

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
151 ARNIE ANDERSON DRIVE
MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265
OFFICE: 320-269-7636 CELL: 320-321-2532
CHIPPEWAHISTORICAL@GMAIL.COM
WWW.CHIPPEWACOHISTORY.ORG**

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CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**AMY RAGER, PRESIDENT
JONATHAN RICH, VICE-PRESIDENT
DAWN SLETTEN, SECRETARY
CINDY WALTER, TREASURER**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHIP WORSECH
DAVID SLETTEN
PAUL OSTLIE
BILL PAULING (COUNTY BOARD APPOINTED)**

ENDOWMENT BOARD

**DAVID LAURITSEN, CHAIR
SUE KEMPE, SECRETARY
JACKIE LINDVALL, TREASURER
AUDREY ARNER
SCOTT LYNNE
BILL PAULING (COUNTY BOARD APPOINTED)**

Chippewa County Historical Society Annual Meeting 2023

April 18, 2023 6:00 PM

Milan School, Milan, MN

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President David Lauritsen. 66 people were in attendance. 64 members.

Acting Secretary Amy Rager established that there was a quorum present.

Minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were provided in packets to all attendees. A motion to approve the 2022 minutes was made by Dawn Sletten Second by Richard Handeen. Motion passed.

The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates:

Amy Rager-President, Jon Rich-Vice President, Barb Buseman-Secretary, Cindy Walter-Treasurer, Chip Worsech-Board Member

President David Lauritsen called for nominations from the floor 3 times. Audrey Arner then moved that nominations cease and cast an unanimous ballot for those listed above. Second by Judi Bohm. Passed

Special guests were recognized, county commissioner, Bill Pauling, current BOD members, past BOD members, past Hall of Fame winners.

Reminder to make your donation to cover the cost of the meal, \$15.00 per person.

Audrey Arner announced that the endowment will be doing a different fundraiser this year at the Swensson Farm, a wine tasting event open to all.

Meeting was adjourned by President David Lauritsen.

Hall of Fame Award was given to Bob & Diane Berven, they received a plaque, and plant. They gave a short acceptance speech.

Program about Chippewa County in 1892 was given by Paul Ostlie.

Olaf Minge shared about the sculpture project by Matt Lanz of Red Iron.

Chippewa County Historical Society

Strategic Plan

Vision: The Chippewa County Historical Society exists to preserve and share the history of Chippewa County.

Value Statement: The Chippewa County Historical Society is a relevant, member-focused cooperative organization.

Focus Areas:

Engage Membership
Clear Communication
Strong Financial Control
Exciting Educational Events
Well Managed Collections

Objectives:

Engaged Membership: Create a new platform to interact with volunteers, Create opportunities to recruit new members, and Share the benefits of membership.

Clear Communication: Improve its social media presence for events and stories, Share weekly updates, and Raise awareness of who the society is and what they stand for.

Strong Financial Control: The Board of Directors will be responsible for making sure the annual budget is created in a timely manner.

Exciting Educational Events: Provide a minimum of 6 exciting educational opportunities both on and off its sites, and Offer specific sessions related to genealogy searches.

Well Managed Collections: Learn and use Collective Access to document its collections, Protect and preserve the artifacts, and Share fun and exciting artifacts with the public, members and community.

Presidents Report 2023

This annual meeting marks the completion of my first year as the President of the Chippewa County Historical Society. It has been a year of challenge, learning, growth, and success. The entire Board of Directors is responsible for making this organization successful and without them we could not have accomplished the amazing things that we did.

In 2023, we began the year with no employees, and managed to find a summer caretaker, a summer youth worker, and an interim Executive Director. This allowed the Board to focus on getting the finances and management sides of the society running smoothly. A task which is still ongoing, but we are in a positive moving forward.

A security recommendation project that had been done several years ago needed to be implemented, so we have now installed cameras at both the Village and the Swensson Farm sites, upgrading the security situation in both locations.

Membership was designated as a focus area, we sent information and membership information to all property owners in Chippewa County. Membership was 125 in 2022, 140 in 2023, an increase of 12%, and 170 in 2024, and increase of 21%. We have added 45 new members.

The Board decided that the priority was to work to make the Chippewa County Historical Society a destination. We added new events, a flea market, Mother's Day Tea, Story Walk, Trivia Night, Trick or Treat Mainstreet, and Cookies with Santa, in order to attract a new audience, or to reinvigorate longtime members.

The tried and true activities were also held, such as Mission Sunday/Open House, Horse Power Event, Christmas in the Village and decorating. These events were successful with small adjustments to refresh well established traditions.

We worked with community partners to promote the Historical Society, getting the word out about our events and activities.

The collection of historical artifacts at the Society is immense. We created a new Tiny Gallery Space to allow for more artifacts to be on display at various times of the year.

Long overdue maintenance was completed, including plumbing leaks, new toilets in the Gateway Building and Village Hall. The furnace room got a complete overhaul. New flooring to replace the damaged floor, new shelves, and a fresh coat of paint. Creating a much needed storage space and utility closet.

An exciting opportunity to add to our village has come up with the Iverson Cabin being added to the collection of buildings. This building will also allow us to add the Anderson Funeral Home to the boardwalk. A grant was written and received for the foundation concrete work to be completed in the summer of 2024. The cabin will be a multi-use space to provide more exhibition space and flexible space for activities as needed.

2024 is well underway and we have hired new staff and are on a great path! The future looks bright for the Chippewa County Historical Society. Keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming building projects at the Village and plan to be involved as a volunteer.

