



October 2018 – September 2019 Annual Report



Friends:

On behalf of the Delaware County Historical Society, it is with great pleasure and pride that I bring this short greeting to you.

You are a vital part of our organization and we are so glad that you support us in a very meaningful way.

I can assure you that YOUR Society is in very capable hands. We have an excellent board, an excellent executive director—Donna Meyer, two wonderful people on our venue support team for the Barn at Stratford—Sara Lorz and Melissa Stroupe, along with countless numbers of really fine volunteers. I want to thank all of them and YOU, as our wonderful supporters.

The Society will always have challenges facing it, but we all do our very best and our shared love of local history always seems to carry us through.

As a friend and/or volunteer, you are indeed very special to us. Please consider formally joining our society if you are not a member. If you are, my special thanks to you.

This will be my final letter to you as President. Hopefully, I will be elected to another board term, my final one.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years as your President. Thanks again for your interest in the Delaware County Historical Society.

Cordially,

Jack Hilborn, President



Board of Trustees

Jack Hilborn, *President*

Matt Kear, *Executive Vice President*

Jan Fleischmann, *Development Vice President*

Karen Cowan, *Vice President of Operations*

Ralph Au, *Treasurer*

Lynn Foreman, *Secretary*

Brent Carson, *President Emeritus*

Sherry Carmichael

Sherry Chambers

Alice Frazier

Susan Garrett

Dave Hejmanowski

Mike Huber

Roger Koch

Mary Ann McGreevey

Chris Shaw

Staff

Donna Meyer, *Executive Director*

Sara Lorz, *Sales & Marketing Manager*

Melissa Stroupe, *Event Coordinator*

Our Mission

To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio, through historic preservation and education.

Our Vision

To be a continuing, self-sustaining source of and a repository for historical information and artifacts which fosters lifelong interest in Delaware County through community engagement, education and historic preservation.

The Meeker Homestead lawn was the location for the **July** program. Sponsored by Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, national boomerang champion and Delaware native, Chet Snouffer, gave the history of **boomerang competitions** and a hands-on demonstration of boomerangs.

In **August**, we presented the **Tour of Stratford, a Mill Town**. This program, sponsored by DK Architects, included ten different locations within the historic village.

Also, in **August**, we presented the first ever **Adventures in Archaeology Camp** for students. Campers aged 8 to 14 enjoyed hands-on experiences as they dug for artifacts in the lawn of the Meeker Homestead.



In **September**, we presented **Little Brown Jug Memories** organized by the LBJ Oral History Project. Researched and produced by Society volunteer, Richard Leavy, the program celebrated 74 years of the world-famous harness horse race and featured presenters Roger Huston and Jay Wolf. This program was sponsored by Willow Brook Christian Communities, SourcePoint, and Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan.

What is becoming our “Signature Event” was given in **October**. This year’s **Oak Grove Cemetery Walk** featured eight costumed interpreters who shared their stories at tombstones throughout the cemetery.



Also, in **October**, we held the annual **guided tour of the old historic Sheriff’s residence and jail**, given by DCHS trustees, Brent Carson and Dave Hejmanowski.

Still to come this year – the **Nash House Holiday Open House** on **Saturday, December 7 from 2 – 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.** Visit this lovely Victorian museum, located at 157 East William Street in Delaware, with furniture appropriate to the era, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Looking towards next year, we will present programs on covered bridges, the history of Powell and Liberty Township, Archeology in the Olentangy River Valley and



Grantors and Sponsors

We are so very grateful to our grantors and sponsors who enable us to create programs, improve our facilities, and preserve our history for generations to come.

These include the Delaware County Commissioners, Kiwanis Club of Delaware County, Delaware Rotary Foundation, Olentangy River Valley Association, Ron Sabatino Family Fund, the Ohio Humanities Council, Ohio Local History Alliance, Ohio History Connection, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Mail Pro 1 LLC, SourcePoint, DK Architects, Manos Martin and Pergram Co. LPA, the Charles and Betty Sheets Family Fund, Willow Brook Christian Communities, and Chesrown Chevrolet Buick GMC. A special thanks to the friends and family of James Patrick Hanning and Carolyn Porter who donated funds in their memory.



