

*Preserving our
Historical Heritage*



Price County Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 38 No. 2 Fall 2020

www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org



President: Etola Foytek, Phillips
Vice-President: Dr. Peter Dahlie, Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer : Lorraine Pilch, Phillips
Director: John Berg, Wisconsin Rapids

Director: Eric Tollefson, Phillips
Director: Tom Kaiser, Park Falls
Director: Bonnie Salm, Fifield
Director: Sally McFadyen, Phillips

Director: Steve Eitrem, Fifield
Director: Traci Dunbar, Phillips
Director: Len Schmidt, Park Falls
Newsletter Editor: John Berg

2020 IN REVIEW

By: John L. Berg

Greetings once again to all our members and interested readers! It is mid-September as I write this volume of the Newsletter. For the record we are nine months into the COVID19 Pandemic and its resulting disruptions of everyday life, business activities, the broader economy, and personal interactions. And, although the PCHS Board decided that in the best interests of the members of the Society and visiting public it was prudent to shutter the Old Town Hall Museum and Greenfield School for the season, the regular monthly meetings have continued via phone, a major infrastructure project was completed, and several projects directed toward acquisition of artifacts and accessioning artifacts have



Old Office Building roof Installed 2019.

been ongoing. And here's another comment I want to personally add – maybe I've said it in previous volumes – during a situation as serious as the COVID19 pandemic, the resulting shutdown in the spring coinciding with the various social distancing and gathering restrictions pose significant problems for a volunteer organization such as PCHS. Since I joined the Board in 2016, I can bear witness that your Board members are excellent people to work with and be around! Each one has his or her own niche in the organization ranging from administrative, to building and grounds, to events, to archival research and preservation and writing, to working in some of each of the committees, to technology and communications, and so on. So the restrictions we have chosen regarding meetings is difficult because we all get along and enjoy each other's company, but



Old Office Building complete with new siding installed 2020.

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we have committed to using technology for our monthly meetings and annual meeting while we work our way through this situation. Each of us wants to see PCHS succeed in its mission and not fall victim to circumstances. And we are eagerly looking forward to the time when in-person meetings can resume. That said, just what have your membership dollars been applied toward? Well the most obvious project has been the roofing last fall and residing this summer of the old Burgmeier House next to the museum. This structure was purchased by PCHS quite some time ago and serves as our storage facility for various artifacts and materials. As you can see by the photographs these improvements will keep the collections safe and dry for some time to come. If you have the opportunity to drive by the Museums, stop and take a walk on the grounds and see for yourself the excellent condition of each of these structures.

Thus, upon reaching the time when we have confidence the facilities can be safely staffed for public viewing, these buildings will be ready. Other projects include the painting of the north side of the Greenfield School, along with the railing on the porch of the school. the complete accessioning of artifacts stored in the south end of the Old Town Hall Museum and a bake sale at the Park Falls Farmers Market in August.

In July we regretfully accepted the resignation of long term board member Arlene Morrison and in August Traci Dunbar was appointed to complete 2020 and then place her name on the ballot to complete Arlene's term, which runs through 2021.

Our membership for 2020 is currently at 248 members. We had a record breaking 20 new members join this year of which three were life memberships.

Another exciting and significant project completed in 2020 was the updating of our web-

site. As of now we are able to accept credit cards for book purchases, membership enrollment and renewal and donations. Be sure to go to our website and check out this new feature.

Plans are to hold our Annual Meeting as a virtual event on November 4 at 7:00 p.m. At this time we anticipate a Zoom meeting. Our members are also being given the option of voting for board members by proxy ballot. The ballot and instructions for voting along with instructions for attending the annual meeting are included with the Agenda in this newsletter. It is our hope that each of the membership will vote and return these ballots as soon as possible prior to November 4, 2020.

The Price County Historical Society, Inc., is having a wonderful response from members and interested individuals who want their collections preserved as part of Price County's history. During the past year we have received numerous documents, photographs, and artifacts pertinent to the preservation of the County's history. If you or your family members have any items for donation, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board Members listed on the letter head. We will make arrangements to help you donate your artifacts. And don't forget about digital donations particularly of photographs, documents, contracts, pamphlets and the like. This has also been very popular for those who want to both keep the original but also have it copied and accessioned in the archives of the Society for preservation and use in research. We are grateful to those who have contributed and we are grateful to those who read this and decide to donate in the future! In addition if you have an item of interest for the 2021 newsletter please contact me with your information. Your efforts save local history from being lost!