Operations Manager Report

Where to start!? 2023 started out a little bumpy but the Board of Directors did a great job keeping Historic Chippewa City, the Swensson Farm, and LqP Missions history alive. A huge Thank you to Eliza Buchanan for stepping in as interim Executive Director through the Summer months of 2023. We started off the year with the Annual Banquet held at the Milan School and served more than 75 attendees. In the month of May we had two events, Mother's Day Tea (new) and Heritage Week. Heritage Week was held the second week in May. We had 20 schools with over 700 students and chaperones attending the 3 day event. This year was the first year to celebrate Mother's Day for the Chippewa County Historical Society. We served a variety of teas, water, fruit, sandwiches, and sweets. There were 6 guests who attended the Tea Party. In the month of June we had 118 guests tour Historic Chippewa City. In the month of July we had 184 guests tour Historic Chippewa City. Our event in July was the Flea Market and "Antiques Roadshow". There were 8 vendors and Paul Ostlie did appraisals for many area community members. In the month of August we had 157 guests tour Historic Chippewa City. This year was the first year we had Trivia Night. All the questions were based on Minnesota History. In the month of September we had 65 guests visit Historic Chippewa City. Our event in September was the Ice Cream Social. We served about 40 ice cream bars and root beer floats. Visitors also had a chance to meet the new Operations Manager, Barb Buseman. In the month of October we had 10 guests visit Historic Chippewa City. We were one of the sites for Meander. Our artist was Cindy Walter. Meander is a 3 day event which brought many new visitors into the Gift Shop. In the month of November we had our Cookies with Santa event. Cookies with Santa is a Free will donation event which brought in over 100 adults and kids. In the month of December we had our Christmas in the Village event with the "Whoville" Grinch theme. This event brought in over 800 guests.

We are hoping next year will be just as successful.

In April 2023, I started volunteering at the Chippewa County Historical Society as the Secretary on the Board of Directors. In October 2023, I started working as the Operations Manager. Over the past 6 months, I have met so many new people and have got to hear many of their stories about family history and their experiences volunteering at the Chippewa County Historical sites. I hope to learn more about

Chippewa County history for years to come.

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

-Harry S. Truman

ENDOWMENT INCOME COMPARISON

2023**2022****Income**

Donations	335.00	2,099.85
Interest Earned on Checking & Savings Accounts	92.63	54.20
Investment Capital Gains	23,338.39	-55,330.48
Interest Earned on Investments	16,944.16	6,206.44
Total Income	40,710.18	-46,969.99

Expenses

Investment Administration	3,923.13	3,860.12
Grant Issued - Wiring the Shed	2,065.69	
Grant Issued - Copier	4,829.62	
Grant Issued - Shed		6,344.73
Grant Issued - Tables and Chairs		4,598.48
Grant Issued - Battery Powered Tools		1,469.94
Total Expenses	10,818.44	16,273.27

Net Income

29,891.74	-63,243.26
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Endowment Balance Sheet Comparison**2023****2022****Cash**

General	314.39	113.93
CCHS Endowment	5,413.94	4,279.77
Norma Stevens Endowment	8,182.90	4,144.54
Tilden Endowment	425.00	300.00
Total Cash	14,336.23	8,838.24

Investments at SWIF

CCHS Endowment	139,884.09	128,864.46
Norma Stevens Endowment	100,176.59	92,356.49
Tilden Endowment	43,900.31	38,346.29
Total Investments	283,960.99	259,567.24

