

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report of the Society, published May 2018



The OCPHS Mission

The role of this Society is to preserve and convey the contribution of Oakland County in the evolution of American history.

OCPHS

405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.

Pontiac, MI 48342

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Facebook.com/Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

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OCPHS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charlotte Cooper

Annual reports can be used to highlight a nonprofit's mission and impact, thank volunteers and supporters, and make a case for donating to the organization. Today, more and more nonprofits are going paperless with their annual reports.

The mission of OCPHS is to 'preserve and convey the history of Oakland County as it relates to American History.' We continue to fulfill this mission, thanks to volunteers and supporters. We are the oldest county society in the state, having been formed in 1874. Seventy-one years later, the Society took on the challenge of owning and restoring the estate of Moses Wisner. Another seventy-three years later, we are still preserving the history of Oakland County, and maintaining the estate of Moses and Angeolina Wisner.

This is our annual report for 2017. It contains decisions made by the Board of Directors, financial information, and committee reports. Particularly notice the IT (that stands for Information Technology) report by Dave Decker. We are moving into a technological world, and Moses would be proud of us.

We continue to appreciate your membership, your volunteer participation, your financial support, and your enthusiasm.

Best regards,

Charlotte Cooper

OCPHS Board of Directors

2017-2018 Officers:

President: Charlotte Cooper, Clarkston
1st Vice President: Sara Cote, Pontiac
2nd Vice President: Rodger Zeller, Waterford
Recording Secretary: Kathy Davis, Pontiac
Treasurer: Barbara Frye, Pontiac

Linda Porter, Pontiac	Bill Grandstaff, Romeo	Sue Grifor, Milford
Anne Liimatta, Pontiac	Greg Kowalski, Hamtramck	Ann Johnson, Manistique
Fred Liimatta, Pontiac	Dave Decker, Clarkston	

Thank you to Amy Annett, Bruce Annett, Mike West, and Charlie Martinez, who completed their service on the OCPHS board of directors and were accorded the honorary title, *Director Emeritus*, in May 2017.

2017 Board Meetings

In 2017 we held nine regular board meetings, the Annual Meeting in May, and a special meeting in June, for a total of eleven board meetings. Directors must meet minimum annual attendance requirements in order to serve. The current board and its officers are shown above.

Society members and the general public are welcome to attend meetings of the board of directors. Contact the office or visit our website for a schedule.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kathy Davis

2017 Adopted Motions

In 2017 we held nine regular board meetings, the Annual Meeting in May, and a special meeting in May, for a total of eleven board meetings.

2-18-17: No Motions, Attendees: Fred Liimatta, Pres., Rodger Zeller, 1st V.P., Kathy Davis, Secy., Amy Annett, Treas., Barbara Frye, Sara Cote, Anne Liimatta, Linda Porter, Bill Grandstaff, Kari Vaughan, Greg Kowalski. Guest: Joy Dockham, office staff, Dave Decker.

3-15-2017: Carriage House Renovation Proposal: \$7,500 cost covered by OCPHS, and \$7,500 contributed by donations (It consists of work on meeting room, office, stairways, corner gift shop, new kitchen cabinets, carpet, and painting area). **Attendees:** Fred Liimatta, Pres., Rodger Zeller, 1st V.P., Kathy Davis, Secy., Amy Annett, Treas., Barbara Frye, Sara Cote, Anne Liimatta, Linda Porter, Bill Grandstaff, Kari Vaughan, Greg Kowalski. Guest: Joy Dockham, office staff, Dave Decker.

4-15-2017: 1. Motion to proceed with purchasing & installation of Light Pole Banners & hardware at the front of the property with costs of about \$1,000.

2. Motion to approve the renovation of the Mansion Pantry room as presented by Kathy Davis.

Attendees: Fred Liimatta, Pres., Rodger Zeller, 1st V.P., Mike West, 2nd V.P., Kathy Davis, Secy., Amy Annett, Treas., Barbara Frye, Anne Liimatta, Linda Porter, Bill Grandstaff, Greg Kowalski, Charlotte Cooper, Ann Johnson. Guest: Dave Decker, Bill Clink, Sue Grifor.

