

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Dear Supervisors:

Two thousand ten (2010) was a busy and rewarding year for the Ozaukee County Historical Society as it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Board members and volunteer Society members and nonmembers stepped forward meeting the challenge of managing the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, the Wirth Research Center and Stony Hill School during trying times. The signing of a ten year lease with the county for use of part of Hawthorne Park as Ozaukee County Pioneer Village stabilized the relationship between the Society and Ozaukee County.

The Board, Village staff, and volunteers worked diligently to live up to the mission of the Society to preserve the history of Ozaukee County and make that history available to county residents and visitors from afar. Helping us finance that mission were the grants from the county, membership dues, donations, fees, and hours and hours of commitment from volunteers.

Most of the leadership roles changed little in 2010 from 2009 with Mary Sayner, President; Curt Gruenwald, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president; Allen Buchholz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president; Dr. Nina Look, Secretary; Don Engelbert, Membership Chairperson; Carole Fairweather, Tour Coordinator; Tom Hogan, Treasurer; Robin Paradis Kent, Volunteer Coordinator; and Ruth Renz, Archivist.

In 2010 the Society expanded its hours at Hazel Wirth Research Center in Cedarburg from being open only on Tuesdays to having open hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays from 5 to 8 p.m. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. Researchers find Ruth Renz, Dr. Nina Look, and Jane Butz useful in their research of county families, businesses, or issues. If questions remain researchers are sent to other locations for more materials. The Society continued its collaboration with other county organizations: the Girl & Boy Scouts, the Master Gardeners of Saukville, Chambers of Commerce, historical societies, Cedarburg Cultural Center, Ozaukee Tourism Council, County Volunteer Center, the Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club, Riveredge Nature Center, The American Diabetes Society, the County Fair, and the Grafton Public Library.

We continued to provide information on the county's history through our quarterly meetings, the Flag Day Celebration, an updated website, newsletters, the sale of the book [Ozaukee County-- a Photographic Journey from the Past](#), weekend and school tours and as requested by researchers whether by phone, snail mail, email, or FAX. Judy Jepson who planned the quarterly programs, the archive staff, and Carole Fairweather the Tour & Guide Coordinator at the Village along with Jean Steinke the Publicity Chairperson are credited with doing a great job.

The June Free Open House Weekend at Ozaukee County Pioneer Village proved to be very popular to approximately 700 visitors. In the historic buildings docents explained the history of the structure and the displayed artifacts. Demonstrations and hands on activities such as a day in a one-room school, weaving, knitting, blacksmithing, quilting, butter making, washing clothes in a tub with wash board, and baking bread in a community bee hive oven were available for viewing or participating.

Our traditional events including the Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion Tractor & Machinery Show, the Fiddlers' Contest, Bluegrass at the Village, and the Revolutionary War Encampment were well attended with history buffs as well as just the curious. Volunteers staffed these events.

At the Village, having safe drinking water was a plus this past summer. Thanks to the county for the upgrade of the water system including new wells, one for the caretaker's home and the other for the anticipated welcoming center.

Al and Karen Rimmel continue to be dependable and thorough caretakers of the Village looking after the entire site as their home, taking pride in its appearance and condition. Minor and sometimes complex repairs to the historic structure are given immediate and accurate attention by Al who uses his engineer background to fix/repair/replace fixtures that can no longer be purchased.

Two major projects of restoration dominated at the Village this year. Major repairs and improvements were made to the Steinecke-Werking House originally from Port Washington. Tuck pointing, complete window repair that included storm window construction/installation, storm/screen door repair, and fascia replacement were accomplished. The 2<sup>nd</sup> restoration involved the Maronde Log Cabin that was dismantled and rebuilt. When the interior is completed, it will be showcased as a first cabin for a settler in Ozaukee in the 1840's. The furnishings will be basic and movable so that the interior can also be used for special displays or activities.

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion (the Tractor Club) a concrete floor was installed under the Milwaukee Railroad Depot overhang. This provides a multipurpose area at the Village usable during events and by school or other tour groups or weekend visitors.

The Board of the Ozaukee County Historical Society is proud of its leadership in carrying out the mission of the Society. This is a working board with members stepping forward taking leadership of an event or a committee chair. Many spend days at the Village planning and preparing for an event, or just cleaning the buildings and grounds before or following an event. Others are involved with Stony Hill School events, the school tours, or helping at the Archive with research or preservation of county artifacts.

### **Looking Ahead**

**Any organization must move ahead if it is to be vital to the community it serves. In this tough economic situation, OCHS must meet the challenge of finding places to properly store the many artifacts that county residents entrust to its care and find revenue sources for supporting its mission to preserve the history of Ozaukee County for today and future generations.**

**Older Board Members are stepping away from leadership roles bringing in younger leaders who can use their enthusiasm and vision to solve problems and explore new sources of revenue.**

**OCHS has come a long way since the idea jelled that an historical society was needed to preserve this county's great history. The next 50 years should be just as exciting. With continued support and enthusiasm provided by the county, much can be realized by 2060.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Sayner, 2010 President**