Total Assets

298,297.22	268,405.48
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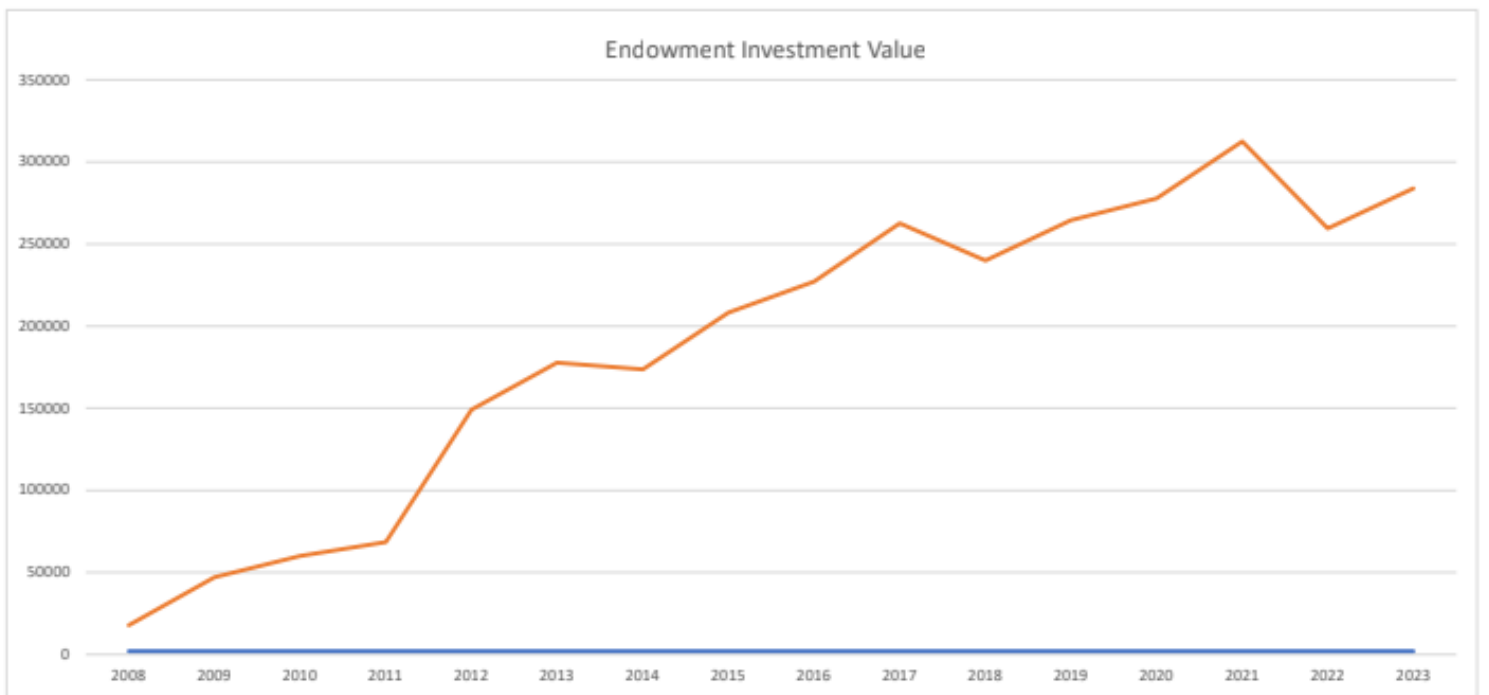
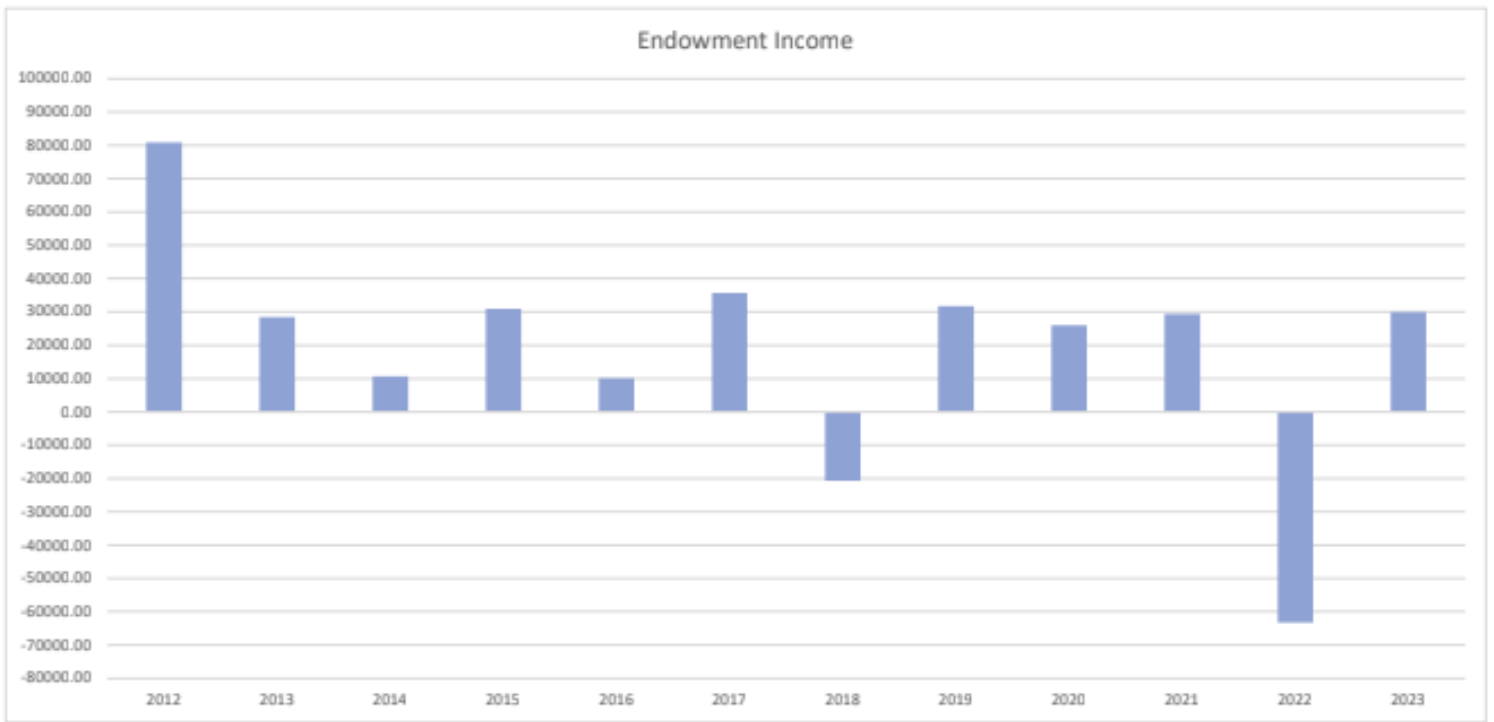
Liabilities and Income

Current Year Income	29,891.74	-63,243.26
Unrestricted Net Assets	268,405.48	331,648.74

Total Liabilities and Income

298,297.22	268,405.48
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2023 ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS
VERNON YOUNGREN
HARLAN AND DIANE RUSTY
DALE AND KATHY KNOSHAL



ENDOWMENT FUND

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SET UP AN ENDOWMENT FUND? A NAMED FUND CAN BE DEDICATED TO WHICHEVER PURPOSE YOU'D LIKE. THE FUND CAN BE IN YOUR NAME, FAMILY NAME, OR EVEN AN HONOREE OF YOUR CHOOSING. CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE ENDOWMENT BOARD TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENDOWMENT FUNDS.

