

Board of Directors
Boone County Historical Society
January 20, 2026

Board Members present: Gina DelRose (President), Jeff Walton (Vice President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhr (Treasurer), Jenny Breckenridge, Sue Holmes, Gail Jacky, Cindy Poulter, Carol Rowe, Zach Yahey

Board members absent: Toni Ellingson, Cheryl Lindberg, Jason Sanford

Staff present: Natali Monaghan

The meeting was called to order by President Gina DelRose at 5:35 PM. Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Gina DelRose, and recitation of the Society Mission Statement followed.

The newest board member, Zach Yahey, was welcomed to the Board, and returning member Carol Rowe was welcomed back.

Treasurer's Report

- Sonya distributed a Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2025, year-to-date.
- It was stressed that the distributed report is not the final year-end report, as adjustments need to be made. The final report will be presented at the February meeting.
- The year-to-date balance in the Society's checking account is \$42,786.36, while that in the Funderburg House checking account is \$27,596.11. Both of these amounts are significantly higher than our October 31, 2025, balances due to the withdrawal of money from our investment accounts.
- The BCHS Endowment account and Funderburg Maintenance Fund stand at \$376,638.30 and \$299,215.48, respectively.
- The Funderburg House has done well on both events and investments. However, it was determined that the internet service for the House is billed at \$412 per month under the current Comcast Business Package. Sonya will contact Comcast to clarify the charges, and Natali will explore whether Frontier offers a more cost-effective option.
- Total Expense for the Funderburg House was \$43,159.95, while Total Income was \$58,834.38, yielding a net of \$15,674.43.
- Total Income for the Society was \$78,062.72; Total Expense \$59,428.45. Net was \$18,634.27.
- The annual appeal generated approximately \$7000 in revenue, with further donations expected.
- A motion was made by Carol Rowe and seconded by Sue Holmes to file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

- No additions or corrections were requested for the minutes of the November 2025 meeting or the December 2025 email vote. Motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Carol Rowe to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Historical Society Accountant

- An interview of the prospective accountant Michelle Thomason from Calculated Financial Services was conducted in December, with Natali, Bri, and several Board members present.
- After initial setup, Michelle estimates the financial work for the Society would take her 2-3 hours a month.
- Michelle's fee will be \$75 per hour. At the outset, Michelle will handle all responsibilities, with a long-term goal of scaling back her role and shifting certain routine tasks to the Museum.
- A motion was made by Sue Holmes to hire Michelle Thomason as the Society accountant. Jenny Breckenridge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District Report

- Because the Grand Gallery heating system failed, a replacement control was ordered and is scheduled for installation by Ceroni soon.
- The proposed design for the new office-area heating and cooling system, as presented by Ollman and Ernest, was determined to be cost-prohibitive. Ceroni developed a more affordable alternative, which will be released for bidding shortly. Due to the length of the bid process, work is not expected to begin for at least two months.

Museum Staff Report

- Because the attendance at the Funderburg House Christmas party fell short of expectations, the event will be altered this year.
- A Masquerade Ball, planned at the House for Valentine's Day, has garnered very little interest. The event will be cancelled if sufficient interest is not generated following the ad in the Shopper.
- Kathy Kresol of Haunted Rockford conducted an investigation of the museum and has an event scheduled for March.
- Hometown Christmas was a success – several vendors/organizations were present.
- A family Easter photo event will take place at the Museum on March 22.
- The 2026 lecture series will begin soon. Lectures will again be held on Thursdays.
- A 250th National birthday celebration will take place at the museum on July 2. Lynn Rymarz will be speaking in character as Martha Washington, and cake made from one of Mrs. Washington's recipes will be served.

Committee Reports

- Several committee vacancies were discussed. Zach Yakey volunteered to serve on the Oral History committee and the Nomination Committee. Another vacancy on the Nomination Committee was filled by Sue Holmes. The Board was asked to consider candidates for the Off-Site Liaison and Finance Committees.
- Fundraising Committee:
 - Natali will be scheduling a meeting soon.
 - As we do with the General Membership meeting, incorporating telephone calls to members may help with fundraising.
 - Several fundraising ideas were discussed. These included a quilt show and an event similar to the "Antiques Road Show." Success in reviving the ice cream social is improbable.
- Volunteer Committee:
 - Two new volunteers joined the Museum: Vicki VanAcker and Deb White.
- Membership Committee:
 - The brunch was well attended, with members enjoying Carol's presentation on toys. Several members brought in old toys and shared stories about them.
 - Natali requested feedback on a possible annual appeal for Funderburg House this summer. More information was requested on how this would proceed.
- The Off-site Liaison Committee:
 - Gail presented a schedule of events planned for the Museum by the committee, including a wedding expo, Build-a-Bike, the downtown Halloween trick-or-treating, and a back-to-school event, among others.
- Oral History Committee:
 - Sonya conducted an interview with Mr. Buell.
 - The committee will meet soon.

New Business

Natali and Karen Neibarger are coordinating a Boone County Educator Night. It was suggested that the event take place on a Tuesday immediately following school hours. The purpose of the event is to inform teachers about the value of field trips to the Museum and the available teacher boxes. Sue noted that door prizes would be welcomed and appreciated.

Executive Session

- A motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Carol Rowe to enter executive session to discuss Bri Carlson's position. Motion approved.
- Motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Gail Jacky to leave executive session. The board returned to open session at 7:10 PM.

Adjournment

- Motion was made by Carol Rowe and seconded by Sonya Doberfuhr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be held February 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Thacker

January 22, 2026