

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Annual Report

July 2018 - June 2019



Our Mission

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County history.

Enclosed are reports from the following Standing Committees to be presented to the Society membership at the Annual Meeting as directed by the McHenry County Historical Society 2008 Bylaws, revised July 2018:
Executive, Finance, Governance, Membership, Building, Historic Sites, Education, and Collections Committees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018- 2019

Mary Ott, President

Mary Ellen Heelan, Vice-President

Molly Walsh, Treasurer

Arlyn Booth, Secretary

Kathy Bergan-Schmidt -

Membership Secretary

Judy Beth-Hervert

Rob Cisneros

Maggie Crane

Bob Frenz

Catherine Jones

Henry Kenyon

Lonni Oldham

Paula Rieghns

Dan Ring

Don Rose

Dan Shea

Bob Wagner

STAFF

Kurt Begalka, Administrator

Nancy Roozée, Office Manager

Kira Stell, Curator

**Michelle Hujer, Volunteer and
Outreach Coordinator**

MCHEMRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
6422 Main St P.O. Box 434
Union, Illinois 60180
815-923-2267
www.gothistory.org
info@mchenrycountyhistory.org

Letter From the Administrator

It is with great pride and admiration that I report that a new, three-year strategic plan is in the house! Copies are available for you.

The Board of Directors approved the plan in June, following six months of gathering data, a board retreat and incorporating the findings of our ongoing "StEPS" self-evaluation process. This Standards and Excellence Program, developed by the American Association for State and Local History, provides an independent, 1,000-foot view of this nonprofit organization – from whiz-bang to warts – and offers steps for self-improvement.

PRESERVATION

- Our newspaper digitization project continued to move forward in fiscal 2018-19. We added the Marengo papers to our repertoire and soon will be adding editions of the Woodstock Sentinel. This searchable database is free to the public. Special thanks to board and Library Committee members Arlyn Booth and Maggie Crane for spearheading this project.

- We stabilized the 1898 Riley Methodist Church to prevent the north and south walls from bowing outward near the roofline.

- We continued to make progress with recording our collection. With 95 percent of our textile collection properly recorded electronically, our new Collections Assistant Lisa Solak will be turning her attention back to the "cold storage" area above McEachren Hall. Unfortunately, the number of items we are tasked with preserving continues to grow. We added 823 items into the collection and de-accessioned 177. With that in mind, a board task force is continuing to look various options for storing the Society's collection.

FINANCES

- Our endowment funds continue to grow, and thus far have kept pace with additional financial demands as we tackle additional staff, equipment and building repair needs. But it is clear that financial model is not sustainable in the long term. With that in mind, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to raise membership rates by \$5 effective Jan. 1. This is the first increase in eight years. The board also created a Development Committee in an effort to better explore and vet creative funding sources – from bequests to sponsorships to various other forms of planned giving.

PROGRAMMING

- Our programming efforts took a major step forward this spring when we unveiled our new Anderson Gallery – named in honor of society benefactors Norma and Glenn Anderson. No longer will people have to trudge up two flights of stairs to view the latest, two-year exhibit. Instead, we have created a state-of-the-art exhibit space in Eckert Hall – featuring more interactive learning tools designed to better engage visitors.

ADMINISTRATION

The self-evaluation process we've been shouldering has resulted in a revised ethics policy, a marketing plan, three collection-related policies and the beginnings of a comprehensive disaster plan and a new volunteer manual.

- No report would be complete without acknowledging the many and varied contributions from my staff. Michelle Hujer has worked hard with Education Committee to improve our visibility in local schools. Nancy Roozée and Kira Stell bring a steam truck full of skills to the table, handling numerous and varied duties – often outside normal work hours – with aplomb.

- Finally, I would very remiss if I did not take a moment to thank my board. They are working hard for you, rolling with whatever staff throws at them and coming back for more. As this organization continues to evolve the demands on all of our volunteers have increased. Thank you all for stepping up. Stay classy, MCHS!

- Kurt Begalka

Executive

Over the past fiscal year, the Executive Committee has been hard at work, along with other committees, in working towards measurable goals through the StEPs Program that was initiated during the prior fiscal year. The majority of committee work was devoted to improving and establishing new policies which will help to guide the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum. Completed StEPs goals included a staff annual review tool, staff/volunteer organizational chart, an updated code of ethics and emergency contact list.

Areas to be finished, along with the new goals for 2019-20, include completing a safety and loss policy and a comprehensive disaster plan.