Chippewa County Historical Society

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL		
	AS OF DEC 31, 2023	AS OF DEC 31, 2022 (PP)	CHANGE
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Appropriation	-8,086.27		-8,086.27
Cash on Hand	285.00	235.00	50.00
Endowment Accounts	-1,275.00	-1,175.00	-100.00
Endowment Checking - 20778-31	2,097.53	2,097.53	0.00
Endowment Savings - 20778-A	6,740.71	6,740.71	0.00
Fd 777 Norma Stevens Memorial	92,356.49	92,356.49	0.00
Fd 782 CCHS Endowment Account	128,864.46	128,864.46	0.00
Fd 804 Tilden/Founders Fund	38,346.29	38,346.29	0.00
Total Endowment Accounts	267,130.48	267,230.48	-100.00
Garbage fee	40.31		40.31
Old National Bank - Checking	83,179.71	73,224.75	9,954.96
Ostlie Cabin Fund	-3,010.00		-3,010.00
Savings Account & CD's			
CU - Oyen/History Book Savings	6,663.40	6,663.40	0.00
ONB - Church Fund	6,750.60	6,750.60	0.00
ONB - Funeral Fund	2,002.08	2,002.08	0.00
ONB - Interpretation Fund	6,742.47	6,742.47	0.00
Share Savings - C	17.51	17.51	0.00
Skreberg CD - Minnwest	21,418.97	21,418.97	0.00
Skreberg Savings Account - CU	1,683.32	1,683.32	0.00
Total Savings Account & CD's	45,278.35	45,278.35	0.00
Thriv Thrivent Gift Card - Christmas	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thrivent Gift Card - Horse Powe	-250.00	-250.00	0.00
Thrivent Gift Card - Picnic Tab	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$384,567.58	\$385,718.58	\$ -1,151.00
Other Current Assets			
Assets Due from	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Inventory	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$385,917.58	\$387,068.58	\$ -1,151.00
Fixed Assets			
Accumulated	-239,860.00	-239,860.00	0.00
Depreciation Buildings	935,564.00	935,564.00	0.00
Equipment	27,662.00	27,662.00	0.00
Land and Improvements	28,300.00	28,300.00	0.00

Chippewa County Historical Society

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL		
	AS OF DEC 31, 2023	AS OF DEC 31, 2022 (PP)	CHANGE
Vehicles	3,050.00	3,000.00	50.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$754,716.00	\$754,666.00	\$50.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,140,633.58	\$1,141,734.58	\$ -1,101.00
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
MN Department of Revenue Payable	-307.19	0.00	-307.19
Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	284.22	133.30	150.92
State Payroll Taxes Payable	-641.44	31.00	-672.44
State Unemployment Payable	-453.03	469.00	-922.03
Total Payroll Liabilities	-810.25	633.30	-1,443.55
PPP Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales Tax Payable	92.74	92.74	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ -1,024.70	\$726.04	\$ -1,750.74
Total Current Liabilities	\$ -1,024.70	\$726.04	\$ -1,750.74
Total Liabilities	\$ -1,024.70	\$726.04	\$ -1,750.74
Equity			
Endowment Net Assets With Donor			
Restrictions by purpose or time	92,250.56	92,250.56	0.00
Restrictions in perpetuity	239,398.18	239,398.18	0.00
Total Endowment Net Assets With Donor	331,648.74	331,648.74	0.00
Net Assets-Purpose Restrictions	47,276.73	47,276.73	0.00
Net Assets-Without Restrictions	762,083.07	839,950.72	-77,867.65
Net Income	649.74	-77,867.65	78,517.39
Total Equity	\$1,141,658.28	\$1,141,008.54	\$649.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,140,633.58	\$1,141,734.58	\$ -1,101.00



Chippewa County Historical Society

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
Admissions	4,827.92
Donations and Contributions	6,271.23
Business Contributions	5.36
Endowment contribution	-225.00
Total Donations and Contributions	6,051.59
Grants	
Chippewa County Allocation	47,000.00
Total Grants	47,000.00
Membership Dues	
2022 Membership Dues	180.00
2023 Membership Dues	9,370.00
Total Membership Dues	9,550.00
Other Types of Income	
Bake Sale	628.50
Candy Candy	818.50
Penny Fund	15.29
Total Other Types of Income	1,462.29
Refunds and Reimbursements	80.96
Rental Income	40.00
Sales of gift shop products	6,713.24
Special Events Income	1,511.40
Event Fee Income	1,331.50
Total Special Events Income	2,842.90
Uncategorized Income	4,550.00
Vendor's Fee	195.50
Total Income	\$83,314.40
Expenses	
Change Fund for Events	200.00
Cost of Sales	68.98
Consignment Payment	1,868.61
Merchandise for Resale	3,211.15
Total Cost of Sales	5,148.74
Equipment maintenance	1,078.20
Equipment gas & oil	169.00
Total Equipment maintenance	1,247.20
Event Expenses	1,417.99
Event Supplies	2,699.42
Food	1,486.82
Singers/Speakers Mileage	300.00
Total Event Expenses	5,904.23

Chippewa County Historical Society

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Facilities maintenance	305.43
Alarm monitoring	64.03
Building repair/painting	3,330.94
Cleaning	89.30
Mowing	2,431.81
Supplies	1,333.57
Total Facilities maintenance	7,555.08
Facilities Utilities	
Electricity	2,806.63
Heat	3,910.57
Telephone	2,420.16
Water, Sewer, Garbage	4,513.57
Total Facilities Utilities	13,650.93
non-Profit Management Liability	1,646.00
Operations	
Accountant Fees	750.00
Advertising Expense	6,487.64
Annual Banquet	1,315.00
Awards and Gifts	2,119.96
Bank Fees	122.05
Board Meeting Expenses	20.94
Dues and Subscriptions	435.00
Heritage Week	-3,185.00
Horse Power Event	25.00
Insurance	
Property & Liability Insurance	3,883.76
Treasurer's Surety Bond	285.00
Vehicle Insurance/Registration	749.25
Volunteer Liability	400.00
Workers Comp. Insurance	790.00
Total Insurance	6,108.01
Office Expenses	2,591.06
Copier Repair	43.75
Office Equipment	1,634.62
Office Supplies	2,469.52
Total Office Expenses	6,738.95
Postage, Mailing Service	2,652.99
Safe Deposit Box Rent	102.00
Staff Development	77.54
Total Operations	23,770.08
Payroll Tax Expense	162.28