Programs and events throughout the year

This year, we developed many exciting and diverse community programs and events which were requested by you – our supporters. Please reach out to us and let us know what you would like to see in the future.

Due to the renovations in the barn, the first three programs of the year were hosted by the William Street United Methodist Church.

We started the year in **January** with a well-attended program on **American Indians**, presented by Stacey Halfmoon, Director of American Indian Relations at the Ohio History Connection.



A huge crowd attended our **February** program, titled **"Voices from the Underground Railroad,"** presented by the Society's Curriculum Support Committee's Underground Railroad Reader's Theatre.



Our **March** program **"Fighting for Freedom: The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War"** was presented by Anthony Gibbs, Local History Manager from the Ohio History Connection.



In conjunction with the opening of the exhibit on Professor E. W. B. Curry in the Meeker Museum, the **April** program was on the **Curry School**, an 1890s private school in Delaware, presented by Society volunteer, Benny Shoults.



It was all fun and games in **May** as we presented a program on **World**

Wide Games and the history of this well-known Delaware business which made wooden games and toys. The program was given by Society volunteer, Steve Schmitt and sponsored by Willow Brook Christian Communities.

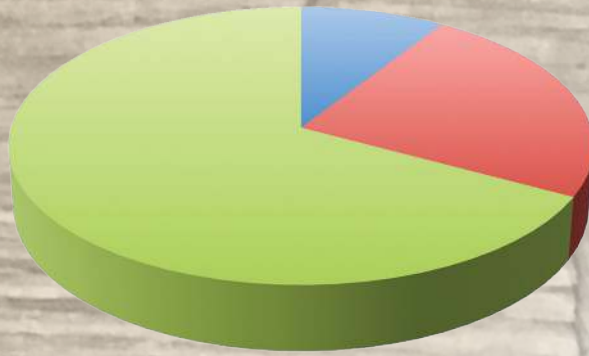
Our program in **June**, sponsored by Hilborn Insurance, was on social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman **Frederick Douglass** as reenacted by Tracey Sumner, Sr. Society volunteer Steve Shaw presented the history of African American troops in the Civil War.



Also, in **June**, we held our first ever History Camp for children. Titled **"His Story, Her Story, Your Story – History Camp Exploring History Through Cemeteries"** the camp was produced by the Society's Curriculum Support team. The Delaware Rotary Foundation provided financial support for this camp.

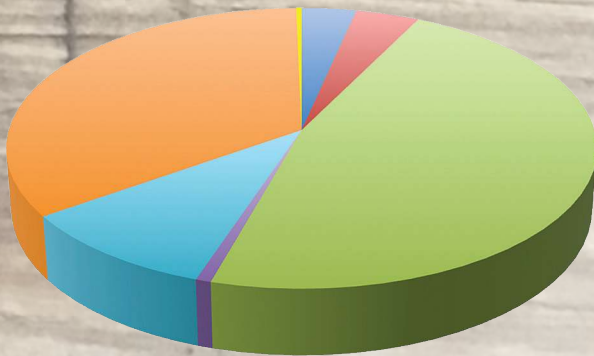


Financial Report



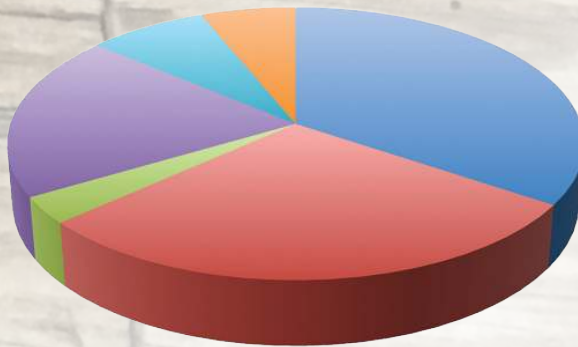
Assets

Bank Accounts	\$135,109
Investments	\$353,858
Fixed Assets/Property	\$997,867
Total	\$1,486,834



