



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF TO EVERYONE AS THE 2023 PRESIDENT OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MY HUSBAND JIM AND I HAVE LIVED AND RAISED OUR FAMILY IN MENOMONEE FALLS MOVING HERE IN 1993. I AM PROUD AND HONORED TO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE AND PROMISE TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. THAT BEING SAID, WINTER IS A GOOD TIME FOR REFLECTION SO LET'S BEGIN WITH THE 2022 SEASON.

IN 2022, ALL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EVENTS SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS IN BOTH ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL REVENUE. THE LONGEST RUNNING SOCIAL EVENT IN MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORY IS THE SILVER TEA. THE EVENT BEGAN IN 1966 AND IN 2022 CELEBRATED ITS 56TH YEAR WITH ITS LARGEST BAKED GOODS SALE EVER! WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS THAT WE HAVE UPHELD THIS LEGACY EVENT. THE DEPOT BEER GARDEN WITH ITS SELECTION OF SIX ROTATING CRAFT BEERS, CIDERS, SELTZERS, MUSIC AND FOOD WAS ENJOYED BY MANY FAMILIES AND IS OUR TOP REVENUE GENERATING EVENT. PROST!! THE CIVIL WAR, WWII AND NEW IN 2022 THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WERE ALL VERY POPULAR AND OLD FALLS VILLAGE REMAINS A PREMIER SHOWCASE FOR THESE EVENTS UNDER THE THOUGHTFUL GUIDANCE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN NIGHTS WERE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER WE GAVE OUT EVERY SINGLE PUMPKIN!! MEMBERSHIP IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS AT ITS HIGHEST AND VOLUNTEER ENTHUSIASM HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THE 2022 SEASON SUCH A WONDERFUL SUCCESS! OUR REVENUE HAS HELPED US FUND CURRENT RENOVATIONS IN THE TRAIN DEPOT, CABOOSE, KOCH HOUSE, BEER GARDEN PAVILION, DEPOT STAGE AND NEW PATHWAYS FOR EASIER ACCESS TO THE PAVILION FOR GUESTS AND MUSICIANS. CHECK OUT OUR INFORMATION KIOSK COMPLETED AS AN EAGLE PROJECT FOR TROOP 67.

ALL OF THESE SUCCESSES MAKE THE NEXT PIECE OF INFORMATION DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS. THE VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE FALLS FEELS STRONGLY THAT OLD FALLS VILLAGE PARK BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING. THE EVENTUAL GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE VILLAGE FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND UTILITIES AT OLD FALLS VILLAGE PARK. THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS CURRENTLY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE FALLS FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT. AT THIS TIME THE EXACT DELINEATION OF THE ROLE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS UNKNOWN, AND WITH MEETINGS OCCURRING FREQUENTLY BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS THE DETAILS MAY HAVE ALREADY CHANGED. WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT ANOTHER GROUP, FRIENDS OF OLD FALLS VILLAGE (FRIENDS) IS ALSO IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE FALLS FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT AND MAY BE GIVEN THE APPROVAL TO RUN VARIOUS EVENTS ESTABLISHED AND CURATED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

WE REMAIN HOPEFUL AND ARE DILIGENTLY ADVOCATING TO RETAIN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO OVERSEE THE EVENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WHILE OFFERING TO FINANCIALLY COMPENSATE THE VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE FALLS TO OFFSET THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE PARK. KNOW THAT WE WILL KEEP ALL OF OUR MEMBERS INFORMED THROUGH EMAIL UPDATES, QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS, QUARTERLY MEETINGS, ETC. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD ONLY BE COMING FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND/OR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

WE HAVE CREATED A FACEBOOK GROUP, "MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT OLD FALLS VILLAGE PARK" FOR A QUICK WAY TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LOCAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION. WE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THE GROUP!

SINCERELY,
DENISE



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2023

PAGE 2

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Spencer Euclide

was born, raised, and attended school in the Appleton area. He has worked at a wide variety of jobs and is currently the lead for spotweld at Maysteel in Allenton. He is starting school at Moraine Park Technical College to be a supervisor.

Spencer became part of the Historical Society when he began dating Jordan Euclide (formerly Oeltjen). In the last six years he has enjoyed volunteering at our events with his wife Jordan, and he is always willing to help with any job that needs to be done.

Spencer's hobbies include golf, bowling, and updating the home that he and Jordan own in West Bend. He looks forward to joining the Board and becoming even more involved in the Historical Society.

Denise Cichy

recently retired after working 40 years as an occupational therapist. She and her husband Jim have been married 35 years, and have two adult children and one granddaughter. When her children were young, Denise was very active in PTA and school activities, leader of Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and High School Band Bunch.

For the last three years, Denise and Jim have been very involved in the Historical Society, volunteering at all the major events, Beer Gardens, parades, decorating inside and outside spaces, and sitting on the Health and Safety Committee and the Depot Beer Garden Committee.

Denise has worked for the Menomonee Falls elections for the past four years, and recently completed Chief Inspector training. Her interests include family time, antique shopping, crafts, and gardening.

Ray Kosmeder

was born and raised in Menomonee Falls, and at one time lived right next door to the one-room schoolhouse that was previously owned by Mr. McGee.

Because of his fond memories of life in the Falls, Ray joined the Historical Society two years ago, and has enjoyed volunteering at the Beer Gardens. He has a lot of experience in that area because of his 18 years of working at Irish Fest, making sure everything was running efficiently and taking care of any problems that arose.

