



September 2022

Great things are happening at the historical society! We are excited! With new organization and new roles have come renewed energy and a strong dedication to our mission. The Board of Directors participated in a team-building workshop in June, and the outcomes were positive. We committed to working together as a solid team, united by our love for the history of the area and a strong desire to preserve it for future generations. We reached out to the future generation this summer with four kids history programs that were also enjoyed by many adults.

Our new museum co-directors, Amy Demchik and Sandi Van Buren, along with the museum committee of the board, have a multi-phase plan, tracked by Diane Flogaus, for relocating some existing exhibits, creating new ones, improving the storage and accessibility of our collection, and converting a portion of the third floor storage area of the farmhouse to a work and staging area. New shelving units have been arriving to make this possible, and a sizable donation will be used to install climate control on the third floor by the end of October. Additional donations are needed for required electrical work and lighting. And thanks to president Ryan Conroy the Military Room will be opening!

Under the leadership of Tom Donofrio, the board's maintenance committee has addressed multiple needs and projects. Tom, Dick Marshall and Dan McGuigan worked to create new exhibit spaces in the medical room and farmhouse bathroom by "claiming" unused closet space. The maintenance list is increasing with needed repairs to the farmhouse front porch, regrading the north side of the house, and, in the next year or two, repainting the house, which will be a significant expense.

Treasurer Dave Willauer, along with Amy Demchik, has implemented a new member management system for tracking member information, donations, event registration, and communicating by mass email. Donations can now be made online, and we can now accept credit cards! The society's "ancient" computers are planned to be upgraded in the near future, including a digital backup device that will provide an off-site backup of our vast digital archives. The digitization of our newspaper archives is back on track thanks to a significant pledge by the Grubbs, as well as a lot of work preparing the newspapers for scanning by Mike Osiol. There are almost 30 years-worth of local papers to scan after the current "batch," so funds are needed for that.

Unfortunately, even with all of this momentum, 2022 donations are lagging behind. At this time last year, we had received almost \$10,000 in member donations. The year-to-date total for 2022 is \$5,585. It is fairly obvious that the economy is playing a large part. We understand. Costs for the operation of the museum and the work of the historical society are increasing, as well. If you are in a position to give financially, please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website, ([www.sfahs.com](http://www.sfahs.com)), click on "Fall Giving Campaign" and give generously. Thank you for your continued loyalty and support!

Sincerely,  
Members of the Board of Directors