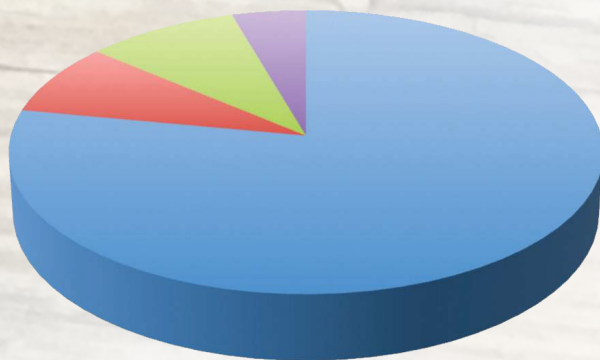
Ordinary Income

Sponsorships	\$7,200
Memberships	\$8,390
Venue & Barn Rental	\$99,900
Museum/Library Research	\$1,599
Programs/Exhibits	\$21,337
Donations & Sustainability	
Campaign	\$73,271
Item Sales	\$700
Total Income	\$212,397



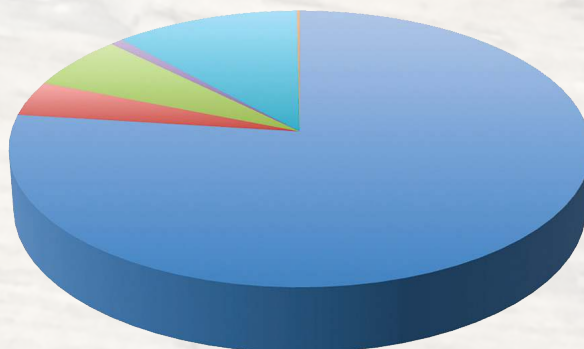
Ordinary Expense

Administrative	\$83,861
Venue	\$70,470
Programs/Exhibits/Education	\$7,681
Property	\$47,887
Utilities	\$18,740
IT	\$14,956
Total Expense	\$243,595



Restricted Income

Grants - State for Barn	
Restoration	\$250,000
Grants - County	\$26,362
Grants - All Other	\$29,846
Donations/Sustainability	
Campaign	\$14,466
Total Restricted Income	\$320,674



Restricted Expense

Barn Restoration	\$268,562
Education	\$14,263
Meeker Landscaping	\$21,930
Web Software	\$2,903
Museums	\$40,582
Other/Legal & Professional	\$595
Total Restricted Expense	\$348,835

We collect and preserve

Over the last 10 years, volunteers have been hard at work scanning and cataloging pictures which are owned by the Society. We have cataloged almost 15,000 items, which include photos, documents, artifacts, maps, family histories & bibles. Many are available online & can be accessed online at <https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com/>



Our Volunteers

We currently have 84 active volunteers who contributed nearly 11,500 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this service is nearly \$300,000!

We generate community interest in history

In addition to the window displays we have had at the Hair Studio in downtown Delaware this year, we also had an informational table at many festivals and events throughout the county. Our new location in the Merchants Building at the Delaware County Fair this year significantly increased the number of visitors to our booth. Our extensive display was on Delaware County one room schoolhouses, some of which are still standing.

Other educational programs included Pioneer Days for local elementary schools, Nash House and Meeker Museum tours, the Artifact Cart and Local History Tote Bags to county schools and monthly presentations at Willow Brook Christian Communities. We also presented programs on American Indian Artifacts, the Cellar Family History, Sulphur Springs Tour, the Underground Railroad Experience, and the Walk on Winter Street Tour.

Our Members

In addition to the nearly 500 total members, we would like to recognize our Life & Business Members.

