

Michigan Historical Museum Docent Guild Board Meeting

Minutes of Thursday, February 14, 2008

Members present: Lois Heal, Marilyn Rye, Kay Olson, Lois Baumer, Roland C. Andersen, Chuck Seeley, Gladys Wilson, Alice Throop, Fred Junger. Staff: Dave Bridgens

Meeting was called to Order by President Lois Baumer at 9:32 a.m.

Minutes of January 9, 2008, were presented by Fred Junger. Andy Andersen moved acceptance, Chuck Seeley seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report was presented by President Baumer for Ron Nelson. There were no changes from last month. Kay Olson moved acceptance, Andy Andersen seconded. Report accepted.

President's Report: Lois Baumer announced that an article on our 20th Anniversary Celebration appears on page 60 of the new January-February issue of "**Michigan History**". It is the first time we have appeared in the magazine. It is an excellent article that features Mary Jane Wilson, our first Coordinator, and has some very good pictures of the event. Lois sent a letter of thanks to the authors.

An expanded version of the "**Docenteer**" is out. It, too, has lots of color pictures of the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Copies were given to board members and it was agreed that this was an outstanding issue.

Plans for our Saturday, April 19, 2008, Education Day are nearly final. Information will appear soon on our web site.

The date for the October Symposium will be finalized as soon as it can be coordinated with the Michigan Museum Association to avoid conflicts.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, a speaker from Connor's Prairie (a living history museum near Indianapolis) presented program to improve interpretation in our museum system. Staff from each of the museums and 4 of our docents were present. Museum Director, Phil Kwiatkowski, joined the meeting to speak about the presentation and implementation of the "Opening Doors" training process. This program is research based to improve the experience we are able to provide for our guests. We will be using this program to introduce a new approach to interpreting our museum. Staff and docents will all be trained and kept informed on the process.

Phil Kwiatkowski also talked about changes that must be made to our program to accommodate changes made to the social studies curriculum that will have third grade students studying Michigan History up to statehood. A committee is developing ways to present the first three museum galleries to third graders. Phil then had to leave to attend another meeting.

Dave Bridgens suggested that we may want to consider an overnight trip to Connor's Prairie next fall to observe their museum and their procedures first hand.

President Baumer then listed the next three meeting of the board:

March 13, 2008, in the Lake Superior Room

April 14, 2008, in the Forum

May 8, 2008, in the Lake Superior Room

Vice President's Report: Kay Olson said the Docent Recognition Committee would remain inactive until the Docent Room is available again. There was a brief discussion of special name tags for board members. We will investigate using pockets from Holiday Dinner as a better way of producing special name tags.

Lunch for the presentation February 6, was provided by the museum concession stand and was very good. We might consider using them to cater for our events.

We need a Vice President candidate, Newsletter Editor and Education Committee Chair for next year.

Archives Report: Alice Throop noted that the final annual report was submitted for last year. Archives Committee met and archives and scrap books are progressing. The committee checked with the State Archives and they are concerned that electronic media like CD's may not be accessible in the future as the technology changes. The committee would like to submit our material to the State Archives on paper to avoid this possibility.

By-Laws Report: Roland Andersen asked members to submit any recommendations, in writing in his folder, for changes to the by-laws

Education Report: Lois Heal discussed April 19, session and Spring Picnic. Details for the April 19, session will be posted soon and Spring Picnic will be at the museum and will honor staff members, past and present, for their efforts in the last 20 years.

Day Chair Report: Gladys Wilson was present fro Shirley Rowland and had nothing to report since the Day Chairs had not met.

Hospitality Report: Jean LaRosa was not present and had no report.

Membership/Office Manager Report: Charles Foster was not present and had no report.

Newsletter Report: Nancy Muhlbach was not present and had no report.

Public Relations Report: No report

Interview/Recruiting Report: Chuck Seeley has interviewed 9 candidates for the next docent class and was interviewing another after the meeting. Ten people have completed their training and have begun their mentoring on the floors. Dave Bridgens reports their training should be complete by April 10. There was a discussion of what

kind of background issues would disqualify a candidate from serving as a docent. Dave is going gather some information from Human Relations at the museum and this will be considered further at a future meeting.

Special Events Report: Marilyn Rye said May 6, 2008 will be the date for the next docent trip. We will be going to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti with lunch at Hobb's Restaurant. Sign up sheet will be posted by March. She also requested that a letter be sent to all active and life members with details of the trip to boost attendance. There was general agreement. A fall day trip will be scheduled in addition to the possible trip to Conner's Prairie.

Educational Development Report: Linda Nelson was not present but President Baumer reported that Linda has been scheduling extended tours by computer and itl was working well.

Director's/Staff Reports: Dave Bridgens said the latest estimate for completion of the 5th floor was now late next fall. He also discussed the importance of developing a "speaker's committee" to talk to local groups. He suggested this would be a good project for next summer.

Shift Reports/Docent's Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: The executive board is developing a draft policy and form for dealing with suggestions and complaints. It will be brought to the entire board for consideration and possible decision at a future meeting.

Discussion: None

Adjournment: Alice Throop moved adjournment, seconded by Kay Olson. Meeting adjourned at 11:20

Respectfully submitted:

Fred Junger, Secretary