The Annual Meeting of the Price County Historical Society will be held virtually through Zoom on Wednesday evening November 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend the meeting virtually please send your email address to Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Secretary/Treasurer by November 1, 2020 and you will be sent a link prior to the meeting. Please send your request to: rljpilch@pctcnet.net

Whether you can attend virtually or not, you are still able to participate in the election process for members of the Board of Directors by filling out a proxy ballot (which is included with this newsletter). Each member should vote separately and sign and date your portion of the ballot. If an organization is voting, the president or vice-president of the organization should sign and date the ballot.

Ballots should be mailed to: Price County Historical Society
P.O. Box 156
Fifield, WI 54524-0156

Or you can email your ballots to: Etola Foytek at: efputter@pctcnet.net

All ballots must be received by November 4.

AGENDA

Call the Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Memorial Acknowledgement of members deceased since last meeting:

Life Members: James Bant, Alice Vincent and Louise Zorn.

Individual Members: Jean Bodenburg, Carla Boettcher, Bob and Marge Kleinsmith, June Peters and Ethel Teeters.

Introduction of Board of Directors

Secretary's Report: Minutes of October 27, 2019 (included in newsletter)

Treasurer's Report: Current Financial Report for 2020 (included in newsletter)

Committee Reports: Building and Grounds; Newsletter; Photo; Fundraisers/Events; Displays; Membership; Books; Website/facebook

New Business: Election of Directors—see proxy ballots

Open Forum

Adjournment

Price County Historical Society Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Fred Smith Studio/Wisconsin Concrete Park-Phillips

President Foytek called the 2019 Annual Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Etola Foytek, Peter Dahlie, Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Tom Kaiser, Bonnie Salm, Eric Tollefson, Arlene Morrison, John Berg and Sally McFadyen.

Board Members Not Present: Len Schmidt and Steve Eitrem.

Also Present: Approximately 45 members of the Price County Historical Society and general public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed in honor of those members departed since our last Annual Meeting: Life Members: Marion Kenny, Inez Strombom and Mary Ostling.

Individual Members: Arlyn Kielsmeier, Ed Schrader and Frank Wagner.

Motion made to approve the Agenda. Dahlie/ Kaiser Carried.

Foytek introduced members of the PCHS Board of Directors and also acknowledged the work and dedication to the Board by Carol Forward, Greenfield School Coordinator and Therese and Maureen Trojak, Sunday Host Coordinators. Additional thank you was extended to Beverly Brayton, who for many years was our Community Outreach Coordinator.

Secretary's Report: Annual Meeting minutes of October 21, 2018 were included in the newsletter, on the website and are available at today's meeting. Motion made to approve the Annual Meeting minutes. Berg/Dahlie Carried.

Treasurers Report: Pilch distributed the treasurer's current report for 2019. Income total \$18,058.60; Expense Total \$31,643.24. Cash on hand checking and savings \$21,198.79. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report (subject to audit). Kaiser/Salm Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Kaiser – Projects completed at the Old Town Hall (OTH): Basement structural repair by Bill's Construction, removal of five trees on the east side of the building by Boomtown and staining of the front deck along with painting of the handicapped entrance and steps going up to the second floor on the east side of the building by Carefree Cleaning. In addition, Len Schmidt repaired the large advertising sign on the west side of the building, which displays our name and hours of operation. Greenfield School (GFS): Painting of the south and west sides completed by Carefree Cleaning. Peter Dahlie donated two Adirondack chairs to be used on the front porch of the school. Grounds: Bill Mallak dug up the bricks already in front of the Fifield School Memorial and re-set them on the west side of the sidewalk and then expanded the brick plaza by installing 29 new bricks from our most recent brick sale. Bonnie Salm and Sally McFadyen planted planters and maintained plantings at the GFS and OTH. Old Office Building: A metal roof was installed on the building by Duke Hartmann & Sons. Priority projects slated for completion in 2020 include: Painting of the north side of the GFS, siding the Old Office Building and exploring either painting or replacing the current flag pole.

Newsletter: Berg-Reviewed the editorial and publishing process and invited individuals to contact him regarding stories they may like to submit or newsletter ideas. We have had tremendous response to the request for photographs and artifacts of all kinds.

Photo: Tollefson/Berg- Tollefson reported on the photo committee's work on scanning and compiling a computer inventory of photographs using the Past Perfect software program. Archival quality powder coated shelving was donated by BW Papersystems and installed along the entire perimeter of the room for storage of photographs and other documents. Berg reported on the coordination with Editor Seth Carlson on a "Throwback Thursday" section in the Price County Review; whereby photographs from the PCHS collection will be captioned by Berg and featured in the weekly paper. In celebration of the 140 year anniversary of Price County a pictorial photograph of W.T. Price along with a biographical document of Mr. Price was compiled and donated and both items hung in the hallway outside the County Clerk's office at the Price County Courthouse.

