

Nemaha County Historical Society Inc.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2009 – Burger Annex I, Seneca, KS

Following a covered dish meal, President Anita Heiman declared quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Anita displayed the “Community Award” trophy awarded to the Nemaha County Historical Society at the Kansas Main Street Awards Banquet in Leavenworth on October 22, 2009. Anita drove to the dinner and awards presentation and accepted the award from Lt. Governor Troy Findley.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 12th Board meeting were approved on a motion from Joyce Olberding and second by Dean Rial. The minutes of the October 7, 2009 Joint Meeting with the Board of the Pony Express Preservation Society were approved on a motion from Joyce Olberding and second by Byron Lear. Secretary DarlAnn Rial read a letter from Robert Pillmeier of Rockville, Maryland, requesting a plaque in memory of his mother, Patty Gerlt Pillmeier of Corning. Mr. Pillmeier sent \$50 in memory of his mother and also joined the historical society with a check for \$10.00 dues.

Reports:

Financial Report: Financial Chairman Dean Rial distributed the income and expense summary for four months since July 1, 2009. The balance in the checking account on October 30, 2009 was \$6,599.36. He noted that the Community National Bank donated \$500 and the American Insurance Company sent a payment of \$2,514.17 for hail damage to the Jail and Sheriff’s Residence’s roof. Dean reported on the Burger Trust’s investments which is currently valued at \$40,922.32 at Edward Jones. As approved by the board at the August 12th meeting, he has purchased a new \$5,000 CD at 3% interest which will come due on September 23, 2014. On a motion by Byron Lear and second by Eugene Visser, the board approved the financial statement.

Dean also reported that the Nemaha County Historical Society had received \$4,805 State Rehabilitation Tax Credits for the Front Porch Heritage Trust Fund project which is 30% of qualifying expenses. NCHS’s share of the qualifying expenses on the project was \$16,016.66 and that amount has been verified by the Kansas Department of Revenue, Dean told the board. He requested board approval to offer these tax credits for sale at 100% value and accept no less than 80% value. The board approved his request on a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Byron Lear.

Bancroft Preservation: Frances Davis was not present to report on the Bancroft Union Church restoration project, but Mary Leighty mailed a check for \$42.00 for Bancroft’s share of the insurance.

Director’s Report: Director Diane Rottinghaus reported on the Kansas Museum Association Conference that she and Anita attended in Hutchinson, Kansas, last week. She was particularly impressed with workshops on grants, foundations and fund raising projects. She and Anita will put together a fact-sheet and send to all board members. Diane reported \$1,232.25 had been earned at the auction food booth sales over the past four months. Expenses for food, paper supplies and management for the food booths total \$831.49 for the same four months. DarlAnn Rial requested direction from the board as to how NCHS plans to adhere to the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s standards for temporary food establishments. The food source according to the Department of Agriculture standards require that food prepared in a private home may not be used or offered for human consumption in a food establishment and food served in a food establishment that is not prepared onsite must be produced in a licensed commercial

kitchen. Diane prepares the meat served in the food booths is prepared on site is satisfactory by the standards. In an attempt to keep the reputation of homemade pies yet adhere to the state standards, DarlAnn has ordered the pies through commercial local bakeries over the last four months. After a full discussion of variety, appearance, cost, equipment and reputation, the board concluded that state law overrules our desires to serve food at community auctions. On a motion by Dean Rial and second by Eugene Visser, the board will keep the food booth commitment for this Sunday, November 15, 2009, by purchasing the pies from a local bakery, but discontinue the food booth tradition beyond this engagement.

Curator's Report: Curator Lillian Engelken read a list of donations to the museum from thirty contributors and recommended the board accept the items for the museum. The list was printed in the November newsletter, the Pioneer Press. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and a second by Eugene Visser, the items were approved for accession into the museum. Anita Heiman reviewed a list of items from the old grade school that the school board has listed for sale or auction. Anita agreed to make an appointment with Superintendent Harris to view the items and enter into negotiations to gain shelves and storage cabinets for the museum.

Membership: Alma Ackerman was out-of-town, but sent message that she had agreed to send overdue notices for expired memberships. Labels with a note asking for dues will be attached to the November newsletter.

Landscaping: The Board agreed that Frank Lindemuth will be approached to complete the landscaping project by planting bushes and flowers. Joyce Olberding submitted her research for an aluminum telescoping flagpole, eagle for top and light kit from The Uncommon Flagpole Company. On a motion by Joyce Olberding and second from DarlAnn Rial, the board agreed to purchase the 20 ft. flagpole which has anodized aluminum swivel rings that allow the flag to fly freely 360 degrees around the pole, gold aluminum eagle ornament on top and a light kit at a cost of approximately \$360.00. Jerry Rottinghaus, representing a tribute from the neighbors in Harry Burger's memory, has agreed to pay for the flagpole and necessary items for up to \$500.00.

Maintenance: The board generally agreed to request estimates for repairing the hail-damaged roof on the Jail and Sheriff's Residence.

Memorials: Joyce reported two memorial plates had been purchased and placed on the Memorial Plaque in memory of Cecilia Niekamp (\$60) and Joe Love (\$50). She has ordered one for Patty Gerlt Pillmeier (\$50).

Grants: DarlAnn reported that she had successfully closed out the Kansas Museum Association, the Kansas Humanities Council grant and the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund grant. She is waiting on one invoice before closing out the City of Seneca's Travel and Tourism grant. DarlAnn plans to file a KHC grant application in the spring 2010 to help NCHS establish the Military Display in Annex II. The initial military display boards are currently on exhibit in the SCTV window on Main Street for Veterans Day celebration. The exhibit is entitled, "Lest We Forget". DarlAnn will submit preliminary grant application to the Board for approval first.

Contract Labor: Secretary DarlAnn Rial noted that it was time to renew Diane Rottinghaus contract as part-time labor. Under the current contract, Diane is paid for one eight-hour day each week for \$6.50 an hour and when the KHC grant was awarded, NCHS paid Diane for a second day (four hours at \$10 - \$12 an hour and four hours as a

volunteer bookkeeper). DarlAnn recommended that the new contract pay Diane \$7.00 an hour for an eight-hour day each week and add the potential of a grant for a second day at four hours at \$12 - \$15 an hour and four hours as a volunteer bookkeeper. On a motion by Dean Rial and second by Eugene Visser, the board approved the new contract for Diane Rottinghaus's part-time employment based on the submitted recommendation.

Fundraising: Anita Heiman reviewed proposed plans for NCHS fundraising noting that all fundraising will have a specific benefit focus for the event. The tentative schedule includes a Museum Open House in May, Tractor Derby in June, Car Show (coffee and donuts from 7 to 10 a.m.) in July, Hwy. 36 Garage Sale in September, Golf Tournament for first Saturday in October, Heritage Festival on the first Sunday in October, and Halloween Historical Spook House at the Jail and a Photography Tour of Seneca at Christmas time. Anita will appoint committees to work on each of the events. She recommended that Secretary DarlAnn Rial contact the Seneca Chamber of Commerce and Seneca Downtown Impact about using the Kansas 150th Birthday Celebration as Heritage Festival 2011 theme. Anita suggested that planning needs to start now for that statewide celebration.

There being no other business, the board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

In attendance at the meeting were Anita Heiman, Dean and DarlAnn Rial, Diane Rottinghaus, Joyce Olberding, Byron Lear, Lois and Eugene Visser, and Lillian Engelken.

Signed: DarlAnn S. Rial DarlAnn S. Rial, Secretary