5-24-2017: SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 1. Motion to hire Décor Custom Painting: to scrape, prime, and paint the exterior trim, siding, and porch floor of the School House before July 29th, 2017, Summer Social; and to pay for it with \$2,380 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

2. Motion to hire Décor Custom Painting: to scrape, prime, and paint the exterior window frames, door-frames, and the eight exterior doors of the Mansion and Gift Shop, before July 29th, 2017, Summer Social; and to pay for it with \$1,750 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Attendees: Charlotte Cooper, Pres., Sara Cote, 1st V.P., Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P., Kathy Davis, Secy., Barbara Frye, Treas., Fred Liimatta, Linda Porter, Dave Decker, Sue Grifor.

6-17-2017: 1. Motion to eliminate # 82-4, Coke Cola Can w/radio and to eliminate # 81:53, 3 carpet runners. **2.** Motion that we support Ann Johnson's generous offer to sell Deaccessioned items on behalf of OCPHS. **3.** Motion that OCPHS allow Dave Decker to redo our Web Site.

Attendees: Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Sara Cote, 1st V.P.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Barbara Frye, Treas.; Anne Liimatta; Fred Liimatta; Linda Porter; Bill Grandstaff; Ann Johnson; Dave Decker; Sue Grifor; Greg Kowalski. Guest: Joy Dockham, office staff, Jo Pate.

7-13-2017 Motion to repaint the two wooden signs in the front yard. **Attendees:** Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Sara Cote, 1st V.P.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Barbara Frye, Treas.;

Anne Liimatta; Fred Liimatta; Bill Grandstaff; Ann Johnson; Dave Decker; Sue Grifor. Guests : Joy Dockham, office staff.

8-24-2017: **1.** Motion to sponsor a “Bat Walk” on our campus for September 8, 2017, from 7:40-8:20 PM. **2.** Motion to sell a large wooden box/chest with no accession number (recommended by Geoff Brieger) for \$20. **Attendees:** Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Sara Cote, 1st V.P.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Barbara Frye, Treas.; Anne Liimatta; Fred Liimatta; Linda Porter; Bill Grandstaff; Ann Johnson; Dave Decker; Sue Grifor. Guests : Joy Dockham, office staff, Bill Clink.

9-21-2017 Motion to increase office manager pay from \$12 to \$15 per hour. **Attendees:** Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Sara Cote, 1st V.P.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Fred Liimatta; Anne Liimatta; Linda Porter; Dave Decker, Bill Grandstaff Guest : Joy Dockham, office staff.

10-21-2017: **1.** Motion to accept Doug’s Tree & Lawn Care Service bid of \$945.00 be accepted for American Elm Tree removal and trimming of areas on proposal. **2.** Motion that OCPHS purchase Berntsen Avongard Crack Monitoring Kit for \$229.00. **Attendees:** Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Barbara Frye, Treas. Fred Liimatta; Linda Porter; Bill Grandstaff; Ann Johnson; Dave Decker; Sue Grifor. Guest: Joy Dockham, office staff.

11-17-2017: **1.** Motion to purchase 24 copies of What Every BOARD MEMBER Needs to KNOW DO, and AVOID, for \$487.90; using money from the Quick Use Fund, and donations from Amy Annett and Charlotte Cooper, or grant money. **2.** Motion to designate the position, title, duties, and powers of Operations Manager/Director/Events Coordinator to Joy Dockham. **3.** Motion to adopt a Code of Conduct for all members and volunteers when on Pine Grove Property. **Attendees:** Charlotte Cooper, Pres.; Sara Cote, 1st V.P.; Rodger Zeller, 2nd V.P.; Kathy Davis, Secy.; Fred Liimatta; Anne Liimatta; Linda Porter; Dave Decker. Guest : Joy Dockham, office staff, Steve Cartier, Wisner LLC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barb Frye

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

General Operating Results

Calendar Year, Cash Basis

Operating Revenue	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Investment Income	\$8,018	\$7,310	\$7,829
Society Events	10,461	12,972	13,025
Auctions & White El. Sales	13,732	13,577	16,515
Annual Giving	5,065	3,575	3,600
Unrstr. Donations & Mem'ls	3,116	6,337	4,810
Memberships	5,290	5,730	6,155
Tours & Schoolhouse	235	405	405
Gift Shop & Deacc. Sales	1,869	2,212	2,220
Library & Reproduction	497	898	900
Publications	1,060	684	686
Miscellaneous	392	301	155
Grants or Other Revenue	0	0	7,500
Operating Revenue	\$49,735	\$54,001	\$63,800

