

Sibley County Historical Society

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Hahn's Dining – Winthrop MN

April 23, 2023

Please see the attached list of attendees.

SCHS T-Shirts and the book "Bits and Pieces" were sold for \$5.00/piece.

Steve Briggs took photos during the event.

Board Members present: Diane Fredin, Becky Briggs, Holly Harjes, Tom Frauendienst, Michael Reinhardt, Verne Schlueter, Shirley Black

After the dinner, Vice President Diane Fredin **called the meeting to order** at 12:55 pm.

Diane provided an **introduction** of all board members. Joy Cohrs, the SCHS president is on a trip to Ireland and was unable to attend. All other board members were introduced.

2022 Audited Year-End Treasurer's Report: A copy was provided to all attendees in a booklet handed out to all. There were no questions for Tom. A motion was made by board member Holly Harjes to accept the 2022 Audited Year-End Treasurer's Report. This was seconded by Board Member Shirley Black. Passed by a show of hands.

2022 Secretary's report from April 24, 2022 Annual Meeting: A copy was provided to all attendees in a booklet handed out to all. There were no questions for Shirley. SCHS society member Karen Klenk made a motion to accept the secretary minutes as written. Board Member Becky Briggs second the motion. Passed by a show of hands.

Shirley informed the group that monthly meeting minutes, once approved by the board, are on the SCHS website.

2022 Curator Report – Sharon Haggemiller: Sharon provided a summary and updates.

- 15 items went through the curator process.
- Sharon read an invitation from McLeod Co Historical Society. It is the 2nd Annual Woopie Fest.
 - Join us on Thursday, May 4, for a fun filled evening of Polka Music and Authentic German cuisine. Doors open at 5:30pm. Music begins around 7pm, and food/beer is served while supplies last. Chuck Thiel and the Jolly Ramblers will be performing live. We will be serving sausage, German sauerkraut, German style potato salad, and rye bread. Each meal comes with one free glass of root beer. There will also be domestic beer on site (21+). Admission to the event is free. The meal cost is \$15 per plate, with the option of additional sausage for \$2. Lederhosen is optional!

Sharon read a fun entertaining piece from Rommie Peterson called "Bureaucracies".

By [W. J. Mencarow](#)

- *The U.S. standard railroad gauge — the distance between the rails — is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That’s a strange number.*
Why was that gauge used? Because that’s the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the US railroads.
Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that’s the gauge they used.
Why did they use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.
Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that’s the spacing of the wheel ruts.
So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.
And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.
Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.
The U.S. standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman Army war chariot.
Bureaucracies live forever.
So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder ‘What horse’s ass came up with this?, you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman Army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses.

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah

The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory runs through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses’ behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world’s most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago — by the width of a horse’s ass.

2022 Museum Statistics - Marie Main:

1. 69 Students and 3 teachers visited in 2022.
2. Open 22 Sundays
3. 14 Guides
4. Visitors from TN, FL, CA, NB, CANADA, WY AND WA.
5. 178 visitors in 2022 (down 20 from 2021)
6. Volunteer hours: 1, 800 (not including the Sibley County Fair Hours).

Marie asked for volunteers and provided a summary of opportunities.

On May 12th another school tour will be occurring. There will be 88 kids plus teachers. Volunteers were requested for this event. Plan is to be at the museum by 8:30 am for 2 hours.

The following volunteered for this event:

1. Lowell Nagel
2. Diane Fredin

3. Barbara Boisen

2023 Museum Displays – Arlene Busse:

Arlene presented the 2023 Display – The Poehler Family.

Arlene brought a part of the display – the 1905 Baptism Dress of James Armin Poehler. Arlene read the Baptism article from the Henderson paper – which described the baptism, the venue and the people who attended. The dress was on a doll which Arlene gave us the details on. The doll and dress were taken around the room so that all in attendance were able to view it.

It was brought up that it was Arlene’s birthday, and the entire attendance sang Happy Birthday to Arlene.

2022 Ostrom Unidentified Photos- Becky Briggs:

1. In 2022 – 19 photos were identified.
2. In 2023 – thus far 8 photos have been identified.
3. Becky Briggs provided a thank you to Ruth Klossner. Ruth gets the photos ready for the papers.
4. There are 200+ photos unidentified.

New Business:

Nominations for open Board Member; Vice President Diane Fredin called for nominations/volunteers for the open Board Director at Large. One nomination/volunteer came forth – Del Quast.

Del Quast accepted the nomination. Motion was made by Tom Frauendienst to accept Del as the next board director member. This was second by Holly Harjes. Passed by a show of hands.

Door Prizes – Holly Harjes: Everyone in attendance had their name in for the door prizes. The door prize was the light up display of the museum.