Chippewa County Historical Society

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Security Assessment/System Audi	1,046.42
Taxes	3,390.42
MN Sales Tax	847.10
Registration/Filing Fees	15.00
Total Taxes	4,252.52
Volunteer Expense	22.27
Wage Expense	16.99
Wages - Other	1,429.08
Wages - Caretaker	4,859.66
Wages - Director	11,753.18
Total Wage Expense	18,058.91
Total Expenses	\$82,664.66
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$649.74
NET INCOME	\$649.74



Chippewa County Historical Society

Election of Executive Officers and Board Members 2024

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024 Board of Directors

President - Amy Rager Term 2024

At Large Representative

Vice President - Johnathan Rich Term 2024

Second District Representative

Secretary - Dawn Sletten Term 2024

First District Representative

Treasurer - Cindy Walter Term 2024

Fourth District Representative

Board Member - Chip Worsech Term 2026

Third District Representative

Board Member - David Sletten Term 2025

Third District Representative

Board Member - Paul Ostlie Term 2026

At Large Representative

In Search of: Fifth District Representative

Nominations from the Floor -



Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024 Endowment Board of Directors

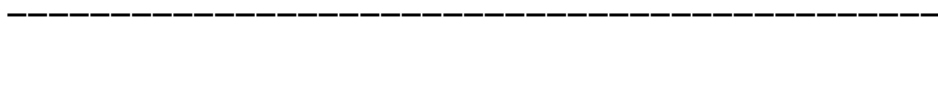
Scott Lynne Term 2024

Treasurer - Jackie Lindvall Term 2025

President - David Lauritsen Term 2026

Secretary - Sue Kempe Term 2025

Nominations from the Floor -



2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1-25 CLEAN UP DAYS AT HISTORIC CHIPPEWA CITY
- 9 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 10 ALC SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT
- 16 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET 6P IN MAYNARD
- 22 9TH GRADE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT
- 26 CLEAN UP DAY AT LACQUIPARLE MISSION-10AM
- 28 LACQUIPARLE MISSION OPEN HOUSE-1PM- 3PM

MAY

- 4 PROM
- 7-9 HERITAGE WEEK
- 11 MOTHER'S DAY TEA 1P-4P
- 14 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 15 MMS KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY
- 18 SEARCH4 SPIRITS INVESTIGATION-SF
- 25 CHIPPEWA CITY OPENING WEEKEND-1PM- 5PM
- 26 SWENSSON FARM OPENING WEEKEND-1PM-5PM
- 27 MEMORIAL DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 27 CHIPPEWA CITY OPEN-1PM TO 5PM

JUNE

- 8 STORYTIME WALK 1P-5P
- 11 BOARD MEETING 5:30P
- 114-15 GHOST HUNTERS INVESTIGATION-SF
- 16 DAD'S DAY CELEBRATION 10A-2P
- 20 QUILTING WORKSHOP 9A-3P
- 29 SEARCH4SPIRITS REVEAL EVENT-SF

JULY

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 4 CHIPPEWA CITY OPEN-1PM - 5PM
- 7 LAC QUI PARLE MISSION SUNDAY-10:30AM
- 9 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 13 CHIPPEWA CITY FLEA MARKET/APPRAISALS 9A-1P

AUGUST

- 10 CHIPPEWA CITY PUBLIC BOOK READING
- 13 BOARD MEETING-5:30PM
- 24 CHIPPEWA CITY FLEA MARKET/APPRAISALS 9A-1P

SEPTEMBER

- 1 SF-LAST DAY OPEN 1PM-5PM
- 2 LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 2 CHIPPEWA CITY OPEN-1PM-5PM
- 2 LAC QUI PARLE MISSION-LAST DAY
- 5 GAME NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE 6P-9P
- 10 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 12 GAME NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE 6P-9P
- 14 HORSE POWER EVENT-10AM-4PM
- 18 WELCOMING WEEK, ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MUSIC 5P-8P
- 19 GAME NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE 6P-9P
- 26 GAME NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE 6P-9P
- 29 CHIPPEWA CITY-LAST DAY OPEN 1P-5P

OCTOBER

- 1 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS
- 4 MEANDER 3P-6P
- 5 MEANDER/FLEA MARKET 9A-6P
- 6 MEANDER 9A-5P
- 8 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 14 COLUMBUS DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 26 SWENSSON FARM FRIGHT NIGHT
- 31 HALLOWEEN-TRICK OR TREAT STREET

NOVEMBER

- 1 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 12 BOARD MEETING 5:30PM
- 28 THANKSGIVING DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 30 COOKIES WITH SANTA-1PM-7PM

DECEMBER

- 1 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES
- 7 CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE-10AM-4PM
- 10 BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE-OFFICE CLOSSES-12PM
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE-OFFICE CLOSSES-12PM

WORK PLAN 2024

Historic Chippewa City:

