

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD APRIL 12, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M.
AT THE MANTORVILLE OPERA HOUSE,
MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA

Board Members Present: Don Smith, Gene Halloway, Ruth Stringer, Lynette Dahms, Melisa Ferris, Barb Gilliland, Scott French, Dale Morris. Board Members absent: Marlene Glaus. Museum Director Earlene King was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by DCHS President Don Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Board of Directors was introduced, as was special guest Dr. Craig Edgerton and his family, who were present for a special presentation at the end of the meeting. The Meeting Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report, consisting of the Annual Meeting minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting, was presented for review and approval. A motion to approve the report was made by Barb Gilliland, and seconded by Scott French; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented for review and approval. Mary Ann Bucher asked why the Rendezvous and Wasioja Tour events were listed as Fund Raisers when, in her opinion, they should have been listed as Educational Events, although they did show a positive income from admission fees and other earnings. Don Smith said these events would be reclassified, but noted that the reclassification did not change the bottom line of the financial report. Faye Richter asked whether it was true that the DCHS is operating at a loss, as shown on the report. Don Smith confirmed that we are. The value of our current assets is \$74,368, and this sum includes investments, cash and other monies of \$60, 992. Faye R. asked what the DCHS's beginning balance was after last year's Annual Meeting. Gene H. noted that he did not have that information with him at the meeting. He noted nothing received after 1/1/08 was included in this financial statement, and that all transactions reflected in this report occurred prior to 12/31/07. A motion to approve the report subject to the two re-categorizations noted by Mary Ann B. was made by Marilyn Dahms and seconded by Sue Harwood; the motion carried.

Director's Report: Earlene King presented a written Director's Report. Among other things, she noted that there were 3,733 visitors to the museum and events during 2007; that volunteers logged 6,035.5 hours of service; that the museum's sales totaled \$2,276.45; that the DCHS won a "Past Perfect" grant from the Minnesota Historical Society; and that the DCHS was awarded a set of professional reference books to assist with preserving our collection. Margo Ballard asked whether the DCHS had a line item in its budget for "conservation supplies" or whether such items would be included under "office supplies." Earlene K. noted that the Board had voted to authorize preservation supplies as a line item in the museum's budget. Margo B. also asked whether the DCHS owns a digital camera. Earlene noted that the Board approved the purchase of such a camera, and that the DCHS is evaluating its options before purchasing a new camera. The DCHS is also looking into having the Minnesota State Historical Society digitally scan in our 1905 Dodge County Atlas. Earlene also asked for volunteers to help out with spring cleaning over the weekend of April 26, 2008, prior to our annual Summer Hours kick off on May 1. There was a suggestion that everyone come work for two or three hours, and then get together for a pot luck picnic on April 26, 2008. Joanne Bennerotte noted that April 26 was also the City of Mantorville's Spring Fling

and that there will be more people in town than usual to attend the event. Marilyn D. also noted that people could come on other days to work if the 26th was inconvenient. Faye R. noted that the President's Appreciation Dinner in the fall (recognizing the DCHS volunteers) was much appreciated, although poorly attended. Don S. acknowledged Earlene's contributions to the DCHS and museum during the past year and thanked her for her positive attitude and hard work. Earlene thanked all of the volunteers for their assistance and hard work.

2007 In Review: Don S. noted that the DCHS had a great year last year, with many activities and volunteer opportunities, and great public relations opportunities for the DCHS both inside and outside of Dodge County. We had the spring time tours of the quarry and the cave, the Wasioja Tour, the unveiling of the Dodge County Fair Book, The Fair Booth at the Log Cabin, the Rendezvous and the Harvest Wine Tasting. All of these events generated income but also met our organization's mission of educating the public about the history of Dodge County. A 2008 calendar of events was included in the packet that was distributed to all members at this meeting. In May, we will have a tour of the Wasioja Cheese Factory buildings and the Poor Farm. In July we will have a Ghost Town Tour. We will also have a Member Picnic and Rendezvous will again take place in September. In October we will have a presentation by the Minnesota Historical Society about preserving family treasurers, and the Wine Tasting again in November. If there are other activities members would like to see, please let the Board know. Don S. also thanked Randy and Kathy Demmerer for attending the annual meeting, and noted that they would present information to the Board at its next meeting about ways that the DCHS could participate in Minnesota's Sesquicentennial events. At that time, the floor was opened for member comment; there was none.

Elections: Don S. spoke to the members about the role of the Board of Directors. He said that the Board's job is to act as enablers for the members, to enable them to achieve their goals within the organization. He noted that this year, he felt the Board should focus on sustainable income, as our only reliable source of income from year to year at this point is the \$10,000 grant we receive annually from Dodge County. He noted that we need more donations, endowments, and other income to sustain our goals and maintain and manage our properties. He thanked the Board members whose terms would expire this year: Barb Gilliland and Dale Morris, and Jay Stringer. There were three applications in the meeting packet from members who wanted to run for the vacant Board positions: Sue Harwood, John Kvasnicka, and Lynette Dahms. Don S. called for nominations from the floor three times. Ruth Stringer nominated Barb G, and a discussion on term limits was had by the membership. Don S. explained that the membership voted term limits into place two years ago at the annual meeting, and the first group of Board members to whom the limits would apply were those elected in 2006. Barb G. ultimately declined the nomination. Dale M. nominated Bob Peterson, who accepted the nomination. After the third request for nominations from the floor, and hearing no more nominations, the president closed the nominations. Each candidate was given an opportunity to address the membership, and explain their qualifications for the Board positions. Sue Harwood noted that she currently works with the Rochester Area Foundation and works on the DCHS's endowment managed by that organization. Sue has also served on numerous other boards in the area including the KM school board. Lynette Dahms is an architectural designer, specializing in handicapped accessibility issues, and wants to try to address some of our accessibility issues with our buildings while keeping the outward appearance of the buildings as period appropriate as possible. She has served on the DCHS Board for the past year, completing Jay Stringer's term when he resigned. John K. stated that fundraising was one of his specialties and said that he's raised almost a million dollars (\$1,000,000) for various organizations over the course of his life. Bob Peterson lives in Wasioja. He specializes in Black Powder weapons

and demonstrates these weapons at the Rendezvous. He helped start the Rendezvous with Mary Ann B. and Marilyn D. He is a licensed electrician and works for Adair Electric. The members cast their written ballots.

While they were being counted, John K. presented a PowerPoint presentation on the June 30, 2007 Wasioja Tour and the planned June 25/26, 2011 Wasioja Tour. This will mark the sesquicentennial of Dodge County's entry into the Civil War. IN 2007, we planned for 300 people, and had over 750 show up. John K. thinks we might see as many as 5,000 people in 2011. He's talked to several Volunteer Regiment re-enactors who may be able to attend our event before they head out to Gettysburg, PA. The Wasioja Tour Committee structure was presented and the roles and responsibilities were discussed.

Election Results: Lynette D., John K., and Susan H. were elected to the Board.

Earlene K. moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Karen Morris. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

After the meeting, Dr. Craig Edgerton presented information about his Great-Grandfather, Alonzo J. Edgerton, an early settler of Mantorville. Mr. Edgerton was the first attorney in Dodge County and served as the first District Attorney in Dodge County. Dr. Edgerton also presented a portrait he painted of Alonzo and a memorial of Alonzo's contributions. These will be displayed at the museum and at the recruiting station in Wasioja.