

Postings

Corning-Painted Post Historical Society November/December 2011 Volume 17, Issue 7



Woodshed Project

By Leon Golder, Project Manager

Since the last update of late July, the framing is completed and the roof sheeting is installed. Plans are to have the shingles and hemlock side boards placed by early December.



During the Whingblinger, Terry Hoopes was working on the floor joist with his trusty framing chisel and mallet answering many questions.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who chipped away with large chisels and lifted very heavy beams: Geoff Heath, master timber framer; Herb Garlock; Leon Golder; Sam Gullo; Terry Hoopes; and Ray Leinen. Without their assistance, the building would still be a foundation. We are grateful to Frank Starr for being on duty taking many pictures of the work progress.



John Starzec provided four face cord of fire wood again this year so it will have a nice dry new home this winter. Stop by as you are driving into Corning and check out the new addition to the museum complex.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As the end of the year approaches, now more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have contributed so much to this organization. We want to thank all of our members, docents, volunteers and staff for another great year; we would not be here without you! Our sincerest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

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Special points of interest:

- Results of Strategic Planning Meeting
- Buffalo Bus Trip
- Docents Needed
- History: Christmas Ornaments and Corning Glass Works



Cavallaro Departs; Golder Appointed

By Donna Keegan

Last month we bid David Cavallaro, our director for the past 6 months, a fond farewell after he resigned his position. There is no doubt that David had a lot of energy and great ideas that brought a record-breaking number of people to the Inn this past summer. Although he will be missed in this capacity, we are fortunate that he has offered to volunteer for us in the future.

The Board has appointed Sheri Golder as interim director while we complete the strategic planning process (see story on Page 4), which will help determine the future direction of the organization.

Upcoming Dates

January

06 Inn Cooks Meeting 10:00 am

10 Bus Trip Meeting 6:30 pm

16 Board Meeting 7:00 pm

23 Inn Quilters 10:00 am



Wish List

It's that time of the year again when we need to ask for donations to purchase more tables. We use the 6ft and 10ft white tables for all of our events and we could really use a few more.

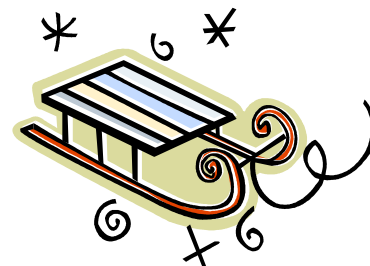
Display Cases

Our display cases have been changed to include items that reflect the spirit of the holiday season!

The library case features a turn of the century sledding scene, with children in coats from our vintage clothing collection.

The case in the office displays vintage Christmas ornaments and other assorted holiday decorations.

We hope you'll stop by and see them!



Corning –Painted Post Historical Society

Board of Directors

President, Donna Keegan

Vice President, Virginia Wright

Controller, Steve Matteson

Secretary, Jan Kostolansky

Treasurer, Sheri Golder

Trustees

Joe Bacalles

Fran Gehl

Leon Golder

Jim Scouten

Jane Spillman

Frank Starr

Staff

Interim Director, Sheri Golder

Events Coordinator, Janet Lyons

Office Manager, Soni Lacey

Maintenance, Herb Garlock

Donations to the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following individuals

Operations
Eleanor Overstrom
Jinny Wright

Whingblinger
Jim Bowdy

**In Honor of Ginny Hauff's
90th Birthday**
Jean Wosinski

Matching Fund
Donna Keegan

In Memory of Nancy Gerbasi
W.C. Templar

Shed Project
Jean Wosinski

**Inn Painting
(matching)**
Tom and Peetie Dimitroff

West End Gallery Donation

West End Gallery has donated two prints from local artist Brian Hart. The prints are titled, "Birth of a Nation" and "Letters From Home". You can see both of these prints and the artists other works at his website, www.brianhartart.com.

The Letters From Home print depicts two Civil War soldiers sitting in front of a campsite reading letters from home. It can currently be seen on display in the exhibit room of the Inn, along with several other prints depicting the Civil War era from Herb Garlock's collection.

We want to thank West End Gallery and Brian Hart for their wonderful donation!

Please visit West End Gallery at 12 East Market Street in Corning, or online at www.westendgallery.net.

Our thanks to David Cavallaro for acquiring these beautiful prints!

New Painting in the Inn

The Historical Society has acquired a new painting for the dining room of the Inn. The painting is a beautiful landscape scene from the early 1800's. It was purchased from Tom and Peetie Dimitroff, who generously donated half of the cost.

The painting definitely adds a little something extra to the room. Stop by sometime to see it!

Our sincerest thanks to Tom and Peetie for their generosity and support!