- Church – fix posts, paint & replace sign, replace plexiglass, finish painting peaks on north side. Re-attach bell. Screen on top of furnace exhaust
- School House – repair bell tower rot & paint
- Gateway – touch up front railings, French Glass to install new lock; paint bathrooms; replace toilets
- Trim trees – city to remove diseased trees
- Continued critter control
- Barber shop – finish painting
- Print shop – scrape and paint back peak second section and trim in front
- Fire hall – scrape and paint all
- Law office – scrape and paint back and sides
- Ice House – touch up back and sides; repaint sign; front trim, sides & front
- Buggy Shop – scrape and paint N, E, and W sides; fix SW corner
- Post office – apply wood protector annually to all log cabins
- Bank – scrape and paint sides
- Ag Building – scrape and paint E & W sides; touch up rest as needed. Grade down high spot under sliding door
- Ness House – scrape and paint peaks and upper parts & trim; continue treatment for wood borers
- Anderson Cabin – Boracare holes on SE side & cover with screen, apply wood protector
- Dr Burns – reshingle west side; scrape and paint bottom board
- Village Hall – add gutters; replace bottom rotten panels, paint. Paint inside ceiling in spots; paint and scrape front; paint letters, replace furnace room floor, clean furnace room closet, get rid of stove
- Trading Post – paint touch up; scrape and paint E & W sides
- Reapply non-slip texture to ramps
- Church Museum – scrape and paint all
- Gazebo – Scrape and paint
- Make new entrance sign
- Make sign for Chestnut trees
- Install Central Middle School bench
- Plant tree in honor of Mark Lange
- Replace June Lynne Tree
- Bank-replace boardwalk board
- Look closer at handicap accessibility- ramps, thresholds, bathrooms
- Keep cleaning out collections for duplications, damaged or unwanted items
- Burns cabin needs roof-was patched in 2022

WORK PLAN 2024

Office Tasks

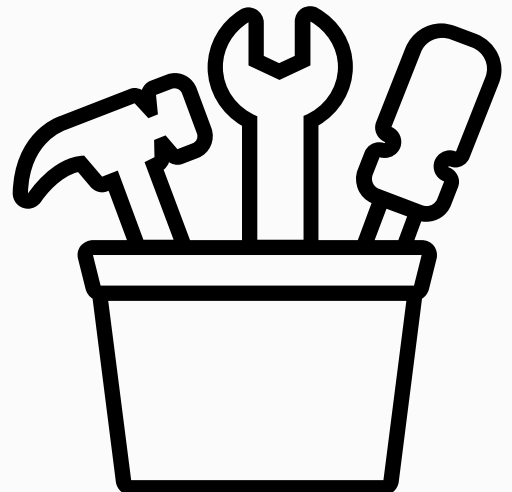
- Go through files in file cabinets, scan and toss old obsolete files, multiple copies of things
- Propose change to by-laws to have reps from towns rather than commissioner districts
- Create event planning sheets/budgets
- Create wedding venue brochures
- Updates to website
- Design a new logo, stationary
- Update board packet
- Get city to designate a rep

Swensson Farm:

- Continue to remove diseased trees
- Draw up work plan for House – apply for restoration grants
- Add handle to Women’s outhouse door
- Clean grove
- Fix gate wheel – paint front gates
- More belting under outside equipment
- Clean Moehring building display and organize
- Install Lowell Haff replica farm display
- Paint signposts along Hwy 7 Sign east and west of county Rd 6- red paint in Village Hall

Lac Qui Parle Mission:

- Scrape and stain building
- Paint interior
- Make closed shutters more secure, wax for easier opening and closing
- Remove invasive species
- Bulletin board



Historic Chippewa City

Historic Chippewa City was open to visitors from Memorial Day through the beginning of October 2023. There were a few updates to the inside of the Gateway Building. The Gallery and Gift Shop were painted to give a fresh new look for displays and exhibits. Chippewa County sports was the theme for the Gallery and an open, organized concept for the Gift Shop. Historic Chippewa City planned many new events in 2023. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. We held a morning event with donuts and coffee to show our volunteers our appreciation for all their hard work and dedication. May is a busy month with school trips, Mother's Day, and the opening of Historic Chippewa City and the Swensson Farm. Heritage Week was held on the 9th, 10th and 11th of May with approximately 800 students, teachers, and chaperones in attendance. Mother's Day was a great event in Village Hall. There was a lot of snacks, stories, and sipping tea. June, July, and August provided StoryTime Walk in the Village, Flea Market and Appraisals, Trivia Night, and a Watercolor Painting Class. We had many guests for all events, some members and some new. New guests loved touring the Village, shopping in the gift shop, and talking with our office volunteers. The Ice Cream Social was held in September. We were unable to secure a band for music in the Gazebo this year but guests enjoyed ice cream and root beer floats while walking around the Village. In October we joined in on the fun for Halloween. Even with the cold and wind, we had approximately 30 kids in costume come to the Village for candy. Cookies with Santa was a success this year. We extended the hours to be from 2p-7p. Over 100 kids and adults came down to make cookies, take pictures with Santa, and listen to a Christmas story read by Santa. Thanks to the weather and colorful decorations, Christmas in the Village brought in over 800 visitors. Santa and The Grinch were a hit, especially when they decided to take a wagon ride together. Historic Chippewa City received grants from Knights of Columbia and Thrivent to help support the event. Artifacts continue to come in all year. We are looking for volunteers to come in to work on archiving projects in 2024. If you like to take photos, organize, data entry, and creating new exhibits and displays, please stop in or call the office. Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30p in the Gateway Building office.