I would like to thank Kira Stell and the entire Strategic Planning Committee for consistently updating the other committees as goals were completed and keeping everyone on track. This was a tremendous undertaking for all committees and could not have been accomplished without their guidance.

The McHenry County Historical Society and Museum was a flurry of activity during the 2018/19 fiscal year. Following extensive inventory and cataloging by volunteers and interns, we rented a storage facility and several truck-loads of artifacts carefully were moved out of the Schuette Building and rehoused in a climate controlled space. This allowed for the artifacts remaining in Schuette to be moved and stored in a better environment. The long-term goal is to house all accessioned artifacts in a climate controlled environment.

Along with the artifacts that were moved from Schuette, several large artifacts also were taken to offsite storage to make room for the new exhibit space in McEachren Hall. Just after Heritage Fair in 2018, work began to create the new space. Walls were painted, new

curtains that hide the cinder block gym walls were ordered and finally the new modular walls were erected. The three-part exhibit space then was transformed - through months off of fabrication and installation - into The Anderson Gallery. In May 2019, the new gallery opened to the public featuring the two-year exhibit, "*Prairie Trails to Strange Tales: McHenry County's Earliest Years.*"

Along with the aforementioned projects, the Society also expanded its hours to include one Saturday a month and remain open continuously from May through December. Additionally the goal to develop a strategic plan was met. Through months of work which included focus groups that were led by board member Catherine Jones; three pillars were identified: FACILITIES, FUNDRAISING/DEVELOPMENT and OUTREACH. These three pillars will guide the boards goals and objectives for the next 3 years along with the StEPS program. I invite you to take a copy and learn more about the process and how each goal and objective will be met.

It has been a wonder to see the work undertaken by the staff, board and volunteers this past fiscal year. They each deserve a strong round of applause and I am deeply in their debt. We welcome the new board members who will join us and thank outgoing board members Judy Beth Hervert and Dan Shea for their service. We also pause to remember the Society members who passed this year and honor them with our continued work ensuring the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum remains a central hub for our county.

As I move into a new role with the board of directors, I look forward to supporting the Society's continued growth.

With gratitude,

Mary Ott, president



Museum Opening - May 3, 2019

Financial

STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

The accompanying pie charts which will give you an overview of the Society's revenue and expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. A major expense this year was the new exhibit space (Glenn and Norma Anderson Gallery) in Eckhert Hall. In addition there was a major move of our collections from Eckhert Hall and the Schuette building to a storage facility. This will ensure our collection is properly being stored in a climate controlled environment. These expenses were offset with monies from the Anderson fund, operational savings account and restricted funds.

Unfortunately we experienced a drop in revenue in membership and the utility fund appeal. We hope to turn those around this next fiscal year.

NEW BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

The budget for this coming year reflects an income of \$ 361,110.70 and expenditures of \$ 364,110.70. Total distributions from the McEachren Trust (\$ 164,120.87) and MCHS endowment (\$ 77,214.69) will be \$ 241,335.56.

Attached is the budget overview for FY 2019-2020

INVESTMENTS

All three of our investment funds, McEachren Charitable Trust, MCHS Endowment Fund and the Anderson Bequest are being managed by Northern Trust. Our investment strategy for all three funds is growth with moderate income.

McEachren Charitable Trust market value

June 2018	\$ 3,900,871.07
June 2019	\$ 3,753,655.39

MCHS Endowment market value

June 2018	\$ 1,935,424.02
June 2019	\$ 1,895,605.08

Anderson Fund market value

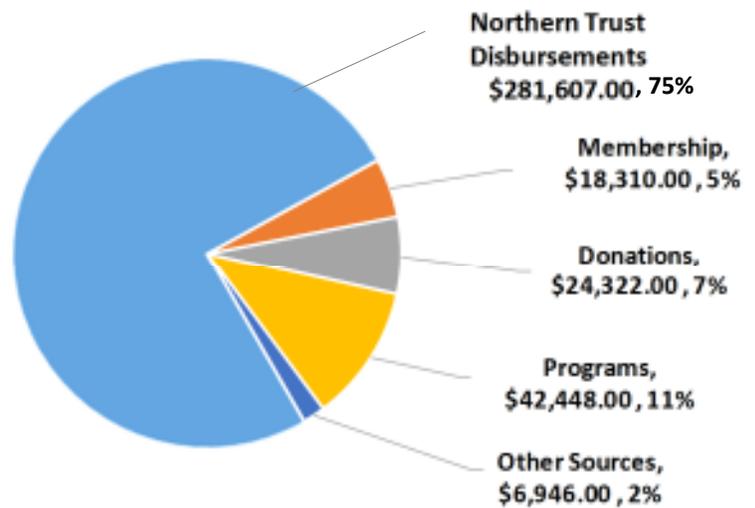
June 2018	\$ 862,479.38
June 2019	\$ 857,883.91

I would like to thank our members for their continued financial support. Your donations are important for the success of the Society in meeting our mission.

