



NEWSLETTER

APRIL
2024

Letter from the President

It is with renewed enthusiasm that we welcome Spring and the 2024 season of the MFHS. However, we must first reflect on the 2023 season as it was an unprecedented year for us. As I look back on all of our accomplishments in 2023, I am so inspired. We entered our first Lease Agreement with the VofMF and successfully generated enough revenue to not only support our projects and events but also to make our payment to the VofMF in the amount of \$16,500.00. And we were informed by the Village Manager that our payment was enough to cover the cost of the new roof on the Public House!!

We successfully raised enough donations to purchase an AED, we held 23 Saturday Depot Beer Gardens, welcomed over a dozen new musical performers, held weekly building tours, brought back In Touch with History, and began the process to revive the Depot local history museum. Thank you to all our members, volunteers and Board of Directors for working so hard to keep history alive in Menomonee Falls.

The 2024 season looks to be even more exciting! We signed our Lease Agreement with the VofMF on 3-19-24 for the 2024 season, one month earlier than last year. We have all of our major events booked including some new and exciting ones. We submitted our proposal for the depot museum project to the VofMF on 3-15-24 and are awaiting their approval. This is a very important project, not only for the HS but for the community. to have a museum showcasing our history and how we became the village that we are today.

Yours in History,
Denise

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of the following Historical Society members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families during this difficult time.

Gene Schneider
Joseph Reis
Diane Cowan



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2024 Lease Agreement

The Lease Agreement for 2024 is different from the agreement we signed in 2023. In 2024, we will not have a revenue payment to make to the Village. We have been assigned the responsibility of providing “regular and routine maintenance” of the buildings. The Friends of Old Falls Village (FOFV) has been assigned the “Grounds” (grass cutting, trimming, gardens, paths). The Historical Society has agreed to assist with the Miller-Davidson east and south garden beds, the whiskey barrels west of the Public House, the vegetable garden by the Walker-Sparrow Cabin and the east side of the barn where the Hollyhocks grow. Just as we did last year, we will receive a \$3000.00 payment from the Village to compensate the Historical Society for FOFV use of our assets on the property. We will also receive a \$1500.00 payment to offset the cost of purchasing the garbage bags, toilet paper and paper towel (custodial supplies) for both groups to use.

Sign-Up Genius

Sign Up Genius is an online tool that the Historical Society will begin using in 2024 for volunteer opportunities.

By simply clicking on the link, you will find all the shifts that are available to volunteer with the Historical Society.

Currently, only the Depot Beer Garden bartender volunteer needs are up on the site. As we move forward, we will be adding all the shifts for various areas including: Depot Grill, Docents, Tour Guides, Grilling, Special Events and Special Projects.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B48ADA62EABFCCCF8-48577707-volunteer>

The above web address will take you to the Menomonee Falls Historical Society’s portal for Sign Up Genius. Start signing up today!!



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2024 Membership

Our membership year goes from February 1, 2024 until January 31, 2025.

In December, 2023, we sent membership renewal information along with the Annual Meeting invitation and the Board of Directors election notice to 143 households. (These households have a variety of memberships - individual, family, student, senior, pioneer, homesteader, lifetime, and complimentary.) Many people sent their dues promptly.

On February 26, we sent reminder letters to people who hadn't yet paid their dues, and again we had a good response. At this point in March, there are still 29 members who have not paid their dues. We will be making phone calls, encouraging them to be part of the Historical Society again this year. Membership cards and schedules of 2024 events will be sent in April.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Menomonee Falls Historical Society's Annual Meeting was held on February 4, 2024, in the Bugline Room at Village Bowl. Forty-five members and guests received their annual report booklets and enjoyed the Western Buffet luncheon. President Denise Cichy gave a brief update of 2023 accomplishments, including our website, new Maker's Market, and a return of "In Touch With History". We purchased an AED, a Narcan box, and a sun shade for the stage. The Miller Davidson House East Garden was beautiful, thanks to the efforts of Mike Hecker and the Garden Committee. The Beer Gardens and Depot Grill were very successful. On April 12, 2023, a lease was signed with the Village of Menomonee Falls, requiring us to pay them 25% of our revenue. On December 19, we paid \$16,500 to the Village. Nominees for the Board of Directors were announced. They were Jordan Euclide, Marlene Fay, Vikki Schmidt, Chris Schultz, and Jeff Steliga. There were no nominations from the floor, and they were voted in for new three-year terms. It was announced that the "Volunteer of the Year" award was going to go to two recipients: Monika Oeltjen and Jim Hernigle. Their dedication and hours of hard work are truly appreciated. Ian Gould entertained us with his Irish music and stories, using a variety of instruments. He is a guitarist and singer from Belfast, Northern Ireland. The Board of Directors reelected Denise Cichy as president, Monika Oeltjen as vice-president, Chris Schultz as secretary, and Jeff Steliga as treasurer for another one-year term. Six lucky attendees had the winning numbers for door prizes, which were \$10 certificates for local businesses, A good time was had by all.



MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O BOX 91
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53052
OLDFALLSVILLAGE.COM

Executive Board

2024

Denise Cichy- President
Monika Oeltjen- Vice President
Chris Schultz-Secretary
Jeff Steliga- Treasurer

2024 Board of

Directors

Jim Cichy
Ray Kosmeder
Jordan Euclide
Spencer Euclide
Marlene Fay
Vikki Schmidt
Pete Sorenson
Diane Harley
Jeremy Walz

Calling All Volunteers!

A Volunteer information Night will be held on:

Thursday, April 18th

6pm-7pm

Old Falls Village Public House

If you are interested in volunteering with the Historical Society this is your chance to meet other volunteers, talk with Board members, tour the buildings and learn more about all the volunteer opportunities we have. We are so thankful for all of our volunteers and the time they give to keep history alive in Menomonee Falls.

Refreshments will be served.