

Nauvoo Historical Society

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Museums are closed and there's snow on the ground, but the Historical Society is already working hard to get ready for the opening of the Weld House and the Rheinberger House in the spring. I'm looking forward to continuing the work we started last year. It seems easier this year, and I think that it's because the board, the chairs and I have been through this at least once already. I guess you can say we have experience or "history" behind us.

In a larger context, history is the thing that makes current tasks easier. Just think of the first time you drove a car. It was so hard. The history of all your driving experience has turned that task into an almost automatic one. We are better at making decisions about how to handle situations – turn or stop, speed up or slow down – because of the history of our experience behind the wheel. Some people tell me they don't like to drive in a city like Chicago. I learned to drive in New York City. I find city driving easier than rural driving. It's my history. When I first moved from the city, I found those unlit two lane roads a real challenge. But now they are as familiar to me as those one way lighted streets I grew up on. My experience grew so that I now have a reference for both city and rural driving.

Recently, a new Nauvoo resident asked me if all the buildings on Mulholland had historic value. I answered, "It depends. To some, they may have no value, to others, they are precious." I wonder who would have the arrogance to take away this context from an entire group of people? Who would demolish our collective history? Who decides if we start to learn the lessons of our past all over again –forcing us to learn to drive the roads of life with no experience to help us?

I'd rather be on the team trying to keep history, experience and collective wisdom in tact and sharing it with our young so they may have a context – a head start on their journey, whether on country roads or city streets. I ask you to join me again this year to make our plans a reality. If you're not a member, join. If you have not renewed your membership, do it now. Come to our quarterly meeting and attend the events on our calendar. Get involved on a committee. But most of all, when someone asks if history is important, tell him or her, "Of course it is. It's mine!"

Sam Candido, President
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February, 2007

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2007 NAUVOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEES

Weld House

Co Chairs: Alan Berry, Larry Dusenberry

Site Manager: Dan Moffitt

Rheinberger Museum

Co Chairs: Iona Siegrist, Mary Elizabeth Scheetz

Site Manager: Reagan Ramsey

Grounds

Co Chairs: Bev Rings, Cary Walker

Members: Bonnie Holliday

Guides

Chair: Genny Simmens

Resource Center

Chair: Prof. Jeff Hanks, WIU

Site Manager: Gabby Berry

Constitution and By Laws

Chair: Dan Moffitt

Members: Sal Candido

Membership

Chair: Cecel Neff

Members: Marilyn Candido

General Meetings

Chair: Dan Moffitt

Members: Board of Directors

Refreshments

February: Candido/Moffitt

May: Yockey/Neff

August: Walker/Newton

November: Hotel Nauvoo

Network and Education

Chair: Marilyn Candido

Finance/Budget

Chair: Pat Morrison

Members: Dan Moffitt

Newsletter

Chair: Linda Yockey

Home Tour

Chair: Linda Nelson

Nominations Committee

Chair: Dan Kraus

Election Dinner Fundraiser

Co Chairs: Lloyd Starr, Mary Anne Reed, Iona Siegrist

2007 Dues Are Now Payable

(Please use this for new and/or renewing memberships
We invite you and your friends to join the
Nauvoo Historical Society (a not-for-profit organization)
Enclose this membership form with your check

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Date _____

*Dues Structure: (Please check one or more of the options listed below.)

- Individual Membership (\$15.00) _____
- Family (\$25) _____
- Business/Professional (\$25.00) _____
- Senior Over 65 (\$10) _____
- Patron (\$100.00) _____
- Life Membership (\$250) _____
- Youth (up to 18 years) Membership (\$5) _____

Please send your 2007 dues to: Pat Morrison, Treasurer
Nauvoo Historical Society
P.O. Box 69
Nauvoo, IL 62354

Special note on membership dues:

As you know, the Board and Membership of the Nauvoo Historical Society voted to approve a new dues schedule at the annual meeting last November. Many members paid their 2007 dues before that vote, and some have submitted their dues after the vote at the old amount. If you have already paid your 2007 dues at the old schedule, while under no obligation to do so, I ask you to consider sending in the difference as a contribution. So if you paid \$10 for an individual membership, send us the extra \$5 either as dues or a donation.

From the publication of this newsletter onward, all memberships new or renewal will have to be at the new schedule.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Sam Candido

Order Form

NAUVOO, a publication of the Nauvoo Historical Society

I wish to order _____ copy (ies) of NAUVOO @ \$9.95 per copy .

Subtotal _____

Please add \$3 shipping and handling for each book

Shipping & Handling _____

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Send your check or money order to:

**NAUVOO Book
Nauvoo Historical Society
PO Box 69
Nauvoo, IL 62354**

*Be sure to enclose this order form.

Thank you for your purchase.

Officers:

Sal Candido, President

Dan Moffitt, 1st Vice President

Cecel Neff, 2nd Vice President

Linda Yockey, Secretary

Pat Morrison, Treasurer

Larry Dusenberry, Director

Marilyn Kraus, Director

Bill Newton, Director

Cary Walker Director

The State Bank of Nauvoo— Preserving the History into the Future

The Nauvoo Historical Society plans to honor the State Bank of Nauvoo for its dedication to historical preservation. The guest speakers for February will be Ted and Tim Rheinhardt, who will talk about the State Bank, a Nauvoo institution which goes back as far as anyone can remember. In addition to the business history, they will give us the history of the two buildings which house the bank and the story of their current efforts to preserve the history of those buildings in their expansion and modernization of the bank facilities. This is not easy to do and it's not inexpensive, and some of the "discoveries" they made in the process make for extremely interesting anecdotes. Be sure to join us for a very interesting and illuminating journey of a bank in transition keeping its tradition, told by the third generation of Rheinhardt bankers.

