

Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

December 2011

Summarizing 2011, looking ahead to 2012

By Vicki Kinney, President
Historical Society of Dayton Valley

Wishing you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas, and a wonderful New Year!

Another year ends and a new year is upon us. 2011 has once again been a successful and full year for the Historical Society. Thank you all who helped and participated in all our events and activities.

We have another great year to look forward to. The county, under Stony's watchful eye, will be repairing the damage to the Firehouse/Jail. As Pat notes, we already have a tour of the museum by the State of Nevada museum docents on January 11th. Then they have invited us to the Nevada State Museum for our very own tour there. One of my customers at Home Depot owns the Pink House in Genoa and has invited us for a tour there. I plan to continue to add a spot in our general meeting for a short history presentation. I feel this will add an important/enjoyable element to our meetings. We will need committees for 2012. Please think about which committees you will be able to help out on. Off the top of my head we will have the school program, Oodles of Noodles, May lecture series, the Museum will be open every day in May, the rummage sale, Dayton Valley Days, Ghost Walk, Nevada Day Parade, Christmas Party. We need someone to take over putting our scrap book together as Mabel is ready to pass that task off. She did double duty this past year. Not only did she work on 2011, but she put together scrapbooks for the very earliest years of the society. I think a mixer with the scrapbooks showcased would be a

good thing. We had talked of having a mixer last year but weren't able to fit it in. We have the Museum to open up every weekend. Also at the museum there will be yard work, and spring clean up for opening as well as ongoing. And of course we have the Depot, the box car needs to be worked on as well as the grounds need some extra clean up. I'd better stop as I don't want to scare anyone off. We have a vibrant active society that each and every one of us can be very proud of. I am looking forward to our Christmas Party.

Be sure that if you have any ideas and/or concerns about our Society, please don't hesitate to come and talk to me or any of the other board members.

Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be”
Robert Browning (1812-1889)

As we are about to end this year, it's a good time to reflect what the past year brought the HSDV.

We have had a lot of successes this year and also some real sadness has been thrust upon us.

We started the year with a bang and we were all running. People have become interested in what Dayton has to offer. The first events we had were the Lincoln highway group followed by the Mark Twain group, both who really thought we have a good thing going.

We had our usual May madness of lectures, tours and keeping the museum open every day of the month. What a great bunch of people to step up and act as ambassadors of Dayton.

Seems we have added a lot of new events along

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the way. Wonder sometimes if we have added too much to our plate. June brought us our annual rummage sale with a great deal of success. Our treasury has the most money I've ever seen. That eases the pain of paying for our insurance.

July, August, September were just as busy as spring had been. Dayton Valley Days was hectic days but the society made more money. Seems we have found out how to do it.

Then the real success of the year in October came along. Everyone who attended the ghost walk thought it was the best yet. We also won first place in the Nevada Day Parade. What a great bunch of people as I've said before. When you need them they step up to the plate.

We elected a new board in November and it looks like they are off and running again.

I don't need to tell anyone in the HSDV how sad we all were to lost Morgan and Dagmar Webber. They worked for the society right to the end. God bless them.

We all send our best wishes to Vivian Smith who is fighting her best fight against cancer. God go with you. We are having our annual Christmas dinner on the 8th of December. We will all have a great time I'm sure. See you next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Winter Wonderland. Ever wonder what there might be to do during the winter months for the HSDV when there are no parades to walk, no lectures to go to, no group to host at the museum, no booth to set up and man, nothing to “rummage” through and no floating through time as a spirit? Actually, the winter provides us with the wonderful opportunity to catch up quietly and calmly with several projects that have been haunting us for some time and plenty of help will be needed in various degrees and at various times. Not only will this catch us up, but it will give all of us the chance to learn some more about our museum and Dayton's history.

The first and most important project is to update our accessioning. We have had many incredible items donated to the Society that are ready to display but are not yet cataloged and listed in our inventory. We have two members working now on digitizing the hundreds of item still awaiting their turn but more help is needed with the physical looking, cleaning, and preliminary listings. This will also allow us to utilize some items for display, some to be set aside for research, and some to be added to existing displays to make them more complete, such as displays devoted to specific Dayton families.

Secondly, there is a great need to update labeling of the museum displays. We want to make clear, concise and uniform labels for all the items on display. This will give the museum a crisp and consistent look throughout and make it easier for visitors to view the displays. Ultimately, and hopefully before next spring, we will be able to rearrange some major displays as discussed in the past and complete the Docent Training Manual. We need to display more class pictures, expand the Druid Hall display, condense and update the Chinese display, remount and better display some of the maps in the back hall. The list is extensive and help will be needed.

Another, less glamorous project is creating a system for listing and keeping track of our forms and brochures so that we always have a supply of each on hand and with current information. Sounds simple, but will solve a very real ongoing problem we have had for some time: a central place to obtain current forms. Several of these projects will involve updating and being able to use a central computer system at the museum. The Society has been blessed with growth recently and we need to have our systems grow to meet the demands. Ultimately this makes for less work for members and a smoother operation all around.

To accomplish as much of this as we can throughout the winter months we will schedule several brief sessions at the museum. All types of talents will be needed. No amount of input will be too small. If you are interested in helping out with

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any of this just give Donna (246.8765) or myself (246.3527) a call and we will keep you apprised of dates and times. We are hoping for a fresh and new look for the museum come spring when we reopen to the public. Thanks in advance for your help.

Event Notice: January 11, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., a group of 20-25 Docents from the Nevada State Museum will tour the Dayton Museum. This will be a training session for them organized by the Museum's Department of Education. They have offered our Docents a reciprocal tour of the Nevada State Museum at a time of our choice in the Spring of 2012.

Year end notes

By Bob Wallace

This issue marks the end of another year for the *Docents Newsletter*. Each year's worth of newsletters runs from February to December, the holiday period being far too busy for any of us to put together two or three pages of information on what's going on around us and have it published early in January. My thanks to everyone who contributed over this year of 2011, in particular Ruby and Pat who routinely put their thoughts on paper for inclusion in this newsletter, and those who occasionally find one or more ideas to pass along for other docents.

November's docents meeting including a range of issues to discuss for the upcoming year. Among them, doing research on a newer desktop computer for the museum that will allow for those docents working weekends at the museum over the course of a year to input information on the various displays throughout the museum, catalog any new donations and move that information to the accession records, update and then print out new labeling for the displays and store them on the computer for future use.

As time permits during January and February, a day here and there, weather permitting, will be set aside to go through the accession records,

updating any items not yet cataloged, and moving display items from one or another location within the museum to the appropriate display case for those specific items to arrange them in a more logical manner.

As of the November docents meeting, the date chosen for the first open weekend in 2012 will be March 3 and 4, weather permitting. Any update on that weekend can be expected during the February general meeting on the third Wednesday, and/or docents meeting on the fourth Wednesday.

Upcoming dates

December 8: HSDV Christmas dinner; 6:00 for mingling, 7:00 for dinner at the Gold Canyon Steakhouse.

December 25: Merry Christmas!

January 1, 2012: Happy New Year!

January 11: Nevada State Museum docents visit Dayton's Schoolhouse Museum, 1:00 p.m.

January 18: General membership meeting for HSDV, 12:30 p.m. at the library, followed by the Depot Working Group approximately 1:45 p.m.

January 25: Docents meeting at the museum, 10:30 a.m.