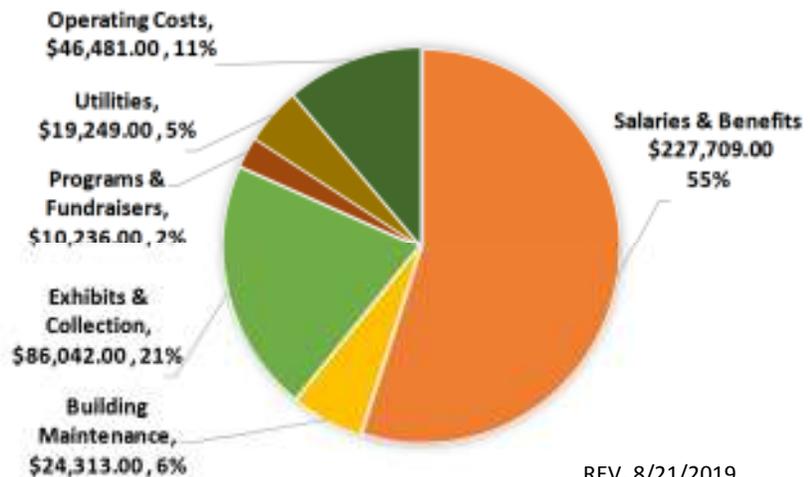
Submitted by:

Molly Walsh, Treasurer

Revenue \$ 373,633.00



Expenses \$ 414,030.00



REV. 8/21/2019

Additional MCHS assets such as the Anderson Bequest, our Operational Savings Account and Restricted Funds were utilized to cover the difference between the Revenue and Expenses values shown above. MCHS is currently debt free.

MCHS financial statements and procedures were audited for 2017. A Compilation Engagement according to Standards for Accounting and Review Services was performed in 2018. A Compilation Engagement for 2019 is in process.

- August 19, 2019

Governance

The Governance Committee presents **Ellen Brunshon** of Marengo and **Karen Parks** of Wonder Lake for a three year term on the McHenry County Historical Board of Directors.

Ellen Brunshon, a life-long resident of Marengo, has been a real estate broker serving McHenry County for the last 19 years. She is currently the managing broker/owner of White Lion Real Estate.



Ellen is an active volunteer in the Marengo community with the Marengo Main Street program and the Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce. She is also a champion of the Marengo-Union Library being a member of the Friends of the Marengo-Union Library.

Ellen loves the stories that the past can tell us and as a member of the Board of Directors hopes to bring those stories to life.

A McHenry County resident since 1969, **Karen Parks** and her husband, Tim, live in Wonder Lake. Karen has devoted her life to education teaching primary grades, kindergarten through fourth grade for more than 20 years and was a principal of Ring-



wood School in Johnsburg District 12 for 13 years. She was elected to the Harrison School Board in Wonder Lake in 2003 and has been the President of the board since 2013.

Karen volunteers at several organizations, including MCHS, Helping Paws and Delta Kappa Gamma, an international educational organization of professional women educators. It was the Alpha Theta (McHenry County) chapter of DKG that increased her interest in the county historical society – fueling her desire to step up from being a volunteer to serving on the Education Committee and now joining the board.

Keeping history alive for her grandchildren, and the nation as a whole, is important to her. “I want to give my grandsons a sense of their roots and an understanding about history.

The following current Board members, **Aryln Booth**, **Henry Kenyon**, **Lonnie Oldham**, and **Mary Ott** will be continuing to serve on the Board for new three-year terms.

Thank you **Dan Shea** and **Judy Beth Hervert**, who will be retiring from the Board, for your service and dedication to the Society. Dan has served nine years on the board and Judy six years. Thank You!

The Governance Committee is always looking for persons who are interested in serving on the Board. It’s a fun and rewarding job. If you want to know more about being a board member, please contact Molly Walsh at mollyw08@yahoo.com.