Fundraisers/Events: Foytek/Salm/McFadyen/Morrison – 2019 fundraisers included the Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale in the spring, Summer Afternoon at the Museums with Pie Social and Strawberry Short Cake and Flea Market throughout the summer season and the Chili Supper and Bake Sale in the fall. Thrivent gave a donation for food and advertising for the Spaghetti Dinner and Chili Supper. PCHS also took part in the 125 year anniversary program commemorating the Phillips Fire held at Bostrom

Park in Phillips in July and John Berg had a display and available for purchase his book the *Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad* at the Price County Fair in August. Of note is that PCHS also reached a milestone of 60 years of existence as a historical society in Price County.

Displays: Foytek/McFadyen-New displays included a new display of a General Store. This display is a work in progress and will more than likely be a permanent display with updating as additional artifacts become available. Several wedding dresses from our collection were displayed on mannequins throughout the museum and these dresses will be changed out after several years with new ones as we have quite a few wedding dresses in our archives. Additional new displays were added on advertising memorabilia from the Park Falls and Price County area along with a collection of photographs of the early days of Prentice Hydraulics; including a prototype of one of their machines. Donations of several more yearbooks were given to be used at the GFS. A future display is planned to commemorate 100 years of Public Health in Price County.

Membership: Pilch- 236 members (including 6 new life members). New members are always welcome. Unless you are a life member, membership renewals are due in January of each year.

Website/Facebook: Pilch - Links and information were updated and the goal for 2020 is to be able to have the site available for credit card sales. The facebook site assisted in promoting the activities sponsored by the society; and is managed by Steve Eitrem.

Books: Pilch – Book sales were successful both at the museum and our outreach sites. Books reprinted this year were *100 Years on the Flambeau, Fifield 1876-1976*, *The Storm and Country School Reflections 1879 to Consolidation*. In addition *A Pictorial History of Park Falls, Fifield and Butternut* and *The Pike Lake Chain* were also purchased for re-sale. Slated to be reprinted in 2020 is the book *Lugerville Town of Flambeau 1904-1954*.

New Business: Election of Directors for three year terms 01-01-2020-12-31-2022: Foytek – Terms for Dahlie, Tollefson and Berg are expiring. All three individuals have agreed to serve another three year term; therefore it is the recommendation of the Board that this slate be elected for a three year term. Foytek called three times for nominations from the floor. Motion made by Karen Baumgartner, second by Grace Kielsmeier to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of directors as presented by the Board. Motion Carried.

Open Forum: Glenn Brazelton suggested that Jon Ninmer be contacted about incorporating scanned copies of his collection of SA Johnson photographs into the PCHS collection. Mr. Brazelton also suggested that we explore the possibility of having Mr. Nimmer along with members of the archival photograph committee do a presentation at a future annual meeting. Grace Kielsmeier and Catherine Stanke discussed future Thrivent funding possibilities to help with fundraisers. In addition, a general discussion was held about the possibility of adding a pancake breakfast as an additional fundraiser.

Adjournment: President Foytek adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Secretary/Treasurer

Following the adjournment John Berg and Dale Heikkinen gave a presentation on *Northwoods Ingenuity and the Advent of the Modern Logging Industry: Inventors and Innovators Heikkinen, Drott and the Transformation of Logging and Earth Moving Methods and Equipment*. After the presentation refreshments were served.



PCHS would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Arlene Morrison for her many years of Service on the Board of Directors.



PCHS would like to sincerely thank our newest Director, Traci Dunbar for agreeing to serve and welcome her to the Board.

PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 05, 2020

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Grants	0.00	Publicity	0.00
Membership Dues	4,110.00	Insurance	1,544.00
Donations	5,541.20	Fees/Dues/Licenses	325.50
Visitor Donations	0.00	Credit Card	274.69
Books Sold	1,066.50	Office Rent	1,200.00
Interest Income	31.29	Office	0.00
Gift Shop Sales	0.00	Postage	97.61
Fundraisers	322.20	Photo	0.00
Memorials	25.00	Newsletter Printing	0.00
Bricks	<u>100.00</u>	Repairs/Maint-OTH	300.87
INCOME TOTAL	<u>11,196.19</u>	Repairs/Maint-School	350.00
Checking Account	21,067.96	Repairs/Maint-Office	6,056.98
Savings BCMMA	<u>3,151.45</u>	Repairs/Maint-Grounds	0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	<u>24,219.41</u>	Utilities-OTH	551.15
		Utilities-School	744.83
		Utilities-Office	408.93
		Preservation Materials	0.00
		Publishing	15.00
		Fund Raising	0.00
		EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>11,869.56</u>

DESIGNATED DONATIONS:

Building & Grounds	795.00	General Maintenance
Building & Grounds	3,000.00	Old Town Hall
Historical Preservation	300.00	Greenfield School
Photo Preservation	677.82	
Displays	97.54	
Bricks/FSM	1,051.17	
Soo Line Hist. & Tech. Soc.	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Designated Funds	5,921.53	

Designated Fund Donations maintained in PCHS account at Forward Bank, Park Falls.
These funds are included in totals of cash on hand.