Photos of the Gallery Exhibit and the Gateway Gift Shop Updates



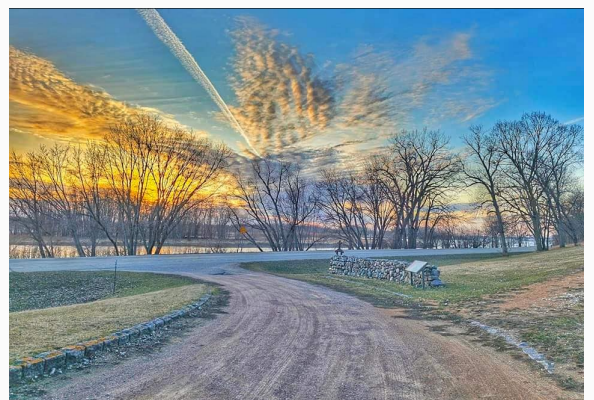
Swensson Farm Museum

The Swensson Farm Museum was open to visitors from Memorial Day through September. The Horse Power Event was held in September from 10a-3. We had new vendors, a food truck, and exhibitors who helped make the Horse Power Event a success, even with the short down pour in the afternoon. There were approximately 250 visitors that attended the event. We have updated security at the Swensson Farm with Blink cameras throughout the grounds and inside the house. We have captured many active squirrels and raccoons, along with some beautiful sunrise videos. We did not have a weekend host through the 2023 season but many volunteers helped keep the Swensson Farm Museum open every Saturday and Sunday from 1p-5p. If you'd like to be our Weekend Host for 2024, contact the Chippewa County Historical Society Office at 320-269-7636.



Lac qui Parle Mission

Events held at the LqP Mission included the Annual Open House held in April and Mission Sunday held in July. Many attended Mission Sunday. It was followed by a potluck and program.



Adopt-A-Building Sponsors

Bailey and Woodward Bath and Shine: Bob Christensen

Chippewa Bank Building: Old National Bank

Village Church: Montevideo Area Community Foundation

Dr. Burns Office: Pat Roberts

Fire Hall: Bob Berven

Burns Fur Trade Post: Montevideo Lions

Gazebo: Montevideo Community Band

Gippe Cabin: Montevideo Women of Today

Harness Shop: Hawk Creek Saddle Club

Ice House: Endowment Board

Law Office: Nelson, Oyen, Torvik, PLLP and Stermer & Sellner, Chtd

Ness House: Amy Rager Family

Peder Jacobsen Blacksmith Shop: Rich Huber and Pat Huber

Print Shop: Joe and Mary Keller

School House: Board of Directors

Buildings that need Adopters: Anderson Log Cabin, Blacksmith Shop, Buggy Shop, Church Museum, General Store, Millinery Shop, Post Office, and the Ag Building

Who is eligible to Adopt-A-Building at Historic Chippewa City?

Individuals, Families, Businesses, and Organizations.

Why Adopt a Building?

To help support the mission of the Chippewa County Historical Society. Most importantly, to have fun. and Keep History Alive!

What does an Adopter have to do?

Sponsors will clean their adopted building during clean up week in April prior to Heritage Week and Opening Day. Weekend volunteer host and volunteer for events such as Heritage Week and Christmas in the Village. Assisting with fundraising to acquire the necessary funds for maintenance on their adopted building such as roof repairs and painting. Assist in changing the displays in your adopted building periodically.

What will the Chippewa County Historical Society do for Adopters?

Signs will be placed in the adopted building showing the individual, family, business, or organization's commitment to the Adopt-A-Building program. Press releases will be sent to the appropriate news agencies and the Pioneer Crier. Staff will work with the individual, family, business, or organization on fundraising requests and will bring them to the Board of Directors for consideration.

2023 Hall of Fame Honoree

Maurice Erickson

Maurice was born on June 3, 1937 at their family farm in Danvers, Swift County, MN.

His parents' names were Albert and Claudina Erickson (Laumb). Maurice had 2 brothers and 1 sister.

Algene and Florence Erickson – both have passed away.

Glenn and Glorraine Erickson – Glorraine has passed away.

Charolette Erickson – passed away as an infant.

Maurice spends a lot of his time with family. He has many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great great-nieces and nephews.

Maurice attended Country School-District 77 in Swift County from 1st grade through 8th grade. In 1952, he attended Appleton High School from 9th grade through 12th grade. Maurice graduated in 1956.

Maurice joined the US Navy on January 6th, 1958. He served in the US Navy for 4 years. In 1962, Maurice became an Airman in the Navel Reserve as an Aircraft Hydraulics Technician until 1964. After retiring from the Navy, Maurice began working for the Montevideo School District. He was a custodian for over 30 years.

On August 8th, 1964, Maurice married his first wife Gail (Hacker) Erickson. Gail graduated from Montevideo High School in 1958. She worked as the Chippewa County Recorder for 40 years and was a Board Member for the Chippewa County Historical Society for many years. Maurice became involved with the Chippewa County Historical Society because of Gail's involvement with the Society. He enjoyed spending time at Historic Chippewa City while helping Gail with projects and volunteering. Gail passed away in 1999 from Cancer. Maurice has continued to volunteer for Chippewa County Historical Society. On November 25th, 2006, Maurice married his second wife Audry Waters Thompson. Audry graduated from Montevideo High School in 1958. She worked as a Teller and Loan Officer at MinnWest Bank for many years. After many years at MinnWest Bank, Audry became the Office Manager at Friendship Homes. Audry passed away on August 16th, 2019 from Cancer.

Maurice has been an avid community volunteer for over 60 year.

Our Saviors Lutheran Church: 60 years, serving as a Board Member and Usher.

