

Sibley County Historical Society
2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
Arlington Community Center – Arlington, MN
April 28, 2024

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

Dinner was catered by Hillcrest Catering. A delicious meal of roasted potatoes, ham & roast beef, mixed vegetables, and Cole slaw was served to 38 people. Board members supplied the desserts!

After the dinner, President Joy Cohrs welcomed everyone to this year's annual meeting.

Joy then called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Joy introduced all SCHS board members.

Joy provided several thank yous to the many volunteers for their work and contributions this past year, providing recognition to several long-term volunteers.

It was noted that the slide show currently running on the wall, are of unidentified Ostrom Photos. There are pieces of paper on the tables to fill out if you recognize any of the individuals in the photos.

Unfinished Business:

Call by President Cohrs for any unfinished business items. There were no items.

New Business:

2023 Audited Year-End Treasurer's Report – Tom Frauendienst.

2023 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.

2023 Secretary's Report from the April 23, 2023 Annual Meeting – Shirley Black

2023 Secretary's report from the April 23, 2023 Annual Meeting: A copy was provided to all attendees in a booklet handed out to all. There were no questions for Shirley.

A motion was made to accept both the Treasurer's and Secretary Reports as printed in the Annual Meeting booklet by board member Diane Fredin. This was seconded by SCHS society member Lowell Nagel.

2023 Curator Report – Sharon Haggemiller: Sharon provided a summary and updates.

- Sharon explained that volunteers are assigned to specific duties.
- Sharon provided us with an overview of her specific duties at the museum.
- Sharon noted that there is a tape recorder at the museum, which was left over from the display at the Sibley County Fair. She is looking for its owner.

2023 Museum Statistics - Marie Main:

- Marie summarized the volunteers and their duties. Volunteers number 13 (which include board members). Volunteers work either on Tuesday or Thursday or both. The volunteers give both time and their mileage to the museum. This is much appreciated.
 - 1,700 volunteer hours were clocked.
 - 175 hours were clocked alone last year with volunteer's meeting/greeting visitors and providing tours of the museum.
 - There were 51 opportunities, which were filled by 11 volunteer guides.
- 83 Third Grade Students and their teachers visited in 2023.
- 260 Visitors were at the museum in 2023, including visitors from Florida, Oklahoma, Virginia, New York
 - This is an increase over 2022.
- Having switched from a set entrance fee of \$5.00 to donations proved to be a successful move.
- We are one of the only museums without a paid employee.

2023 Museum Displays – Susan Mathwig & Holly Harjes:

- Susan and Holly thanked the many volunteers who keep the museum going, including:
 - Arlene Busse who has been volunteering since the late 1950's.
 - Eldrene Ebert for her work in the Genealogy Department
 - Del Quast for his "Muscles" around the museum
- Susan and Holly gave a synopsis of the display work process.
- Purchased for the museum:
 - Stick Vacuum/mop.
 - Working on the basement lights
 - A ladder for the attic
 - Tablet for recording and email and researching items online.

Nominations Committee Report: Mike Reinhardt has completed his second term on the Board. Mike is our computer guy at the museum. He will continue to volunteer for the museum. Mike was thanked for his years on the board.

President Joy Cahr called for nominations/volunteers for the open Board Director at Large. One nomination/volunteer was presented: Alice Strobel. There were no other nominations received. A motion to cease nominations and appoint Alice Strobel as a board member was provided by Diane Fredin and seconded by Tom Frauendienst.

Other Business:

- 88 students will be at the museum on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Volunteers should be at the museum by 8:30 am. Students are scheduled to arrive at 9:00 am.
- The following Saturdays have been designated for Spring Clean-Up for the Museum itself and the surrounding grounds: May 4 and May 18. Start time is 9:00 am.
- The Sibley County Historical Society is co-sponsoring an Author Event at the Gibbon Public Library on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 pm. Carolyn Mankell Sowinski who authored "The Great Storm: Minnesota's Victims in the Blizzard of January 7, 1873" will do a presentation on her book.
- The 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Memorial Day – May 27, 2024, from 1-4 pm. See the back cover of the meeting booklet for the details.
- On May 11th the New Auburn Historical Society is having a Plant and Bake Sale.

Door Prizes – Holly Harjes: Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to put their name in the basket for door prizes. The door prizes were table center piece live flowers, which were donated by This Old House in Arlington. A Thank You Card for the flowers to Trish at This Old House was signed by those in attendance.

Winners:

1. Arlene Busse
2. Sharon Haggemiller
3. Brian Fredin
4. Mike Reinhardt
5. Lowell Nagel
6. Shirley Black
7. Becky Briggs
8. VerJean Schindeldecker

Registrants: 39 Attendees 38

Adjournment of the 2024 Annual Business Meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Becky Briggs with a second by Tom Frauendienst.

Program:

“History of the Poehler House”

Presented by Becky Briggs, SCHS Board Member

A photo slide show and narration by Becky Briggs on the history of the House (museum) where Becky takes us through the rooms of the house.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley A. Black, SCHS Secretary