Strategic Planning Process Underway

by Donna Keegan

The Board, staff, and invited volunteers met in October to begin the strategic planning process to help us determine where we are currently, where we want to be in 3-5 years, and how to measure success to the goals.

The day started by reviewing the benefits of strategic planning, and then the group dove right in to the results of the recent survey.

In order to collect membership viewpoints, we mailed a survey to our members. With 93 responses (an incredible one-third return!), we are better able to accurately understand our current “as is” state as well as the wants, needs, and desires of our constituency.

It’s also important to understand our resource base, and material was presented relative to staffing, volunteers, facilities, and money.

The group also completed exercises where we compared ourselves to other museums and

area attractions and where we listed what we believe are our important community offerings.

Since the strategic planning process will help us increase our ability to serve our mission, we took the opportunity to revisit our mission statement. The consensus: it captures what we’re about, but it is too long and not easy to remember. Two groups worked independently to rewrite it, and the results were quite similar.

There is much more work to do before we are done – finish rewriting the mission and developing organizational goals, all while using and referring to the data we’ve collected so that decisions are fact-based. Then we’ll determine the strategies and resources necessary to obtain those goals.

We will continue to keep our members informed about progress.

Initial Findings

- We have a unique living history experience for our visitors.
- Our facilities are top-of-the-line as far as variety and overall maintenance.
- Staff members and volunteers have a positive effect on visitors.
- #1 in importance to our members: school programs.
- Our volunteer base is strong, especially for one-time opportunities and programs supported by docents.
- There is a need to increase the number of docents.
- The endowment account is diversified and strong, but additional funds are needed for long-term sustainability.

Strategic Planning



- Provides a framework for decisions
- Helps answer the question, “Who are we?”
- Is visionary, conceptual, and directional
- Takes us outside day-to-day activities
- Looks at the big picture

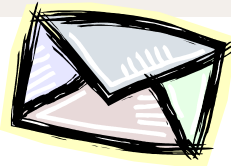
Benefits



- Clearly define purpose of organization and establish realistic goals
- Communicate purpose and goals to membership
- Focus resources of key priorities
- Provide a base from which to measure success
- Build consensus on direction
- Bridge staff and board

The Envelope, Please

by Donna Keegan



Thank you to everyone that completed and returned the membership survey!

Your responses are helping us put together a strategic plan that incorporates your views and opinions. Here is a look at the results.

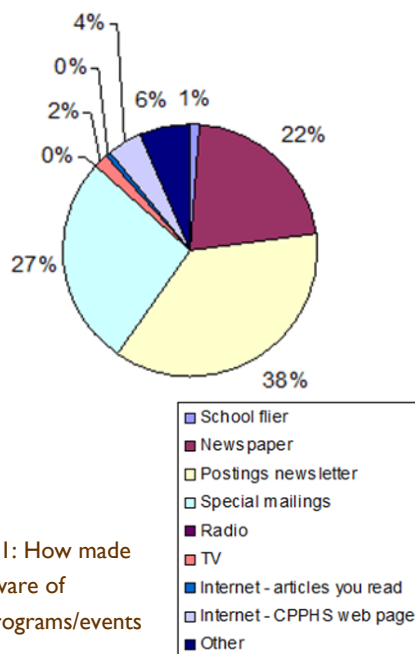
Our Members: We have 273 members that span 10 states. Of the 273, 112 list a Corning address and 64, Painted Post. A strong majority of our members are over the age of 65.

Defining CPPHS: Sixty people responded to the write-in question asking for the quality that best defines the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society.

Group	Count	% of Total
Preserve and share history	38	62.3%
Dedication	5	8.2%
Excellence	4	6.6%
Enthusiasm/friendliness	3	4.9%
Variety	3	4.9%

Volunteering

Most of the responding members told us they volunteer at least once a year or more than 11 times a year (docents). Twenty-two (22) docents worked a total of 511 hours in the period July 2010 to June 2011 (equivalent to 224 days). Docents were asked how we could improve their docent experience, and the #1 reply was to increase the number of docents.



Programs and Services

Members were asked to rank a list of programs and services we offer. The top 5 in rank order are:

- #1 School programs
- #2 Whingblinger
- #3 Patterson Inn tours
- #4 Programs
- #5 Newsletter

We asked what services/programs our members would be most likely to participate, and the #1 answer was programs that explore specific periods in history followed by a close second from programs that celebrate history in general, i.e., Whingblinger.

Most of our members find out about events and programs through our newsletter, and the #1 event attended by members is Whingblinger.

More on Page 6

Supporting This Organization

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society relies on gifts from generous supporters to continue its programming and maintain its facilities – The Benjamin Patterson Inn complex and the Painted Post-Erwin Museum at the Depot.