February General Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. February 8, 2007
Christ Lutheran Church

President's 2007 Goals for the Nauvoo Historical Society

1. Expand Interest and Activity in the Historical Society
 - a. Enlist participation by members in activities and general meetings.
 - b. Expand special programs for holidays and pre-defined events.
 - c. Increase/improve publicity and communications.
 - d. Network with tri-state historical societies.
 - e. Insert an element of fun in every event.
 - f. Become part of the Nauvoo tours.
2. Museums and Collections
 - a. Catalog the Weld House collection and put both Museums on a database
 - b. Complete planned lighting and plumbing work in the Weld House.
 - c. Complete new sidewalks, sign, rear parking, flagpole, exterior lighting for the Weld House. Put back the emphases on the gardens
 - d. Install showcase lighting and make necessary exterior improvements such as shutters and drains at the Rheinberger House.
 - e. Actively solicit new exhibits.
 - f. Collect, write and display more stories associated with the collections.
 - g. Improve the display captions.
 - h. Enlarge the cadre of guides/docents and expand training for guides.
3. School and Community Programs
 - a. Host every Nauvoo school at each museum at least once per season.
 - b. Develop a group of student guides/helpers.
 - c. Begin oral histories.
 - d. Continue and improve the Grape Festival Pageant.
4. Financial Condition of the Historical Society
 - a. Sponsor fundraising events.
 - b. Seek grants for education, preservation and senior events.
 - c. Actively solicit contributions and donations in value and in kind.

The Call Goes Out

As I'm sure most of you are aware, the Weld House had some major face lifting done last summer, even the inside had some adjustments. Well, now we need to continue that process. We are looking for additional artifacts.

Without question, the Mississippi River is a major attraction to people from all over the world. We would like to showcase its significance to the history of our area. So, if you have any **old photos, ice saws or tongs, button hole clam shells** or anything that can tell a story of the river's impact on our community,

that would be great. We also want to continue adding to the Pioneer Room exhibits. Maybe you have a **broad head ax** or an **adz** (used to shape logs for cabins), early to **mid 1800's tools, firearms** or anything to indicate that Nauvoo is approaching 200 years of age. Maybe some of your ancestors had a business decades ago, and you have something that would show what it was like back then. (Remember dialing only two or three numbers to make a phone call?)

Anyway, we are looking to improve upon what we have already. We will gladly take a donation, but we can also use items on loan; short term or long. Now I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but don't consider this as an opportunity to clean out your attic or garage. (Remember the polyester tuxedos and prom dresses we just got rid of?)

It is our goal to have a place of interest; a place that tells Nauvoo's story from the early 1800's to the mid 1900's; a place we can be proud. Please consider this call.

Ok, so now I'm on a roll. The Weld House has other needs. We did get the place air conditioned which helps to keep our artifacts from deteriorating as well as making it a much more inviting place to visit. But. . . .

Sometime in the hopefully not to distant future we need to treat the windows. The single pane glass makes it expensive and hard to heat and cool the place. UV and infrared rays from the sun damage many of our artifacts. And, condensation and/or ice forms on the sashes; shortening their life. We would like to install a thermal pane "storm" which would greatly improve these conditions. They will run two to three hundred dollars apiece, and we have a lot of windows. So, if you know of any grants or benefactors out there, let me know. Or if you see it in your budget to buy one or more of these storms, we can at least start the process and protect areas most vital.

Yes. The call is out. We can sure use whatever you can offer. Give me or any of our board members a call.

I thank you in advance.

Dan Moffitt

Nauvoo Historical Society 2007 Calendar

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| April 7 | Easter in the Garden Weld House |
| May 15 | Museums Open Weld House Rheinberger |
| July 1-29 | Civil War Flag on Display Rheinberger |
| July 4 | July 4th Concert Rheinberger |
| Sept. 1-2 | Grape Festival Pageant State Park |
| Sept. 1 | Grape Festival Concert Weld House |
| Sept. 1-30 | Grape Grower Display Rheinberger |
| TBA | Tour of Homes |
| Oct. 14 | Museums Close Weld House |

Rheinberger
Oct. 27 Halloween Walk
Muholland
Dec. 1 Christmas Concert and Display— Weld House

Come Join Us !

Enrich your life. Be a Nauvoo Historical Society Guide at the Weld House or the Rheinberger Museums. Every aspect of life in rural mid-America from Indian, pioneer, Irish, Mormon, Icarian, German, Swiss, business, education, farm and the river are on display. Save our past to enrich our children's lives. Sign up to be a guide!

Phone President Sal Candido at 453-2830

Or Genny Simmens at 453-2476.

Treasure Hunt

The Nauvoo Historical Society is on a Treasure Hunt. We need some items that you may no longer have use for and wish to find an appreciative home for. If you do, please contact Sam Candido (453-6590) or Dan Moffitt (453-6691).

- ◆ 8 foot or taller artificial Christmas tree.
- ◆ Christmas tree ornaments, especially old style
- ◆ Christmas decorations, especially old style
- ◆ Folding chairs
- ◆ Plastic stacking chairs
- ◆ Outdoor spotlights
- ◆ Dressmaker forms
- ◆ Any parts for an old pull style chain operated door bell.

They will be put to very good use.

Thanks,

Dan and Sam