Life Members



Grace Moline
John Moline
Nancy Irwin
Barbara Weter Bennett
Libbie Aavang
Judy Porter
Josephine Elsen
Nancy Hudson
Nancy Fike

Stephen Fike
Linda Stengele
Carl Stengele
Ann Bormett
Rick Bormett
Cindy Thompson
Larry Thompson
Merton Sarvay
Arden Miller
Melodie Archer
Donald Purn
Norma Purn
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt
Larry Schmidt

Helen Anderson
Anderson’s Candy Shop
Judith Lovaas
Michael Easley
Jane Setzler
David Gervais
Nellie Hohnsen
Ann Hughes
Robert Hughes
Dennis Johnson
Peggy Palmquist
Stanley Korwin
Charles Liebman
Wayne Schwartzman

Sherry Mueller
L. R. O’Connor
Lonni Oldham
Marlene Olson
Kenneth Pearson
Janice Perkins
Peter Perkins
Jude Schmidt
Ilene Wiedemann
Susan Tauck
Aastri Cunat
James Tonyan
John Eiockstadt
Edwin Colton

Judy Beth Hervert
Carol Halma
Don Rose
Tracie Rose
Trudie Dreyer
Brian Sager
Dan Powers
Willis Johnson
Shirley Johnson
Sean Foley
Peggy Hart
Chuck Ruth
Theodore Thayer
Laura Rice

Membership

The number of current MCHS members can be categorized as follows:

Individuals.....	31
1 year.....	21
2 year.....	10
Family.....	33
1 year.....	13
2 year.....	20
Senior.....	225
1 year.....	80
2 year.....	145
Senior Couple.....	159
1 year.....	50
2 year.....	109
Student: 1 year.....	5
Life.....	59
Life Individual.....	55
Life Couple.....	4
Governmental.....	19
Cities & Villages.....	11
Townships.....	8
Business Partner	4
Organizations.....	9
Deluxe Organization.....	1
Basic Organization.....	8
More statistics:	
Memberships representing people:	
1 year.....	169
2 year.....	264



Volunteers helping MCHS throughout the year.



The number of members has been holding steady for the past few years but we would like to increase the total numbers. Any suggestions would be great appreciated!

Recently the Board of Directors voted to raise dues by \$5 per year for one year memberships and \$10 for two year memberships as of January 1, 2020. For example, dues for an individual for one year will be \$30, for 2 years will be \$55. If you renew your membership before January 1st, your membership will be extended from the date that it is due according to your membership card. You will save money and have that bill out of the way early!

Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Membership Chair

Historic Sites

This past year, the committee has been busy with projects and being proactive in search of worthy candidates to be plaqued. We remain a committee of eight people.

Eleven "Hello" letters and/or applications have been sent out. We received five applications. Grace Moline discussed a home application received from Dale Morton of Bull Valley, but it was mutually agreed upon that there was not enough of the original house to be considered for a plaque. An incomplete application was received for the Red Tail Golf Course Barn & Silo in Lakewood. Grace talked with the applicant on what more needs to be done for the application to be considered. We have had three site evaluations, the Hoy House which passed the Committee but did not pass the Board of Directors, the Chapel Hill Chapel that is pending discussion and

vote by the Committee and the Fred A. Walters House which passed the Committee and the Board and the plaquing is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.



porch, a bay window, fishtail shingles in the gable peaks and a stone foundation. The interior boasts pocket doors, narrow plank flooring and parquet floors along with original moldings. Walters was Mayor in Woodstock for 4 years as well as the Dorr Township Supervisor, banker, merchant and a leading citizen of Woodstock.

Since the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) is now back in operation, Jennifer Fiske was notified as her family wants to have the Cold Springs School House plaqued by MCHPC prior to listing it for sale. The Historical Society plaqued it in 1981 and it is plaque Number 5 and remains in very good condition. On May 8, Grace assisted Jennifer with ideas on how to do the application which is still in process.

On April 13, 2019, the Committee had a fieldtrip to see the Bauhaus exhibit at Elmhurst Art Museum and also went to the Elmhurst History Museum.

In the coming year, we look forward to educating the general public and raising their consciousness of historic preservation while continuing to plaque new sites.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Moline, Historic Sites Chairperson

Education

In August of 2018, we welcomed Michelle Hujer as Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator. She has encouraged this committee toward new innovations and has helped us to achieve our StEPs project goals for the 2018-2019 year.

