

**Board of Directors
Boone County Historical Society
July 21, 2026**

Board Members present: Gina DelRose (President), Jeff Walton (Vice President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhr (Treasurer), Jenny Breckenridge, Toni Ellingson, Denise Hauser, Sue Holmes, Cheryl Lindberg, Carol Rowe

Board members absent: Cindy Poulter

Staff present: Natali Monaghan

The meeting was called to order by President Gina DelRose at 5:32 PM. Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Gina DelRose, and recitation of the Society Mission Statement followed.

Secretary's Report

- A motion was made by Denise Hauser and seconded by Jenny Breckenridge to accept the minutes from the May 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Sonya reported that our Society donation goal was met, but our investment prediction fell short.
- Total income for the Society as of May 31 is \$13,434.09
- The Society has already spent over its budgeted amount on Exhibits and Signs, although some of those expenses may have been designated for Storage Collection, which was recently assigned its own budget line. Sonya recommended that no further expenditures in Exhibits and Signs occur this year.
- Our insurance was under budgeted, which is affecting our overall Net.
- Society expenses year-to-date are \$48,646.30, and our net was -\$35,212.21.
- The Society has been paying to advertise the Museum as a wedding venue on Zola. Sonya noted that wedding rental revenue at the Museum benefits the District rather than the Society. Considering the annual cost of \$1,000 to advertise the museum - and an additional \$1,000 to advertise the Funderburg House wedding venue - the Board agreed that the expense for Museum advertisement was not justified. The Zola advertisement for the Museum will be allowed to expire, and the Society will not res-subscribe.
- Investment and wedding income for the Funderburg House were less than expected. Income at the end of May was \$2,668.41 The expenses were \$29,159.94, leaving a net of -\$26,491.53.
- Repair to the lift at the Funderburg House cost approximately \$6000.
- Sonya continues to work with the accountant to streamline and recategorize line items. Attention will be given to creating a new account to handle income and expenditures for the Boone County Art Fair.
- The Museum received \$4300 from the Sullivan Trust.
- Melissa Erickson from BCCF will be attending our September meeting to explain our endowments and the risk of withdrawing money from them on a regular basis. Another topic of conversation will be the steps the Foundation can take to help us reach our goals.

- At our next General Membership meeting/luncheon, Melissa will speak to members about establishing endowments, with the Society as the beneficiary.
- A motion was made by Carol Rowe and seconded by Jenny Breckenridge to file the treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried.

District Report

- Natali spoke of the frustration the District is experiencing with getting the work done on the HVAC system. Because increased airflow is needed in the printer room area, an additional \$20,000 will be tacked onto the original cost of the system.

Museum Staff Report

- Upcoming events include:
 - Clue and Fondue, which will be held Saturday, July 25. About 40 to 50 participants have signed up. It is anticipated that more people will register as the event nears. We need 60 registrants to break even.
 - Toni announced that the clothing swap will take place on July 26 at the museum.
 - The Quilt Show is on the September agenda. The opening will be held September 5, while the closing will be September 26. Refreshments and possibly a kids' craft will be offered at both events. Raffle tickets for the two quilts being raffled have already been sold. It was suggested that we find a sponsor, such as Edwards Apple Orchard, for the refreshments. The Board discussed the possibility of allowing attendees to vote for their favorite quilt by placing donations in baskets positioned beside each quilt.
 - Sonya announced that the cemetery tour will be held on October 25. The event will possibly include a military band and a flyover. The DAR, VFW, and American Legion may participate.
- The Boone County Art Fair was considered a success. All artists seemed satisfied with the event, with quite a few expressing interest in returning next year. It was decided that next year's Art Fair will not be held during Heritage Days weekend.
- Bri Carlson has taken a position as Local History Specialist at the Ida Public Library. Her official starting date is August 3.

Committee Reports

- Membership Committee
 - Approximately 40 to 50 people attended the General Membership Meeting/Luncheon on September 12. Gail's lecture about the National Sewing Machine Company was well-received. The board decided on January 17, 2027, for the winter General Membership meeting.
- Off-Site Liaison Committee
 - Natali represented the Museum today at the Health Department's farmers market at Sundstrand Park.
- Oral History Committee
 - Nothing to report.
- Fundraising Committee

- A meeting will be scheduled to discuss Christmas events, which will focus on the community this year.
- Volunteer Committee
 - Sonya determined that her most effective role at this time is to work primarily at the Funderburg House, as Natali and Chris are currently the only employees handling day-to-day operations. By being stationed at the House, Sonya can oversee chores and maintenance, be available when outside contractors are performing repairs, and ensure that the Art Gallery remains open to the public. She plans to be at the House from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, which will also provide additional opportunities for visitors to tour the House. Sonya will need assistance with volunteer coordination and financial responsibilities so she can focus her attention on the Funderburg House.
- Nomination Committee
 - There are currently two vacancies on the Board resulting from the resignations of Gail Jacky and Zach Yakey. Bri Carlson has expressed interest in filling one of the vacant positions, and Toni suggested her daughter as a candidate for the other.
 - At the end of the year, two additional Board positions will become vacant with the expiration of Gina's and Cheryl's terms. Board members are encouraged to keep these upcoming vacancies in mind and recommend potential candidates.

Old Business

- Gina reported that the Sullivan Trust Board met to review and clarify provisions of the original trust document and to consider the contract submitted by the Rock River Valley YMCA. The Salvation Army was not represented at the meeting. Attorney Lois Ramon had revised the contract to address concerns of the participants. The contract clarified that beneficiaries without a physical facility in Boone County will not be eligible for future distributions from the trust. Additionally, the Sullivan Trust Board may vote to terminate a beneficiary's eligibility for future distributions.
- Brent from the RRVYMCA explained that the Belvidere YMCA's affiliation with the Rock River Valley YMCA was accomplished through a merger and that the merger agreement guarantees Belvidere representation on the Board.
- The Sullivan Trust's assets have increased from the original \$1.8 million to more than \$3 million. The Trust makes quarterly distributions, and each beneficiary organization will now receive financial statements.
- The Sullivan Trust Board established staggering terms for members. Gina is serving a one-year term.

New Business

- The circus wagon, donated to the Society two years ago, is still sitting in Carol's garage. The original intention was to restore it for use in Belvidere parades. Considering our lack of manpower, the Board discussed offering it to Denny at Denny's Car Haulin. A motion was made by Toni Ellingson and seconded by Sonya Dobberfuhr to offer the circus wagon to Denny. Motion carried.

Adjournment

- Motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Carol Rowe to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held August 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Thacker

July 24, 2026