Membership dues, admission fees, unrestricted donations, and special fundraising events like Whingblinger help us maintain quality programming plus keep our lights on and the doors open. On occasion, we also solicit funding for specific projects like our recent shed building capital campaign.

Donations made in honor of or in memory of someone are directed to our endowment fund, unless otherwise specified. By definition, the endowment fund is restricted (its purpose is to generate income), and only a portion of the interest is transferred to our operating fund (the rest is reinvested). The reliability of endowment income allows us to plan for the future by ensuring a steady stream of funding for our programs and

services as well as the personnel to support them. This money is an important part of our budget.

Due to the economy, however, investment returns are down and funding sources are reducing or cutting grant amounts. These factors may, in time, affect how we operate.

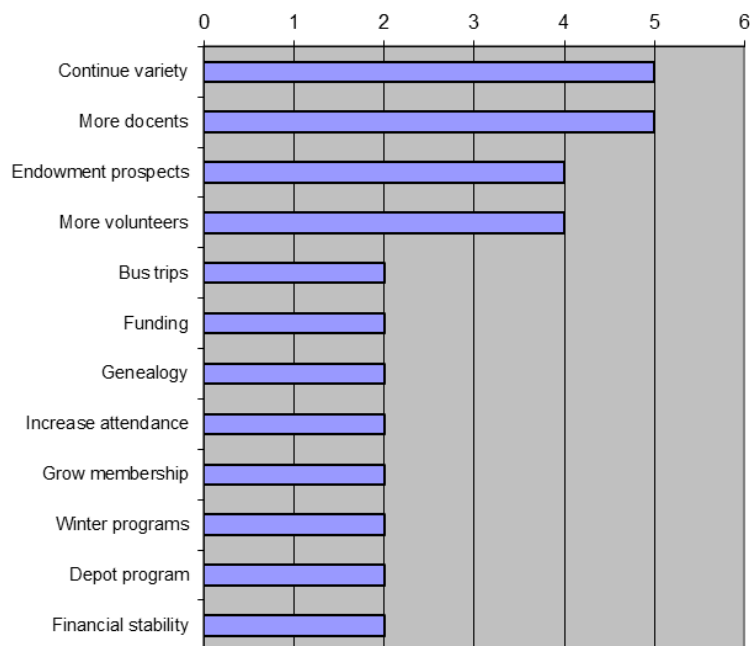
In the coming months, we will be creating and implementing a plan to build our operating budget and endowment so that we may provide stable funding for expenditures and afford donors the opportunity to make a lasting contribution.

If your estate- and tax-planning objectives include making charitable gifts, please consider adding us to your list. One of the simplest ways to give is to name the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society in your will to receive a stated amount, a percentage of an estate residual, or property. Your gift will help us sustain future excellence.

The Envelope, Please (continued)

Top answers for this question:

What is on your wish list for CPPHS and its facilities (Patterson Inn complex, Depot museum)?



EVENTS

CPPHS Goes to Buffalo!

By Jessica Cunningham

Join us for another exciting adventure to historical sites. Jessica Cunningham is organizing another trip for the Historical Society Saturday, June 2- Sunday, June 3, 2012.



We will take a walking tour of downtown Buffalo's architectural landmarks and a boat tour to see the Buffalo River and grain elevators, visit the Naval Park, and have dinner at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery. There will be free time on Elmwood Ave. for shopping and lunch, a tour of the Darwin Martin House Complex, a visit to Albright-Knox Art Gallery, and dinner at Gabriel's Gate—the best Buffalo fare around (in my opinion). Hotel accommodations are included in the price. Please attend the informational meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm at the Historical Society offices (73 W. Pulteney Street, Corning) for additional information and to answer any questions. The bus seats 54, so please sign up right away to ensure a seat! Price for the weekend will be approximately \$250 per person, \$100 per person is due when you reserve your seat. Hotel rooms are double occupancy. If you have questions or would like to sign up before the meeting, please call Jessica at 607-241-2363.

Inn Cooks Organizational Meeting



Our hearth cooking group is holding an organizational meeting on Friday, January 6 from 10 am - 12 pm. The hearth cooks meet on Fridays during the months of January, February and March, when they experiment with different recipes and come up with ideas for their next cookbook. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please contact Jean Walker at 607-962-6067.

BON TON Fundraiser Results

We want to thank everyone who bought and/or sold booklets for the BON TON Community Day event. With your help, we raised \$185.00 for the Historical Society. We look forward to continuing to seek out and utilize every fundraising opportunity that presents itself. We hope you will continue to support us in these endeavours. Every little bit helps!

Thanks Again to Our Whingblinger Volunteers and Demonstrators!