Over the last year, an Education Collection of artifacts has been established. This includes both "hands-on items for use at the museum as well as unit boxes to be loaned to classroom teachers or taken to schools for "in-class" presentations. Having served some special-needs students and adults, we gathered sturdy items for tactile use. As a committee we completed the "Giant Steps" online course designed to help staff / docents welcome individuals on the Autism spectrum into a museum setting. [StEPs 6.A]

Under "Interpretation" [StEPs 1.A.1 /1.A.2] we recognized the need to tailor our offerings to the specific curricular needs of each group. Michelle reached out to each incoming teacher to be sure that the museum experience would be relevant to current classroom objectives. A recurrent request was for us to teach a Native American lesson. Thanks to a grant from a Quester group, animal pelts were purchased for students to handle. Docent Betty Miller developed posters to teach about Native American homes, food sources, tribal names and cultures. Pioneer games have been incorporated into the Gannon cabin experience. We appreciate the efforts of the Master Gardeners who have created a planted area typical of use by early settlers.

The West Harmony classroom experience remains a vital part of our educational plan. In the fall, we welcomed nine groups for this experience. In follow-up with the teachers, Michelle was invited to visit five classes of these students at Crystal Lake North Elementary School. We were excited to have this opening into "in-class" presentation. All student participants in any program are given a family pass to return. In the course of the last year we have welcomed a number of senior groups to the museum campus. It is hoped that these visitors will be prospective members and volunteers.

Judy Beth-Hervert, Education Chairperson

Collections

2018-2019 Projects

The Collections Committee successfully submitted for board approval the following policies:

Collections Management and Care Policy

Collections Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Response and Recovery Plan

Integrated Pest Management Policy

- ◇ The revised Ethics Policy and the Collections Management & Care Policy were distributed to Collections and Library Volunteers.
- ◇ Emergency disaster kits were created for the Research Library and Textile storage. A housekeeping kit was also created for the Research Library.
- ◇ A new security camera was installed in the new exhibit space to ensure the safety and security of artifacts on display.
- ◇ A total of 90 artifacts from the Schuette building were rehoused into the Society's offsite storage unit. There are 50 artifacts remaining in the Schuette building.
- ◇ Renovations began on the former upstairs exhibit space. The new space will create an Exhibits and Collections Department for new accessions, a collections volunteer workspace, an office for the exhibits curator, and storage for incoming and outgoing exhibits.
- ◇ The Collections Committee successfully completed the Bronze Certificate for the StEPs Stewardship of Collections section.



Adopt-an-Artifact
Repaired in 2017

Upcoming Projects:

Inventory of the doll collection, which includes updating records in PastPerfect, and rehousing them in proper archival boxes.

Relocating the textiles accessory collection into two new storage cabinets.

The Collections Committee will work on developing a Collections Priority List this fall. These are the objects to be dealt with first when salvaging the collection in the event of a disaster.

2018-2019 Accessioned Artifacts: 823

Sample of Artifacts: United States Air Force uniform, 1970s; Crazy quilt; Woodstock Opera House theater posters; Crystal Lake American Legion memorabilia; Woodstock city directories, Wedding dress from 1925; Doll kitchen set, 1950s; McHenry County political memorabilia; Alden and Hebron family photos; TC Industries jacket, 1980s; Zion Lutheran Church pew from Marengo; McHenry Brewery beer labels; Huntley State Bank documents; Simon Brink tool chest; and 1871 Atlas of Illinois.

2018-2019 Deaccessioned Artifacts: 177

Sample of Artifacts: First National Bank of McHenry calendar, 1992 (duplicate); Woodstock scrapbook, 1967-1971 (digitized); Men's white dress shirt (poor condition); VFW News, Woodstock Post 5040 June 1996 newsletter (duplicate); Marengo area scrapbook, 1869-1904 (digitized); Girl Scout world pin (duplicate); Empty eyeglass case (missing eyeglasses); All America City Woodstock pamphlet (duplicate); Hoop skirt (poor condition); McHenry Co. Year Book, 1941 (duplicate); Royal Neighbor "Manager" Ribbon (duplicate); Crystal Lake Herald calendar, 1970 (duplicate); Revised Ordinances, Marengo, 1899 (duplicate); and Richmond Burton High School class photo, 1937 (duplicate).

Kira Stell, Curator