Operating Expense			
Salaries & Benefits	\$6,264	\$14,507	\$20,863
Utilities	9,574	8,988	9,168
Office Expenses & Printing	4,342	3,525	2,990
Grounds, Mntnce, Security	6,774	6,882	7,382
Insurance	9,867	9,892	10,025
Society Events	2,583	2,821	2,915
Auctions & White El. Sales	5,798	4,996	7,350
Publications	822	277	102
Publicity & Gazette	849	552	710
Gift Shop	179	546	1,000
Fees, Dues, & Subscrptns	776	558	845
Meetings & Exhibits	110	159	450
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
Operating Expense	\$47,938	\$53,703	\$63,800
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,797	\$298	\$0

Fund Balances

Fund Name	Balance at 12/31/16	Balance at 12/31/17
Endowment	\$212,705	\$212,705
Capital Improvement	12,140	9,695
Contingency/Unempl. Reserve	12,645	12,645
Conservation/Preservation	14,757	14,822
Collections Management	749	749
Dead Reckoning Book	489	489
Trees/Landscaping/Gardens	309	49
Library	1,270	1,028
Oral History	500	500
Quick Use	3,081	2,471
Standard Vehicle	1,986	2,396
OCPHS In House Publications	417	417
Technology	0	90
Restricted Funds	\$261,048	\$258,056
General Funds	38,449	38,747
Total All Funds	\$299,497	\$296,803

Except for general, contingency, and quick use funds, all other funds are restricted to designated purposes rather than for general operations.

Contingency funds may be used for contingencies or, if necessary, to cover shortfalls in operating revenue.

Endowment fund principal is to be left intact. Investment earnings on endowment funds are available to support general operations.

Operating Surpluses are added to the General Fund, providing a savings account for future needs and unrestricted funding for projects & activities.

A. Annett
Annual Report Chart
3/7/18

VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for the volunteer teams that have come to help us during 2017. WWAM with the extraordinary Bill Clink overseeing, did an excellent job helping to get our grounds cleaned for spring and then they returned to help with the grounds and the set up for our Annual Summer Social and Victorian Open House.

Approximately 20 Oakland University students volunteered for their Day of Difference in October. They split into two groups to help our regular volunteers scan documents or rake leaves. We always enjoy the OU students; they did an amazing job volunteering. In just a few hours we can accomplish more than we could in several days.

This year we had a volunteer group from GM Global Propulsion Systems come to help us. They made repairs on the schoolhouse ramp which were desperately needed and painted the entry way into the Carriage House. They raised the driveway entrance sign so it can now be seen when approaching Pine Grove. Shelves and hooks were added in the storage sheds for better organization.

Along with our Volunteer Teams we had over 50 individual volunteers who logged over 4,100 hours in 2017. This is in addition to hundreds of hours that our volunteer directors and other regulars give, attending meetings, community functions, and working each week from home and at Pine Grove. OCPHS runs on volunteers, and we are very thankful for everyone who spends a few hours, a day or months helping OCPHS be its very best. We could not make the Society work without our staff and volunteers. Thank you to all who lent a hand in 2017!

Mini Lectures

Kathy Davis, Chair, (Committee Adrian Rawles, Barbara Hudalla, and Judy Hudalla)

In 2017 the Mini Lecture Series included eight monthly programs. Approximately 268 people attended the lectures and \$1,759 was collected at the door, not including gift shop sales, memberships, calendars, or other sales. The 2017 Mini Lecture Series was as follows:

Monitor & Merrimac- Bill Grandstaff
The American Army in Normandy- Jim Craft
Life on a Hospital Ship-Donna Mallonen
Architecture Styles- If Walls Can Talk- Ron Campbell
Myths & Legends of the Civil War- Bill Grandstaff
Flour Milling Oakland County- Dave Decker
A Visual Tour of the Battle of Perryville- Tom Nelson
Tom Tucker and the 22 nd Michigan Infantry- Larry Hathcock

TOURS

Rodger Zeller, Chair

We host hundreds of people each year during our tours and events. Approximately 209 adults participated in separate group tours at Pine Grove in 2017. Tours remain a major component of our Summer Social and Victorian Open House events. Summer Social brought 275 people, and Victorian Open House with two additional Sundays in December brought 215 through the house. These community events often introduce people to Pine Grove and Oakland County history for the first time.