**THIS PROXY BALLOT IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED BY THE MEMBER.
EACH CURRENT MEMBER MAY VOTE**

The following Candidates are being presented by the board to the members for election to the Board of Directors of the Price County Historical Society:

A check mark placed by the name means that you vote to accept this candidate for the term indicated to serve on the Board of Directors for the Price County Historical Society. If you do not place a check mark by the candidates name it means that you are voting not to accept this candidate.

Each member should vote separately and sign and date your portion of the ballot. If an organization is voting, the president or vice-president of the organization should sign and date the ballot.

Traci Dunbar One Year Term Expiring 2021

Steve Eitrem Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Tom Kaiser Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Sally McFadyen Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch . . . Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Len Schmidt Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Other (Write in name) _____

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Traci Dunbar One Year Term Expiring 2021

Steve Eitrem Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Tom Kaiser Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Sally McFadyen Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch . . . Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Len Schmidt Three Year Term Expiring 2023

Other (Write in name) _____

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail your ballot(s) to: **Price County Historical Society
P.O. Box 156 Fifield, WI 54524-0156**

Or return by email to: **Etola Foytek efputter@pctcnet.net**

BE PART OF THE SCHOOL MEMORIAL

**There now is another chance to
MEMORIALIZE yourself or a loved one
and be a permanent part of the
FIFIELD SCHOOL MEMORIAL**



To qualify for a purchase there has to be some connection to the school either an alumni or anyone that attended the school at any time, even when it was an Elementary School or Junior High (which it was after consolidation) teacher, custodian, cook, bus driver, administrator, office worker, school board member, etc.

Your brick can contain three lines with 13 letters per line.
\$50 per engraved brick. All orders are due by June 1, 2021.
Make check payable to Price County Historical Society.
For more information contact Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch 715-339-2481
Or email rljpilch@pctcnet.net

Send to: Price County Historical Society
P.O. Box 156
Fifield, WI 54524-0156

**UNLESS YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE JANUARY 2021.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL (715) 339-2481 OR EMAIL
rljpilch@pctcnet.net LORRAINE (LAURIE) PILCH, MEMBERSHIP COORD.**

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBER FORM

NAME: _____

 NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: PLEASE CHECK YOUR SELECTION:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.....	\$10.00
BRONZE MEMBER.....	\$25.00
SILVER MEMBER.....	\$50.00
GOLD MEMBER.....	\$100.00
LIFE MEMBER.....	\$500.00

Please write check to **PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** (designate MEMBERSHIP YEAR or YEARS as you may pay for multiple years if you choose on your check and on this form.) I am paying for the year(s) of _____. A membership term runs from January 1 through December 31.

Mail it with this form to:

Price County Historical Society, Membership
P. O. Box 156
Fifield, WI 54524

NEW THIS YEAR: You may also pay by credit card online at our website:
www.pricecountyhistoricalsociety.org Click on the Membership section and follow the instructions.

- Check box if you want newsletter sent to the address on the membership form.
- Check box if we may send you your newsletter by e-mail to help save paper and postage.

- Check box if you would like an e-mail reminder of special events.

- Check box if you would like to volunteer. We will contact you.

All membership money automatically goes into our regular fund for general upkeep of our three buildings, utilities, insurance, and printing and sending our newsletters.

Your yearly membership entitles you to receive newsletters and a voice at the annual meeting.

Donations in addition to membership are always urgently needed and greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your prompt payment and helping to preserve today's history for tomorrow.

FIFIELD SCHOOL MEMORIAL BRICK SALES

Due to the success of our last sale and multiple requests from Fifield School Alumni and other interested parties PCHS is once more coordinating a brick sale to add to the plaza in front of the Fifield School Monument. In order to expand the plaza in a meaningful way we need to have a minimum of at least 20 more engraved bricks. Bricks are \$50.00 per engraved brick and orders are due by June 1, 2021.

More information on ordering an engraved brick is included in this newsletter.