Life Members: Alice Baker, John & Debra Blakeslee, Marianna Pollock Bowman, Michele Brockett, Richard & Linda Browning, Judith Brozek, John Buchan, Tim & Renee Calvin, Kosby & Kevin Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles Caudy, T. K. Cellar, Edmund & Diane Cox, Sandra Cryder, John & Yvonne Dewey, John & Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Max Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Jeff Hamilton, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Juliet Richey Heston, Mark & Carrie Hickman, Jack & Mary Hilborn, Ralph & Diane Hodges, George Hoffman, Chris Hon, Karl Jentgen, Steve & Joy Kaser, William & Virginia Kavage, Mary Ellen Kelly, Thomas King, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, Paul Monks, John & Carol O'Brien, David Parker, Mary Ann & David Pemberton Sr., Carolyn Porter, David & Regie Powell, Kris Prengaman, Tom Price, Susan & Larry Ratcliffe, Barbara Reed, Bill & Kay Rietz, Bob & Nancy Rietz, John & Diana Roach, John Robinson, James Steven Shaw, Henry & Sharon Shaw, Vickie R. Sheets, Charles & Betty Sheets, Sharlene & Lloyd (Buck) Shoaf, Joyce Siegley, Carolyn & Gary Skinner, Sally Smith, Marjorie Snook, Clay Snyder, Vladimir & Margaret Steffel, Christine Stelloh-Garner, Jenora Stilwell, Tamara Tangen, John Tetz, Barbara Hall Thatcher-Williams, Kris Thomas, John Tombarge, Ezra Vogel, Renee Voorhis, Jeff & Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Dorinda Wills, Thomas Workman, John Yelavich.

Business/Organization Members:

American Legion Post 115 • Buns Restaurant • Columbus State Community College • Delaware County District Library • Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan • Hardware Exchange • DK Architects • Hilborn Insurance • Mail Pro 1 LLC • Main Street Delaware • Manos Martin & Pergram Co., LPA • Northwest Neighborhood Association • Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc. • Solar Saloon • Triad Architects • Willow Brook Christian Communities

Thank you to our sponsors

Thanks to our benefactors we have raised approximately \$95,000 in donations and sponsorships in the past 12 months. These gifts provide

vital support of our programs and operations as we work to meet our dual missions of education and historic preservation.

The Society was blessed this year with a grant from the State of Ohio for Phase I of our barn restoration and renovation. We are applying for Phase

2 funding to complete the restoration of our 171-year-old gem, ensuring that it will continue to be a focus for our programming and events, now and into the 22nd century and beyond. Funders such as the State of Ohio look carefully at our financials to see that we have support from our donor base.

Our donors include:

Miriam Ailabouni, Denise Albert, Alpha Group of Delaware, Alum Creek Elementary, AmazonSmile Foundation, Ralph Au, Mark & Elizabeth Baer, Jake & Jeanne Ball, Lawrence & Elizabeth Barrett, Margo Bartlett, Sue Bauer, Chris Bauserman, David Baxter, Wendell D. Beachy, Patricia & Richard Belch, Steve Bemiller, Marjorie Bennett, Jeff & Barb Benton, Steve & Genevieve Berry, Jason & Leah Beswick, Danielle Bloor, John Boylan, G. Scott Braumiller, Wendy Brooks, Jim & Jayna Browning, Judi Brozek & Jeff Hamilton, James E. & Karen R. Bryan, Buckeye Valley East Elementary, Buckeye Valley West Elementary, Bun's Restaurant, Francine & Mark Butler, Carlisle Elementary School PTO, Sherry & Stan Carmichael, Thomas & Marjorie Carpenter, Brent Carson, Sherry & Dan Chambers, Chesrown Chevrolet Buick GMC, Clarity Technology Solutions, Joan Cornell, Virginia Corwin, Karen & Brad Cowan, Emily Cowles, Heather Cowles, James Cowles, Edmund & Diane Cox, Jamie Cribbs, Ann Davis, Mary Davis, Sharon & Stephen Davis, Delaware City Schools-Board of Education, Delaware County Commissioners, Delaware County Community Market, Delaware County Foundation, Delaware Rotary Foundation, Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Michael Deren, Laura M. Willis Diallo, Stella Dickman, Carolyn Diersing, Larry & Emma Dixon, Joe & Nancy Dwenger, Karin Eldredge, Ed & Wanda Evans, Brandon L. & Jessica L. Feller, Fidelity Federal Savings &