Spring Auction

Fred Liimatta and Bill Clink

This year's Spring Auction was an excellent night. We had a new green bag raffle, a silent and regular auction, and lots of wonderful desserts and snacks. It is always fun to see what interesting and unique items arrive from members for our auctions. It is a lot of fun to watch people load their vehicles with all of their amazing finds. The Spring Auction was a good night for everyone who attended and approximately \$1200 was raised for OCPHS. Once again we want to say thank you for Fred Liimatta and Bill Clink who manage to pull this off each year. Although it is far from effortless, they make it look like it isn't that bad.

WISNER MANSION GETS FACELIFT FOR SUMMER SOCIAL

Kathy Davis (House Committee Chair)

I would like to thank the (Birmingham) Ellen Scripps Booth Chapter of The Questers for their \$500 donation which made possible the new "Green Room" located across from the dining room. The Green Room is a walk-in display with furniture that can hold different items for viewing. Barbara Frye ordered and installed a plate of acknowledgment for the donation.

The painting of the new Green Room was done by Dave Reibel. Carpet was donated by Sue of Waterford Hill Antiques. The light fixture came from Saginaw Street Consignment shop. It was rewired and installed by Bruce Bandy (House Committee) who takes care of the furnaces and electrical. Bruce installed a control device on the furnace so that air can travel through the heat vents to help with air flow throughout the Mansion. He wired the air conditioner (donated by Charlotte Cooper) outside of the house for safety. It helped greatly to cool the Mansion.

The curtains and window in the Green Room were cleaned by Jane Karaguleff (House Committee) and glass on the cabinets was washed. For this event, the room had children's

items on display in cabinets and clothing hung on wooden display holders that were made for an Eagle Scout project. The clothing was ironed and arranged by Nancy Duffield, who was assisted by Ann Johnson, a great-great niece of Moses Wisner. Finally, Sue set up the dining room table display with a third set of dishes with leaves on them.

The flowers throughout the Mansion were donated, designed and arranged by Kathie Henk. Sue Grifor worked on the flowers outside. Linda Porter, who loaned us two pots from her beautiful flower garden, helped beautify the front entrance of the Mansion.

The mannequins in the Mansion were adorned with clothing and jewels by Nancy Duffield and Jo Pate. Their talent and expertise makes the Mansion come alive with color and beauty and creates a viewing adventure, enticing our guests to keep returning in expectation of what's new.

Many new guests this year browsed and purchased items and memberships from our great sales lady, Barbara Hudalla, in the Gift Shop. Barb and her family reorganized the shop with new shelving for displays. Thank you to EVERYONE who pitched in on all of these projects!

Help is still needed to complete our to-do list. We are seeking donations in the amount of \$25 to paint a door and \$200 to paint the trim in the Summer Kitchen; we face the greater cost of installing a new door frame if not painted soon. Donations are tax-deductible and are needed soon.

Please contact Kathy Davis at 248-688-4274 to make a donation toward Mansion repairs or with new topic suggestions for our Mini Lecture Series.

Adrian Rawls (House Committee) made a tall ladder available to clean tops of windows inside and on the porch. Sherrie Morgan (House Committee) led the cleaning of doors and windows in the Wisner office, which were difficult to open and close. Her grandchildren were a big help!

The Mansion shined with new white painted trim around doors, windows and the bay windows, and a new gray porch floor, also thanks to Dave Reibel. The docents looked good and did a great job; one gave a \$200 donation toward the trim painting.

Sue Grifor did displays in the Mansion and schoolhouse. She helped to arrange the Wisner family photos in the family parlor on the fireplace mantel along with a painting by Charles Wisner on the wall above the mantel. She also arranged Charles' other paintings and watercolors along the hallway in the dining room for easier viewing by our tour guests.

2017 ICE CREAM SOCIAL BEST EVER!

Rodger Zeller (Planning Committee Chair)

What can I say about the Ice Cream Social? There are several things I can say!

*The weather was perfect – low humidity, clear and sunny in the 70's.

*Attendance was close to 500.

*Our honored guests represented city, county, state and federal levels.

*The Porch Talks were well received and increased our understanding of the Civil War.

*The vintage car show was a pleasing sight and attracted a lot of attention.

*Ron Finch's eye-catching metal artistry was stunning.

