

Board of Directors
Boone County Historical Society
July 15, 2025

Board Members present: Gina DelRose (President), Jeff Walton (Vice President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhr (Treasurer), Don Banks, Jenny Breckenridge, Toni Ellingson, Micki Ernest, Sue Holmes, Gail Jacky, Cindy Poulter

Past President present: Carol Rowe

Board members absent: Cheryl Lindberg, Jason Sanford

Staff present: Natali Monaghan

The meeting was called to order by President Gina DelRose at 5:34 PM. Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Gina DelRose, and recitation of the Society Mission Statement followed.

Secretary's Report

- No additions or corrections were requested for the minutes of the May 2025 meeting. Motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Toni Ellingson to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- A Statement of Financial Position, as of June 30, 2025, and a Statement of Financial Income and Expense, January through June, 2025 were submitted to the Board. The Society's current bank balance stands at \$16,048.53.
- The current balance in the Funderburg House checking account is \$4202.47.
- Gross profit for the Society, January to June, 2025, is \$12,023.10, while that for the Funderburg House is \$6304.84.
- Total expenses for the Society from January through June, 2025, totaled \$29,972.84, resulting in a Net Ordinary Income of -\$17,949.74.
- From January through June 2025, total expenses for the Funderburg House amounted to \$19,522.77, leading to a Net Ordinary Income of -\$13,217.93.
- The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

District Report – No District board member present. Report was presented by Natali.

- The air conditioning installation in the area around the cabin is nearing completion.
- The air conditioning for the office area and basement is no longer operating, despite efforts to provide a fix. The 60-year-old unit will require replacement. This issue will be addressed by the District Board at their upcoming meeting.
- Also to be addressed is the much-needed tuck pointing of the Locust Street side of the building, and the leaking window in the Turner Gallery.

Museum Staff Report

- Due to anticipated storms and a tornado watch, the Movie Night was canceled. It may be rescheduled in the future.
- The next children's lecture will be held August 2 and will involve the Belvidere Fire Department.
- Clue and Fondue will be held at the Funderburg House on July 19. So far, 55 people have signed up to participate.
- The new Maintenance Manager, Quintin Albrecht, is proving to be a good addition to the museum team.
- Heritage Days attracted a sizeable crowd.
- Gift shop sales have seen a notable boost due to Heritage Days and recent field trips.

Committee Reports

- Membership Committee:
 - The Committee met to discuss the upcoming General Membership Picnic, which will be held July 27. The group finalized most of the menu and assigned dishes to each participant. Natali will check with the Boone County Health Department to make sure we are following the guidelines. It was decided to postpone membership gift-giving until the end-of-year picnic, rather than doing so at this event. Natali will organize the membership list and send each Board member their assigned contacts to reach out to regarding the picnic.
 - The committee proposed several potential membership perks, such as early access to new exhibits before their official opening, monthly coffee mornings at the museum for browsing photo albums and yearbooks, while sharing personal stories, and the distribution of regular email updates.
 - To ensure our member contact information remains current, it was proposed that contact update cards be distributed during the lecture series for members to complete.
- Off-site Liaison Committee:
 - To enhance the museum's visibility, the committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a presence at community events. Suggested opportunities included the Boone County Fair, the Boone County Health Department Farmers' Market, Capron Lions Club events, the Poplar Grove Market, and the Prairie Fields Kite event.
 - Leveraging existing community events is worth considering in order to connect with members of the community.
 - Natali proposed that the Society and District boards commit to participating in at least one targeted volunteer event or project annually. Potential opportunities include Meals on Wheels and the local food pantry.
 - It was further recommended that informational flyers be made available in Spanish.
 - Efforts will be prioritized to increase student participation in museum field trips and the lecture series.

- Other ideas suggested by the Board include holding a food drive or offering a food distribution system similar to the Little Free Libraries. The museum could also be a distribution center for community drives.
 - Natali indicated that the Museum will be participating in the community trick-or-treating event this year.
- Oral History Committee:
 - Committee members reviewed the committee's purpose and general functions.
 - A preliminary list of community members to interview was compiled. It was recommended that the general membership be informed about the oral history project, inviting them to participate as interviewers.
 - A questionnaire was drafted and is currently being refined by the committee.
- Fundraising Committee:
 - Committee members explored options for placing event posters on community bulletin boards throughout town.
 - Event ideas were brainstormed, including holding a Culver's fundraising night, hosting a vintage board game night or a living museum, coordinating a hat/style show or quilt show and raffle, and more.
 - It was agreed to concentrate on events that require minimal expenses for the museum.
- Volunteer Committee:
 - Sonya recognized the volunteers who helped with Heritage Days, as well as those who have been and will be dedicating their time to Clue and Fondue.
 - A volunteer appreciation event will be held in the future.

Old Business

- District Cooperative Agreement, Collections Policy
 - Vote on the Collections Policy was tabled until next meeting, pending final revision.

New Business

- Liza Wolf and Linda Castro of Sister Cities have invited the Historical Society to partner with them in organizing an Oktoberfest event in 2026. Amy Nord has agreed to assist with sponsorship efforts. The event would be scheduled to take place at the museum. The board discussed concerns and possibilities, voting by a show of hands to move forward with exploring plans before a final decision is made.
- Sue Holmes expressed concern about the lack of lighting in the Museum parking lot. The issue will be presented to the District Board for resolution.

Adjourn

- A motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Sue Holmes to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM. Motion carried.

- The next meeting will be August 19, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Thacker

July 16, 2025