Loan, Beth Fisher, Rick Fisher, Belva & Bruce Fissell, Jan Fleischmann, Nancy Fleming, Lynn & John Foreman, Donald Foster, Ellyn & Kurt Fountain, Jan Miller Foy, Alice Frazier, Judith Freed, Freedom Trail Elementary PTO, Charlotte Gallant, Thomas Garey, Susan & Larry Garrett, Holly & Bob Gerspacher, Robert Gitter, Glen Oak Elementary PTO, Sarah Gliniecki, Annette & Aronne Goldkette, Maribeth Graham, Daniel Green, James E. & Carole S. Green, Greentech Construction, Greif Inc., Maureen Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Inside Wire, Dedra Hall, William & Ann Hanning, First Commonwealth Bank, Habitec Security, Ellen & Mark Hardyman, Robert & Patty Harris, David Hejmanowski, Thomas Hering, Hilborn Insurance, Jack & Mary Hilborn, James Hilborn, Connie & Mike Hoffman, George Hoffman, Robert & Mary Holm, R. Thomas Homan, Mike Huber, Rebecca Hulls, Tim & Peggy Jacobs, Trish Jacquemin, Caroline Jamison, JCM Timberworks, Johnnycake Corners Elementary PTO, Robert & Joan Johnson, James R. Johnston, Russell & Joan Jordan, Constance Jump, Aaron & Kelly Kauffman, Matt Kear, Cindy & Chuck Kerr, David Kerr Architect, Dave Kessler, Carrie Lou Kiefer, Patricia King, Thomas King, Kiwanis Club of Delaware County Inc., James Klepcyk, Roger Koch, Kris & Richard Kolb, Thomas Kovacevic, Kroger KMA, Dewey D. & Joette E. Kugler, Charles Lacy, Joan Lawrence, Richard Leavy, Nate Lehman, Comfort X-Press, Kenneth & Linda Lewis, Liberty Casting Co., Marsha Link, Susan Logan, Ross Long, Mail Pro 1 LLC, Joan & Fred Manter, Manos Martin & Pergram Co., Steve & Deb Martin, William McCartney, Mary Ann McGreevey, David L. & Connie J. McNeal, James Mendenhall, Centra Meyer, Donna Meyer, R. Blake Michael, Hiram Masonic Lodge, George & Rozella Miller, Bonnie Mitchell, Ray Myers, George Needham, Joanne Neely, Randy Nelson, Oak Creek Elementary

PTO, Janet & Bill Oberfield, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Humanities Council, Sarah Moore Ohio Living, Ohio Local History Alliance, Olentangy Heritage PTO, Olentangy Local School District Board of Education, Olentangy River Valley Association, Olney Family, Sarah O'Neill, Orange Township, Ostrander Senior Citizens, Sue Packard, Don & Joy Partlow, Michele Peddicord, Philanthropic Educational Organization, Kristina Prengaman, Price Farms Organics, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Eileen & Larry Rhonemus, Sarah Riedmaier, Bill & Kay Rietz, Bob & Nancy Rietz, John L. & Diana P. Roach, Sheldon & Carolyn Ross, Ron Sabatino Family Fund, Ruchir Saha, John Santos, Jeremy Sayre, Lauren Schaefer, Barbara Schanck, Robert E. & C. Joyce Seitz, Michael & Margaret Shade, Janice Sharp, Chris Shaw, Benny Shoults, Ann & Jim Simons, Cathy Simpkins, Judith Simpson, Rebecca Slayman, Carolyn & Ed Slone, Smith-Feike-Minton, Snyder Funeral Homes, Jim & Jane Snyder, SourcePoint, April Squire, St. Mary School, Vladimir & Margaret Steffel, Betty Stimmel, Matthew Stroupe, Melissa Stroupe, J. Patrick & Claire Sullivan, Joe & Anne Talafous, Maria Tarbell, Mary Tetlak, John Tetz, Anne Townsend, Libby Trucco, Dale Truster, Linda Jean Twitty, V&P Hydraulic Products, Joan C. & P. Gary Vance, Marian & Larry Vance, Ezra Vogel, Rick & Donna Walter, Steve & Barb Walters, Lynne Powers Weber, Rex Welker, Steve Wells, Michael & Kathleen Whitehead, James Whitehead, Jr., Marti Wickham, William Street United Methodist Church, Herbert H. Williams, Willow Brook Christian Communities, Dorothy Woessner, Donald & Kathleen Wolf, Worthington Chapter NSDAR, Sarah Wright, Wyandot Run PTO, Kathryn H. Yoakum, Julie Zdanowicz.

**Please note that these donations are over the last 12 months*



From the Executive Director

Wow! What a year of change!