*Ray Frase fascinated both kids and adults with his decorated spinning tops.

*Kids were also drawn to the Legoland activities and our pre-Lego toys. Many of their creations were on display.

*The Curiosity Sale drew a large number of treasure hunters. There was a lot of bragging about their newfound treasures!

*The Oakland County Sheriff's mounted patrol unit attracted a lot of animal lovers. The horses were well-petted.

*Our World War I talks in the schoolhouse helped us honor the 100th anniversary of our entrance into what was called "The War to End All Wars."

*Last, but definitely not least, we doubled our profits from previous years.

At the end of the day, I had a big smile on my face!

4TH ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION ANOTHER “GRANDE” SUCCESS!

Linda Porter, Chairman

Our “Grande Night to Remember -Black and White Bash” at the Lafayette Grande on October 7th was a delightful event! So many members and community friends came to support this fun evening. Fred Liimatta and Bill Clink with their auction expertise makes this a very successful event. Everyone looked so festive and fancy in their black and white attire. There was something for everyone from seasonal merchandise to one of a kind pieces and everything in between. Thanks to the generous donations and the fierce bidding, OCPHS raised nearly \$4,000 to support our operations. To all who attended, volunteered, donated, bid, and enjoyed the evening...thank you!!!

THE HAUNTED MANSION AT PINE GROVE

Barbara Frye, Haunt Instigator & Wandering Spirit

The Haunted Mansion was only held on October 21, 2017. This Haunt featured a family reunion of the spirits of the Wisner Family, coming back to share their memories of a beloved home. Eliza and Baby Helen greeted guests in the Gift Shop, and Judge Charles Wisner (known to the family as Chip) showed off his watercolors in the Dining Room. Alpheus Clark (Jessie's husband) told stories in the Family Room while Moses (the Governor) and his wife (Angeolina) held sway in the Formal Parlor. An Itinerant Preacher was the guest in an upstairs bedroom and Florence Wallace ushered our guests out of the mansion and over to the schoolhouse for light refreshments. An Undertaker, a skeletal horse, and a Grave Digger greeted patrons on the short walk past our tiny cemetery to the school. What a lovely Haunt; everyone enjoyed themselves, spirits and guests alike!

Pontiac’s Holiday Extravaganza Parade

Pontiac’s Holiday Extravaganza Parade and VOH are the first Saturday and Sunday in December. That weekend makes for a fun filled Holiday festivities weekend. About 25 OCPHS members participated in the parade both walking and riding the float. This year’s float was constructed and sponsored by Ann Johnson and Charlotte Cooper. The weather was chilly, but it wasn’t freezing or snowing. The Troy Historical Society participated with us in the parade. It was such a nice time and one of our best floats yet.

V.O.H. 12-3-2017

Kathy Davis, Chairman

What a beautiful day for this event! I appreciate all the help from our great volunteers! The securing of sponsorships has put Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society in a positive financial area on the year end budget.

The House Committee assisting at this time consisted of: Sue Grifor, Sherrie Morgan, Adrian Rawls, Priscilla Shelton, Anne Liimatta, Angela Rawls, and myself; cleaned, decorated, and organized the house. Nancy Duffield and Jo Pate contributed time period beautiful dresses to adorn the mannequins. Kathie Henk presented exquisite floral arrangements and a large center piece on the Dining Room table. Hallway, Office, Family Room and the Formal Parlor.

The Summer Kitchen was polished up and decorated by Janet and Ronald McAlpine. Their daughter, Ronda and William Speiser, her husband, and daughter, Victoria, came from Ohio to help. Janet, Ronda, and Victoria greeted guests in the Summer Kitchen with special tasty treats. Ronald McAlpine and William Speiser were docents in the downstairs Hallway of the house.

Dale Kath shared his personal story of his childhood experiences at the Wisner home until the age of 6, while greeting guests in the Office. The Dining Room was attended by Sue Grifor. Sue did many displays throughout the House, and brought several versions of books on 'The Night Before Christmas' to show in the Green Room along with Children's items. Sue did some displays for the School House WWI exhibit.

Sherrie Morgan greeted our guests in the Family Room until the Musica Royale played there. In the Formal Parlor, Rodger Zeller talked, and the pianist, Dan Delmastro, played Christmas songs. The Military Room had our Civil War expert, Larry Hathcock present to answer questions.