Chippewa County Historical Society: 55 years, serving as a volunteer

40 and 8: 30 years, serving as Commander and Amender (Chaplen)

Community Center Member: 30 years

2023 Hall of Fame Honoree

Maurice Erickson...continued

Swift County Big Bend Aces and 4-H: 10 years, raising chickens and growing potatoes

American Legion: 37 years, Commander, Flag Bearer, 1st Vice Commander, and 2nd Vice Commander

Maurice has had many hobbies over the years. As a child, he liked fishing near the Milan Bridge for Bullhead. As an adult, he would rather enjoy relaxing by the lake while camping with family. Maurice enjoys watching baseball, especially the MN Twins. He enjoys hanging out at the Montevideo Community Center playing Farkle and Bingo. Maurice also likes to go on touring adventures with the Montevideo Community Center and Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Maurice has enjoyed meeting all the other members, Board Members, and other Hall of Fame Honorees throughout the years volunteering at the Chippewa County Historical Society. Some of his favorite memories are listening to all the stories from visitors, giving tours, going into each building to see new items and learning about those items. The print shop was one of the harder buildings to learn and demonstrate to visitors because of the printing machines.

Throughout the years, Maurice has had opportunities to travel to Norway. His family came from Norway and it was very interesting for him to see the lands, people, and learn some family history about why his family moved from Norway to Milan, MN.

Thank you, Maurice, for all your hard work, dedication, personal stories about history, and volunteer hours that you have given to the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Montevideo Area Community.



MEMBERSHIPS

BUSINESS MEMBERS

PLATINUM BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

**MN VALLEY COOPERATIVE
KEITH HEIN, CLU
ALL TIME CURBING**

GOLD BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

**MONTEVIDEO FAMILY
DENTISTRY**

SILVER BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

**R&R BAKERY
OLD NATIONAL BANK
DOOLEY'S PETROLEUM, INC
KIBBLE EQUIPMENT
COOPER GLEN
GRANDSTAY MONTEVIDEO**

BRONZE BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

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MINNWEST BANK MONTEVIDEO
TOSTENSON, INC
MILLENNIUM THEATER
FARMERS UNION OIL CO.**

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MARY & JOE KELLER
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DIANE BORGENDALE
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WAYNE OSTLIE
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LARRIE QUAM
DAWN SCHULER**

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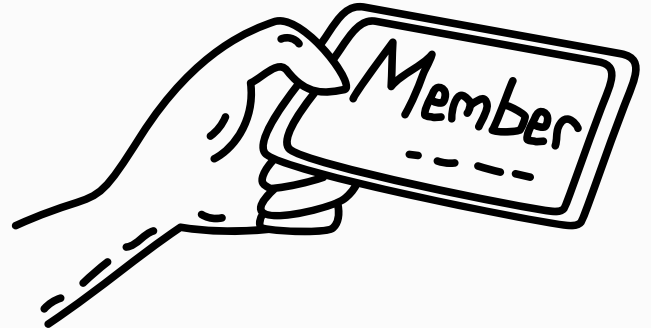
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PAUL & SANDRA THOMPSON
PAUL WALLIEN
JOHN & BETTY WANKE
ARNOLD & CAROLYN ZEMPEL

We are always open to suggestions and feedback for the Society whether it be positive or negative.



Feel Free to give the membership form at the end of this report to family, friends, and other businesses. Membership funds help support our mission to preserve Chippewa County history. Keep History Alive!

Chippewa County Historical Society



151 Arnie Anderson Drive - Montevideo, Minnesota 56265
chippewahistorical@gmail.com 320-269-7636
www.chippewacohistory.org

Dear Community Member:

First of all, THANK YOU for your support! We would like to invite you to renew your membership for the year of 2024.

We are excited for what this year has in store for us. We are hoping to provide the community with a lot more events! Some of those events may be bingo, Mother's Day tea, ice cream social, pumpkin carving contest, hands on workshop, embroidery class, gingerbread houses, cookies with Santa. If you have ideas, please let us know! We couldn't do this without you! So again, thank you!

Here is a breakdown of our membership benefits:

Member Benefits-

- **Individual** – Unlimited free visits for 2 adults to Historic Chippewa City and Swensson Farm Museum, and Christmas in the Village; 10% Gift Shop Discount
- **Family** – Same as Individual plus admission for 2 children aged 6-18
- **Sustaining** – same as Family plus 1 Guest Pass (please have your Guest fill out the back of the pass prior to redeeming)
- **Contributing** – same as Family plus 1 Guest Pass and 15% discount at Gift Shop
- **Benefactor** – same as Contributing plus 1 additional Guest Pass

Business Memberships-

- **Bronze** - Unlimited free visits for 2 adults and 2 children to Historic Chippewa City, Swensson Farm Museum, and Christmas in the Village; 15% Gift Shop Discount plus 1 Guest Pass
- **Silver** – All of Bronze benefits plus 1 additional Guest Pass
- **Gold** – All of Bronze benefits plus 2 additional Guest Passes
- **Platinum** – All of Bronze benefits plus 3 additional Guest Passes

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Sincerely,

Chippewa County Historical Society

2024 MEMBERSHIP RATES Mail to: CCHS 151 Arnie Anderson Dr, Montevideo, MN 56265

Name _____
Address _____
Email address _____
Phone () _____

Mailed Newsletter? Yes No
Emailed Newsletter? Yes No
(Circle one)

Business Member Categories

\$250.00 Platinum \$150.00 Gold \$100.00 Silver \$75.00 Bronze

Individual/Family Member Categories

\$105.00 Benefactor \$80.00 Contributing \$55.00 Sustaining \$35.00 Family \$25.00 Individual

Additional Donation: _____ (if so desired, designate fund) for:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. General Fund | 2. Village Maintenance Fund | 3. Swensson Farm Fund |
| 4. Special Project Fund | 5. General Endowment Fund | 6. Tilden Endowment Fund |
| 7. Other _____ | | |

Total Amount Enclosed: _____