As the saying goes, the only constant is change. And that is certainly true at the Delaware County Historical Society. With change comes

growth and adaptation to our environment. Change also means enriched programs, activities and services, relevant to our entire county. We have developed a skill for “thinking outside the box” and creating new strategies to educate the community about our rich history and preserve our precious historic resources, which are so meaningful to us and tell our story. We believe in strong community relationships, network creation and developing ever changing skills-based volunteer projects and opportunities. As we think about our responsibility to the people we serve, we have become adept at finding amazing and talented volunteers to help us in our mission. A number of our programs and projects have had their inception with the words, “I have an idea!”

Through change, we continue to form committees, and educate the community in new ways. Here are the highlights of some of the exciting things we accomplished this year:

- Beginning in January, historic timber framer experts worked daily to remove damaged and worn beams and joists, replacing 20th century steel columns with historically accurate hand hewed wooden columns and bolsters, and installing structural supporting steel cables. This process lasted 3 months and will lengthen the life of the 172-year-old barn, which is listed on the National Historic Register. We received funding from the State of Ohio through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to complete this project. This project was supported by then State Representative (now State Senator) Andrew Brenner.
- We received a number of grants which were used to install signage on the Meeker property, purchase and install new shelving in the Research Library at the Cryder Historical Center, install HVAC in the back rooms of the Meeker Museum, digitize 1920s editions of the Delaware Daily Journal Herald among other projects.
- Our Curriculum Support Committee provided 53 programs to the community, serving 4,353 students and 1,282 adults and resulted in \$3,791 in fees and donations.
- With the retirement of our Venue Manager, Connie Hoffman, we hired two part time people to manage the venue rentals, so vital to our sustainability.
- At the Barn at Stratford, from October 2018 through September 2019, eighteen couples said their “I Do’s”. We also hosted twenty other events at the Barn.
- We launched a new and improved Barn at Stratford website.
- We conducted not just one, but two summer

camps for kids. Both the History Camp and the Archaeology Camp fed hungry young minds, teaching skills and the benefit of teamwork.

- We received a donation of 170 trees which were planted around the Meeker Homestead, creating an even more attractive landscape.
- We had beautiful signage installed on U.S. Route 23 as well as on Stratford Road. This has greatly increased our visibility in the community.
- We received a donation of a Millworker Cottage, located on Stratford Road, which has been staged as a museum depicting a paper mill employee’s home.
- We expanded the Whetstone Room in the Meeker Museum, allowing extra space for education and events.
- We received funding from the Ohio History Fund, a program by the Ohio History Connection to purchase new and improved library quality shelving at the Research Library.
- In June, we held a successful fundraiser, the Banquet in the Barn, which was well received by a sold-out crowd.
- We received, for the second year in a row, #1 in the Delaware Gazette’s Readers’ Choice Award in both the Banquet/Reception Facility and the Wedding Venue categories.
- Working with the Second Ward Community Initiative and the City of Delaware, we facilitated the installation of two honorary street signs, commemorating the life and work of Elmer Washington Bryant Curry (1871-1930) who was the first African American teacher in Delaware and founder of the Curry Institute.

What to expect next year:

- We will be submitting a grant request to our legislators to request funding for Phase 2 of the renovation of the barn which will include replacement of the roof. This will be considered as part of the State’s biennial capital improvements bill.
- We will be hosting Pioneer Days for five Olentangy schools at the Meeker Homestead in May.
- We will continue to expand our oral history project and will be completing an oral history project on the Little Brown Jug Harness races, which will be unveiled next year, in time to celebrate the 75th year of the iconic event.
- We are planning on creating an exhibit on “the Meeker Story” which will include information on the Meeker House and its earliest inhabitants.
- We will be developing a Legacy Society to recognize individuals and families who wish to include us in their estate plans. Planned gifts from these committed supporters will provide a critical foundation for history education and preservation that will extend beyond their lifetimes, living on for generations to come.
- We are planning a diverse and exciting program lineup.

If you would like to be part of our ever-changing Society, please let us know. We are always in need of volunteers, donations, members, supporters, and most importantly – IDEAS!



D orna M eyer