In the Upstairs Hallway, Ann Johnson, the Great Great Niece of Moses Wisner, greeted visitors and shared her family story. Ann Johnson donated the items for the-12 Days of Christmas Silent Auction, which was held in the Carriage House.

Our clothing experts, Joan Hayes and Nancy Duffield explained the Back-Bedroom items. Patty Malloy, Mary and Tom Connell's daughter, was in the Wisner Bedroom. Mary and Tom Connell were busy celebrating their 60*** Wedding Anniversary and were not present this event. Dwight Keith was assisting guests about the Wisner Bedroom later. The Toy Room had a display of Christening gowns that Jo Pate and Nancy Duffield prepared for showing Barbara Huddalla, in The Gift Shop, organized, cleaned, and very professionally displayed a variety of items which would entice guests to buy them. Her friendly personality would promote memberships and few people entered the House without a bag from the gift shop.

In the School House, John Scholl, explained the WWI display, which he helped organize. Santa Claus, Boe Young, was there visiting with our little people and giving out coloring books made by Barbara Frye and stuffed animals donated by Linda Porter.

The Carriage House was filled with tasty cookies and hot Cocoa served with smiles from Sara Cote and Claire Pryor. Nelson Haynes and Ray Lucas shared their vast knowledge of the Museum with various farm artifacts and other items for the guests to view.

The Gate Keepers consisted of Kari Vaughan, Joy Dockham, and Barbara Frye. They had the weather to confront to keep warm outside with heaters. The parking lot was supervised by Fred Liimatta and crew. The greens were donated by Charlotte Cooper and Fred Liimatta hung the greens on the House while Barbara Frye supervised. Bill Clink and crew helped where needed outside. Charlotte Cooper and Ann Johnson put the final touches of red ribbon for the pillars on the House.

Charlotte Cooper and Ann Johnson did the OCPHS Float accompanied by Troy Historical Society for the Parade on Saturday, 12-2-2017.

Barbara Frye, Co-Chairman, took care of all graphics, programs, sponsor sheets, and a lot of behind the scene work that has made this a very smooth, timely, extremely successful event. She took time to label the names on pictures and paintings in the House to better explain who they were for the guest's information. Barbara made it possible for completion of last minute items to ensure success of this event.

GAZETTE

Kari Vaughan, Editor

In 2017 *The Oakland Gazette* was published four times per the usual schedule (March, June, September, December). Approximately 90 members chose to receive it via snail mail (price to do so remained \$5 on top of membership fee) while all those with an email address on file continued to receive a full-color electronic version. 2017 saw the most participation by a wider variety of individuals in contributing articles, particularly historical feature articles. ALL members are welcome to submit articles, content, and suggestions.

PUBLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Jo Pate, Chairman

The 2018 calendar entitled “OCPHS Remembers 1918” includes pictures and posters that were part of Pontiac community during WWI. These images of Pontiac soldiers and people were assembled by **Geoff Brieger** and **Dave Walls**, and have been popular with the 100 year anniversary of WWI. It was available at the 2017 Summer Social, which gave it much needed early publicity.

This year we also had a new publication for our members and friends. *Soup to Nuts: New Takes on Old Favorites*. This excellent cook book was edited by **Jo Pate**. This book is a collection of recipes submitted by members of OCPHS, as well as non-members who are interested in cooking. Some of the dishes were taste-tested before inclusion because they were, well, unusual. Jo found a few volunteers to be her taste-testers who wholeheartedly approved the recipes for inclusion.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dave Decker, 3rd cook in the kitchen

Plans and Accomplishments

In terms of activity, 2017 was a planning year, with some exceptions. Without much of a budget, we really couldn't get very far, and focused on setting the stage for better things in the future. Even so, it was a productive year. Most importantly, there's a roadmap in place to implement over time.

Website

The website was completely replaced with a WordPress engine. This lets us easily update and manage it, and more importantly, it lets us track *metrics* – what people are viewing on the site. The new site also integrates donations and an online store, smoothes out the process of getting payments from Paypal, and lets people can find things they're looking for more easily. It also handles mobile devices like tablets and phones well.

As a result, website traffic increased from around 400 users per month to around 3,200 – we're not google.com, but that's an outstanding increase. Our donation system processed around \$2,700 in donations from June through December, averaging around \$240.00 per month. Again, not a huge number – but the future looks bright.