In our last newsletter we listed all of our volunteers, however, there were a couple of names that were not on the list. We want to thank George Roy and Bill Drake for volunteering all day for us! We are so grateful to them and to all of our volunteers for their continued support!



ATTENTION MEMBERS

Sign up for email updates!



Send us an email at cpphs@stny.rr.com, and we'll sign you up for our eUpdates. Get program updates including cancellations due to weather and other Inn announcements via email! Please put "sign me up" in the subject line of your email.

Help Wanted - Teachers



The historical society is looking for certified teachers who are interested in working in the Browntown School House for our school programs. The teachers are paid the state mandated salary for a day's pay as a substitute teacher, with normal hours of 9am - 2pm. This is a very unique and exciting opportunity! Our teachers spend the day in period costume and teach a curriculum based on material from the 1890's.

The children are mostly 4th graders who come in period attire, ready to step back in time and experience a day in the life of a student in the late 1800's.

We offer hands-on training and there are a lot of opportunities for shadowing other teachers. We hope to have a couple new teachers in place by March when our spring school programs begin.

Docents Needed!

You are never too old to play dress up....

Volunteer docents are needed to dress up in Colonial era clothing and lead tours at the 1796 Inn!

No experience is necessary!

Come and learn firsthand about life in a Colonial tavern, an 1850's log cabin, and an 1878 one-room schoolhouse! Learn about blacksmithing in our 1870's working blacksmith shop, with tools of the trade from the 19th Century! You'll also learn about the tools that farmers would use during the different seasons of the year in our Starr Barn exhibit. Then take this knowledge and share it with students and visitors of the Inn! You can take as much time as you need to learn about everything and start doing tours when *you* feel comfortable. You can volunteer as often or as little as you would like, just one day a month would help!



For more information, call us at 607-937-5281, or stop by our office at 73 West Pulteney Street in Corning. We'd love to talk with you!

A Little History

A Glittering Tradition: Glass Christmas Ornaments

By Jane Spillman

Christmas trees, which originated as a German tradition, became popular in England after Prince Albert of Germany married Queen Victoria of England in 1840. Soon thereafter, the tradition spread to the United States. All of the original Christmas trees were live, and they were decorated with candles and a variety of handmade ornaments. Glass ornaments quickly became popular, partly because they reflected the light of the candles. Their manufacture was centered in Lauscha, in eastern Germany. In the late 19th century, families blew and decorated the ornaments at home, working with torches.



Packing Christmas balls at Wellsboro plant, 1940's.
Photo courtesy of Corning, Inc. archives.

After 1939, it was impossible to obtain ornaments from Germany. Corning Glass Works decided to adapt its ribbon machine, which made light bulbs in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, to the manufacture of holiday ornaments for part of each year. The machine produced 300,000 ornaments in a day, and Corning continued this practice until 1981. Some of these decorations were retailed by Shiny Brite, which became the world's largest ornament company following World War II. Shiny Brite continued to sell glass balls until 1962.

TRIVIA



The answer to last edition's trivia question is: **John Cleveland Robinson**, Born in Binghamton, NY (April 10, 1817 - February 18, 1897)

Fun Holiday Facts - Did you know?

Christmas wasn't a holiday in early America—in fact Congress was in session on December 25, 1789, the country's first Christmas under the new constitution.

Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.

The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.

President Franklin Pierce was the first President to decorate the White House Christmas tree.

The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.

Corning-Painted Post
Historical Society

73 West Pulteney Street
Corning, NY 14830

Tel: 607-937-5281
E-mail: cpchs@stny.rr.com
Office Hours and Museum hours:
M-F 10am-4pm

Painted Post—Erwin Museum at the Depot
277 Steuben St., Painted Post
Phone: 607-962-0249 or 607-937-5281
E-mail: cpchs@stny.rr.com
Hours: June-August, M-F 10-4, Sat. 10-2

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We're on the web!

www.pattersoninmuseum.org



Please keep the Historical Society alive—Become a Member!
Don't Forget to Renew your Membership

The *Corning-Painted Post Historical Society* preserves and makes available the historical heritage of the Corning-Painted Post area through its museum complex, archives, educational programs, and exhibits. Membership in the *Society* enables us to meet operational costs, develop exhibits and educational programs, to acquire and archive historical items, and to preserve our local heritage.

Membership benefits include: Free admission to our five buildings, a subscription to our bi-monthly newsletter, advance notice of special functions, two free guest admission tickets, and volunteer opportunities.

Please check the membership category of your choice:

- \$15 Student \$20 Senior \$30 Individual \$50 Family
 \$75 Donor \$100 Patron \$250 Corporate \$500 Benefactor

(Membership is based on the calendar year)

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Dues & Contributions are fully income tax deductible. Matching gift forms should be submitted with payment.