Ray would like to make our park a better experience for people of all ages, showcase the history of Menomonee Falls, and help Old Falls Village become a self-sustaining park where the upkeep of the buildings and area can be maintained with less funding from the Village.



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2023
PAGE 3

MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DEPOT BEER GARDEN AT OLD FALLS VILLAGE PARK
A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE 2022 SEASON AT THE DEPOT BEER GARDEN BROUGHT MANY IMPROVEMENTS AND WAS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR EVER. THE BEER GARDEN RAN FROM MAY TO OCTOBER, EVERY SATURDAY AND SOME SUNDAYS DURING SPECIAL EVENTS. JIM CICHY BEER GARDEN CHAIRPERSON AND BOARD MEMBER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOOK THE REINS FOR HIS FIRST YEAR TO MANAGE, PLAN AND WORK THE GARDEN. SEVERAL DETAILS ACCOUNT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE GARDEN.

SUPPORTIVE VOLUNTEERS. A GREAT GROUP OF WORKERS HELPED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE GARDEN. THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF THE TIPS BEING GIVEN TO THOSE WHO WORKED THE GARDEN, A FUND WAS CREATED WITH THE TIP MONEY, TOWARD THE END OF THE SEASON A PARTY WAS HELD TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED IN ALL AREAS OF THE PARK. THE REST OF THE TIP MONEY WILL BE USED TO PLANT TREES IN THE PARK.

ADVERTISING. THE DEPOT BEER GARDEN HAD A LARGE PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA. OUR BEER MENU WAS LISTED EACH WEEK ON BEERMENUS.COM SO PATRONS COULD SEE OUR EVER CHANGING OFFERINGS OF BEER.

BEVERAGES. A VARIETY OF CRAFT BEER FROM MAINLY SMALL WISCONSIN BREWERIES WERE OFFERED, INCLUDING BEERS FROM MOB CRAFT, POTOSI, CENTRAL WATERS, AND LAKEFRONT. BEERS RANGED FROM STOUTS TO IPAS TO LAGERS AND SOURS. WE ALSO OFFERED CIDERS, SELTZERS AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER. TO BENEFIT OUR NONPROFIT ONE OF OUR BEER DISTRIBUTORS OFFERED A FREE KEG OF BEER WHEN WE PURCHASED 4 KEGS. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS WHICH GREATLY INCREASED OUR PROFITS FOR THE SOCIETY.

EVENTS. WE HAD A VARIETY OF SPECIAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. KEG KILLER WAS VERY POPULAR, WHEN A PATRON ORDERED A BEER AND THAT BEER WAS THE LAST IN THE KEG THE PATRON RECEIVED EITHER A FREE BEER OR A KEG KILLER SHIRT WITH THE DEPOT LOGO. THE SHIRT BECAME HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER. LADIES' DAY, DOG DAY, BIKE TO BEER GARDEN DAY, CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT WERE JUST SOME OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS. OCTOBERFEST OUR FINAL DAY FEATURED HALF PRICE BEER, TRIVIA CONTEST AND A STEIN HOLDING CONTEST.

FOOD. OUR DEPOT GRILL SERVED UP HUNDREDS OF DELICIOUS MEALS OF BURGERS, HOTDOGS AND PIZZAS. WE ALSO ADDED VEGETARIAN OFFERING OF BURGERS AND DOGS. WE OFFERED FREE POPCORN AT EVERY BEER GARDEN, WHICH WAS A FAVORITE. FOOD TRUCKS WERE ALSO SERVING OUR PATRONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

PAVILION. WE MOVED THE GARDEN INTO A PERMANENT SPOT ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSE. A CEMENT SLAB WAS POURED AND A PAVILION WAS CONSTRUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS TO HOUSE OUR SERVING PERLICK. A GRAVEL PATH WAS CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE SAFER FOOTING TO THE GARDEN.

FUTURE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT SEASON AT THE GARDEN. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ASKED FOR MORE TRADITIONAL BEERS, PLAN IS TO PROVIDE OFFERINGS OF CLASSIC MILWAUKEE BEERS SUCH HAS PABST, MILLER AND SCHLITZ IN CANS. OUR GARDEN WAS ENJOYED BY FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS, BEER AND MUSIC LOVERS ALIKE, WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE COME OUT IN 2023 TO ENJOY! PROST.



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2023

DENISE CICHY- PRESIDENT

MONIKA OELTJEN- VICE PRESIDENT

CHRIS SCHULZ-SECRETARY

JEFF STELIGA- TREASURER

2023 BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

JIM CICHY

RAY KOSMEDER

JORDAN EUCLIDE

SPENCER EUCLIDE

MARLENE FAY

VIKKI SCHMIDT

TODD SCHUMAN

DIANE HARLEY

JEREMY WALZ

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



IN THIS EDITION WE WANT TO SPOTLIGHT AND THANK JILL SCHMIDT. JILL IS THE SOCIETY'S HISTORIAN, FORMER COORDINATOR OF OUR SILVER TEA, THE BEER GARDEN POPCORN QUEEN AND AN EXTREMELY FAITHFUL VOLUNTEER. JILL IS OUR LONGEST RUNNING MEMBER AND HAD BEEN ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS THE LONGEST. WE WANT TO THANK JILL FOR EVERYTHING SHE HAS DONE FOR THE SOCIETY.

A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS PENDING DUE TO THE PARK MANAGEMENT MODEL CHANGE.