Google for Non-Profits

Since around the mid-1990s, OCPHS has relied on board members and volunteers to use their home computers to manage data for the Society, specifically email and work in progress. We also rely on people to make sure correspondence ends up back at OCPHS in some way, which hasn't been a priority. As a result, OCPHS lacks a document trail and central storage for these documents and data.

To begin to correct this, OCPHS implemented the "Google Suite for Non-Profits", aka "the G Suite", which is free as part of Google's efforts in the non-profit market.

This is groupware – it gives us online storage and email, which lets us centrally manage and store information that otherwise would be stored on a user's computer.

Through it, we can assign email addresses from the pinegrovewisner.org domain – email sent and received under those email addresses is stored under the organization's umbrella, and can serve as the Society's email "letterhead". This is an important step toward recreating that lost document trail.

Implementation of the G-Suite has been slow. Resistance is high. With time, this will improve; as knowledge and need arises, more of its features will come into use.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

OCPHS is a member of the following professional organizations:

American Association for State and Local History
Historical Society of Michigan
Mainstreet Pontiac
Michigan Museums Association
Michigan Non-Profit Association
Michigan Oral History Association
Michigan Photographic Historical Society
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Oakland County Genealogical Society
Oakland County Historical Resources
Oakland County Historical Societies Roundtable

GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE

Bill Clink (Chairman)

Pine Grove is a beautiful five acres. When you drive onto the grounds, it is easy to quickly forget that you are still in a city. However, as beautiful as Pine Grove is, it is in a constant state of needing repairs and upgrades. This year the most notable upgrade was to the Carriage House, which received new paint, carpet and kitchen cabinets. It was a drastic change to the previous 1990s decor. Since so much of our daily operations are done in the Carriage House this has been a noticeable and welcome change.

The trim on the Wisner House got a new coat of paint as did the entire schoolhouse. The GM Global Propulsion Systems group repaired the schoolhouse ramp. The main Pine Grove sign on the front lawn and the entrance sign were painted and raised white to help draw attention.

WISNER HOUSE ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2017:

Kathy Davis Chairman. Members: Mike West, Adrian Rawls, Sue Grifor, Sheri Morgan, Bruce Bandy, Priscilla Shelton.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

The Décor Custom Painting Company helped restore the Green Room (Pantry), and some window trim and Door trim, on the outside of the HOUSE and the Gift Shop. The wooden storm doors and two French Sash storm window doors for the gift shop were restored and painted. The wrap around exterior porch floor was repainted. The SUMMER KITCHEN had two doors and casings restored and window boards by Décor Custom Painting Company. They also painted the SCHOOL HOUSE siding, trim and front porch.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY AND BEING EVALUATED:

A lot has been accomplished this year, but there is more that is needed to be done. The Wisner House needs CLIMATE CONTROL to stabilize the interior environment. At that time, one Gas and one Electric Meter could replace the two each we have now. This would save dollars yearly. Quotes are being solicited. The windows are very old and fragile and can crack easily with movement. The storm windows need caulking and some need repair or replacement. A plan and costs are in the works. New wall cracks have developed in the upstairs rooms and the office ... costs are being solicited. Exterior doors need sealing and repair...costs are being solicited. Some Exterior bricks are in need of tuckpointing...costs are being solicited.

House upkeep and maintenance will continue. The foundation will continue to be monitored. An action plan and costs will be presented to the board for review and approval.

LIBRARY

Charlotte Cooper

The Library specializes in the history of Oakland County. This includes family histories, abstracts and deeds, advertisements, art posters, cemetery records, directories, books, maps, manuscripts, military inventories, newspapers 1856+, oversized photos, plat maps, posters, railroad and road maps, school diplomas and yearbooks, scrapbooks, street guides, and township maps 1817+.

Pat Kaltwasser and Terry Currin are reorganizing the library by the Dewey Decimal System and creating a computer database. Terry has put in hundreds of volunteer hours to get this project nearly to completion. We cannot thank him enough. The result will make it easier to find reference material. Pat continues to index the names in the scrapbooks to compile a searchable database, and Reida Gardiner enters the information into a searchable index.

Volunteers drop what they are doing to assist visitors who come in to do research, which has resulted in new memberships, donations, and exchange of information. If **YOU** wish to help with library/archive projects, any size, any time, please contact the office. Your help is always appreciated!

