present that day.

Adjourn: Verne motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alice. Passed.

Adjournment was about 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Briggs, substituting for Shirley Black