

**Annual Meeting of the Lycoming County Historical Society
May 5, 2019**

Charles Luppert, president of the Lycoming County Historical Society, called the annual meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. following a reception in the Community Room of the Thomas T. Taber Museum.

Secretary's Report

A motion (Charles Anderson/Larry Fryda) to approve the minutes of the 2018 meeting as printed in the program passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

President Luppert presented the following slate of officers for the 2019/20 year:

President	Gary Weber
Vice President	Bruce Huffman
Secretary	Susan Beidler
Treasurer	Randall DiPalo

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion (Shelby Weber/Larry Fryda) to elect officers passed unanimously.

The new president of the Society assumed the chair and announced that there are six vacancies on the Board of Governors, but three nominees at this time:

Charles Anderson
James Campbell
John Piper

A motion (John Troisi/Shelby Weber) to close the nominations passed unanimously. A motion (Charles Anderson/Joh Raymond) to elect the proposed slate passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Remarks

Executive Director Gary Parks reviewed some of the accomplishments of the past year. He highlighted the contributions of four summer interns who, as he reported, kept him on his toes and were very forthright with suggestions for improvements. During the academic year there were three interns, one who will enter Lycoming College in the fall, one who will graduate from Lycoming next week, and a third from Montoursville High School.

Gary also reported on grants received in the past year including \$4,450 through Raise the Region, a grant to support the lecture series from the Woodcock Foundation, and a grant to support the series of children's workshops from Lodge #106, Free & Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. Four of the workshops have been held so far with the fifth including a tour of the Washington Boulevard cemetery and genealogical research planned for June 1. A second grant from the Masons to support a series on scientific discoveries has also been given.

Parks gave thanks to all the volunteers who do so much for the museum and to the Board of Governors who work very hard for the museum. He acknowledged the members of the staff individually, including Recardo Strothers, custodian, Patti Bowman and Ali Preston, weekend staff, Anne Persun, museum store and front desk manager, Kim Taylor administrative assistant, and Scott Sagar, curator.

Recognition

Gary Weber followed up the Executive Director's report with expressing appreciation for all that Gary Parks does in his role as executive director.

Weber then recognized Charles (Chuck) Luppert for his service on the Board of Governors since 2008. He served as Society Vice-President for two years, following that with three terms as President. Luppert has been working hard to revamp fundraising efforts for the LCHS, the results of which will soon be evident. Luppert was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation and a gift from the Board.

Financial Report and Budget

Randy DiPalo reported that LCHS has operated under the same budget model for the last six or seven years. The museum is fortunate to have a dedicated staff, membership and cadre of volunteers. In characterizing the budget he reported that approximately 88% of the expenses go to maintaining the building and staff salaries and wages. On the revenue side the picture is not so good. Approximately 21% of revenue is generated through membership and annual support campaign. Ten percent comes from fundraising events, 6% through grants and almost 50% of revenue from reserves, endowment income, and one-off gifts.

The proposed 2019/20 budget is almost the same as the year just completed. The challenge is to get more people excited about the museum and its mission. How do we increase revenue and decrease what we are taking from savings?

A motion (John Raymond/Larry Fryda) to approve the FY19/20 budget as proposed passed unanimously.

President's Report

Gary Weber spoke about upcoming plans for the Lycoming County Historical Society under his leadership. He noted that the Society has a long record in the community. It continues to see many organizations and businesses come to LCHS to preserve their history by donating archives and artifacts. No other organization in the community does this.

He reiterated that the Society is strong and its mission is important. However, the dark cloud hanging over it is the budget/funding situation. The organization is fast approaching the need to look to the endowment to fund ongoing operations. He reported that the Board of Governors is finalizing plans to follow through on recommendations made by the Goettler Group consulting firm. These plans will launch in the next several months.

It is clear that we need to improve community understanding of the LCHS mission to "Save Our Story", with 'our' being Lycoming County's story.

Recognitions

Board Service

Gary Parks presented Carol Sones Shetler with a certificate of appreciation for her service on the Board of Governors.

Richard L. and Miriam L. (Swan) Mix Student Historian Award

John Raymond reviewed the topics of past essays in this contest and remarked how almost anything in the museum can spark interest. Raymond introduced Paeton Peluso, a senior at Montoursville High School, as the 2019 winner of the \$500 prize. Her essay, "*Sweeping Away to Nothing*" focused on the broom making exhibit and how the lowly broom has developed into the Roomba robotic vacuum cleaners today. She will matriculate at Lycoming College in the fall with plans to become a veterinarian.

Volunteer of the Year

As chair of the Fundraising Committee, John Raymond recognized Dewey Oakes as Volunteer of the Year. Oakes was recognized for contributing all of the graphics for various fundraisers over the past several years. He serves on the marketing committee and has significant knowledge of social media. He was a major resource when the museum updated lighting. Raymond characterized him as a jack of all trades and master of many.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. There was a brief break to replenish food and beverage. Gary Parks then introduced the Roger Shipley who spoke on *Severin Roesen Revisited*.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. Beidler
Secretary, Board of Governors