ACCESSIONS

Geoff Brieger, Chair
Ray Lucas, Barbara Frye

The most interesting donation this year was the collection of Civil War memorabilia from the estate of Charles A. Nisbett, donated by his grandson Donald S. Nisbett. The major items included an approximately 9'x4' national flag, dating from 1862-63, identified as a recruiting flag, a collection of letters from prominent persons of the time, including President Rutherford B. Hayes and General W.T. Sherman, a certificate honoring members of the Michigan 16th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, who had fought in 38 major battles of the Civil War, and a collection of ribbons and medallions issued to participants in annual Reunions of the G.A.R. as well as the 16th Regiment. Charles Nisbett was an active member and eventually president of the Michigan 16th Regiment, and eventually its president. The records of the reunions from 1909-1924 were also donated.

Accessions for 2017 were modest, and no particular category was favored. The bulk of the donations consisted of photos. Ten black and white photos and images were donated by Ray Lucas, Dot laLone, Leslie Pielack, Kathleen McDonald, and Jacques Caussin. Ten books, pamphlets, and booklets were donated by Pat Kaltwasser and John Scholl. Two maps were donated by Kathleen McDonald. Nine artifacts were donated by Bill Clink, Ray Steehler, and Don McLain. Two miscellaneous items were donated by Helen McAllister and Dave DeLong.

GIFT SHOP

Judy & Barb Hudalla manage the Wisner House gift shop. They had another good year in 2017, surpassing previous years revenue and generating over \$2,200 in sales! Barb does a great job being our top sales lady for memberships. This year new shelves were added to the gift shop allowing for more merchandise to be displayed. Thank you to all of the members and friends who donate goods for resale allowing all proceeds to benefit OCPHS.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have around 317 members. Members are the best ambassadors for OCPHS. Many thanks also to **Sue Grifor** for keeping our membership records updated.

IN MEMORIAM

Guy Duffield, Director Emeritus and longtime volunteer passed away this year at the age of 87. Guy was a dedicated handyman for OCPHS and fixed nearly everything on the grounds for many years. For quite a long time he was the alarm company's first call whenever the alarm went off outside of office hours. He will be greatly missed. This year we also had to say goodbye to other long time members: Jean Hilderley, Gerald Tewilliager, and Donald Youmans. We are very thankful for their time and involvement in OCPHS.

2017 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who made monetary contributions in 2017:

\$2,500-5,000

Anonymous Friend of OCPHS
Charlotte Cooper
Nancy Duffield

\$1,000-2,499

Joyce Scafe
Anne & Fred Liimatta / Take Away Trash
Amy & Bruce Annett
Gaylor Forman
Oakland County Casual
L Brooks Patterson

\$500-999

Gretchen & Ed Adler
Complete Automation
Genisys Credit Union
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Anne Adamus & LTU Staff
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Henderson/Oakland Orthopedic Partners

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WNF&GA - Pontiac Branch
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Up to \$99

Anonymous Friends of OCPHS
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Sally Jo Tewilliager
Cory Thompson
Susan Todd
Bette Jane Twyman
Todd Walker
Mike & Helen West
Mary Whitmire
Susan Williams
Woodward Auto Sales & Service
Nina (Betty) Wright
Keith Zessin

Thank you to the donors who contributed in-kind goods and services in 2017.

INVITATION TO HELP

We hope you have enjoyed this look back at 2017. We invite you to share this report with a friend, and we encourage you to use the form below to renew your commitment to OCPHS or to invite others to become involved. With your support, OCPHS will continue preserving and conveying Oakland County's role in the evolution of American history!

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home and/or Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Please check all that apply: I would like to:



Join or Renew: Annual dues good until July 1 of next year:

___\$20 individual ___\$35 family ___\$100 Patron ___\$500 Corporate/Friend



Volunteer: Contact me to explore volunteer opportunities matching my interests



Donate: Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

Please contact me about a gift for the historical collections or resale_____.

I have included OCPHS in my will ___ or I am considering a gift to OCPHS in my will ___.

Return To:

OCPHS

405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.

Pontiac, MI 48342

Phone: 248-338-6732 Fax: 248-338-6731 Email: office@ocphs.org

Please make checks payable to OCPHS

You may also join or donate online at www.ocphs.org

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Donations are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law