Winners:

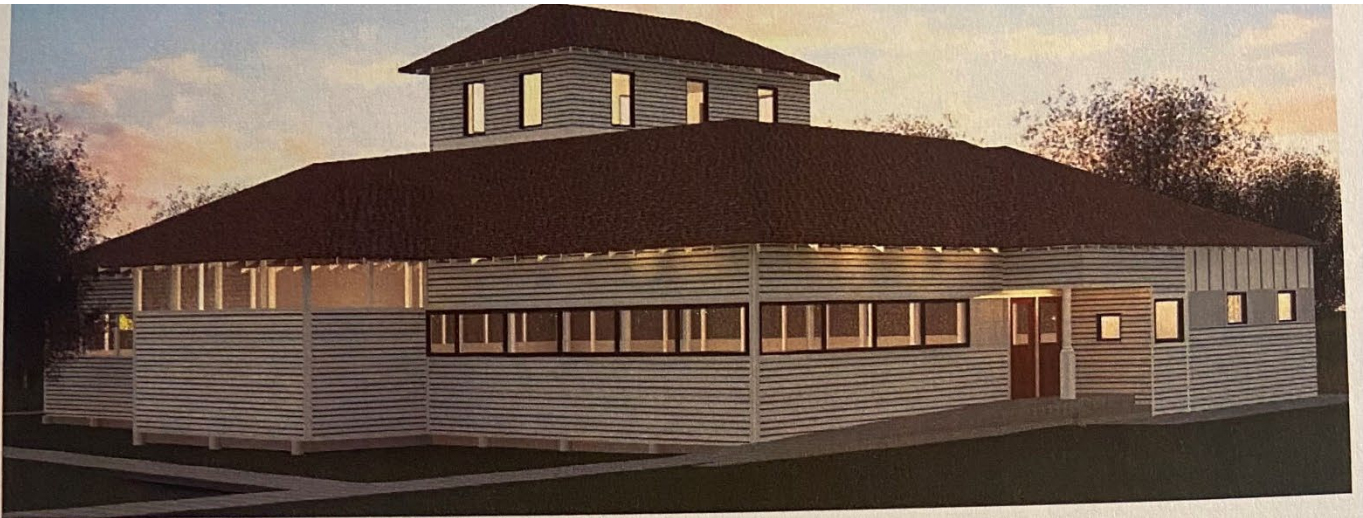
1. Renee Ruschmeyer – who returned the prize as she already had one. Redraw winner was Del Quast.
2. Marian Anderson
3. Carolyn Johnson

Holly completed the prize presentation speaking on the need for Volunteers. Holly also indicated that this is an important year for the Museum as it is the 75th year in operation.

Adjournment of the 2023 Annual Business Meeting.

Program: “Gaylord Park History”

Speakers – Lei Amorim and Dale Johnson



Oaks Lakeside Pavilion
est. 1916

FUNDRAISING

Greetings, we invite you to be part of the exciting restoration of the **Oaks Lakeside Pavilion** into a one of a kind three season event center. This Pavilion will be a great addition to our already outstanding park facilities. Our goal is to return the Pavilion to its original 1916 appearance as a dance hall. A catering/serving kitchen was added that can be used for weddings, graduations, receptions, class reunions, community events, corporate meetings, and other celebrations. The work will include:

- Restoration of the maple floor**
- Restoring natural lighting and ventilation**
- Upgrading electrical and lighting**
- Adding a fire alarm system**
- Reroofing the building**

- Replacing rotted wood siding and trim**
- Add a Serving Kitchen**
- Improve accessibility**
- Painting interior and exterior**
- Restore 3 original light fixtures**

The cost for rehabilitating the Oaks Lakeside Pavilion is \$467,680. The City of Gaylord has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$262,774 through the Minnesota Historical Society, which will cover historical related features of the rehabilitation. Nonhistorical related features of the work are not covered by the grant. The City of Gaylord and its citizens will be responsible for the remaining \$204,906. The Historical Preservation Commission is raising funds to cover this amount.

Completion of the restoration project is not possible without your support and contributions. No contribution is too large or too small. Together we can make this happen!

**Thank you from the Gaylord Heritage Preservation Commission and
The Oaks Lakeside Pavilion Fundraising Committee**

Oaks Lakeside Pavilion Restoration Project
Donation/Pledge Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsorship/Donation Levels:

	Double Diamond	\$15,000 & Up		
Diamond	\$10,000 - \$14,999		Silver	\$3,500 - \$4,999
Platinum	\$7,000 - \$9,999		Copper	\$2,000 - \$3,499
Gold	\$5,000 - \$6,999		Bronze	\$500 - \$1,999

My one-time contribution is \$ _____

Or I hereby pledge \$ _____ each year for 3 years.

Signature: _____

Receipt Requested: _____ Yes or _____ No



Your tax-deductible donation may be mailed to:

City of Gaylord 332 Main Avenue PO Box 987 Gaylord, MN 55334
or drop off at the City Office Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Donations will be publicly recognized or may remain anonymous.

Funds raised in excess of what is needed for the pavilion will be used
for other items relating to the pavilion and surrounding area.

Questions regarding fundraising contact:

Mona Messner (612)270-7595 or Ann Whalen (507)381-0188

Questions regarding the project itself contact:

Dale Johnson (612)749-2316 or Chuck Klimmek (507)380-0101

File #: _____ Amt. Rec'd: _____ Date: _____

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