November - December 2012 Volume 14 No. 5



A Newsletter for Members of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, a 501(c)(3), Education Corporation

Board Creates SLPEM Endowment Fund

In October the Board of Trustees approved creation of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum Endowment Fund. The Fund was discussed at the October meeting of Museum members. By show of hands, those present expressed support for the action. Endowment funds are established in perpetuity and consist of generally conservative financial investments. These funds provide regular income to support the activities of the organization while keeping the investment base or principal intact. The Board also moved to seek an agreement with the Northern New York Community Foundation to manage the SLPEM Endowment Fund and to provide other financial services. Since 1929, families, organizations, and businesses have partnered with the Foundation to improve the quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. The Foundation manages a pool of over 160 charitable funds including those for non-profit organizations. This was also discussed with members who

Nomination Deadline Extended to Dec. 15

etters have been sent to members inviting nominations to fill Board positions for 2013. **Nominations are now due Dec.15.** Positions open include the four officers who are elected annually and three Trustees who have completed their terms. Each serves a three-year term and may not succeed him/herself. Also open is a Trustee position with a one-year term which is normally reserved for the past president. Those nominated to be a Trustee must state they are willing to serve and understand the responsibilities set forth in the letter. A Nominations Committee consisting of chair Joe Finnegan, Reginald Chester, and Robert Marshall will review the nominations and prepare a slate for elections. Ballots will be distributed in mid-January with voting concluded in time for the Annual Meeting February 17. Names of the newly elected Board members will be announced at that time. Not received or wish another copy of the letter? Please contact Joe at (315) 322-4017.



A small sampling of the Tackaberry collection at Athens (see story on page 4).



The 2013 budget includes a fire suppression system added to the kitchen hood.

(Below) Since 2006 the Museum has grown from the original farmstead with the addition of many new buildings and structures. Covered exhibit and activity space now exceeds 20,000 square feet.



Dec. 1 Saturday, **Deadline for nominations**. Must be received in hand or at the Museum's Madrid post office box. Saturday, 1:00 PM, **Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees**.

Feb. 17 Sunday, 1:30 PM, Annual Meeting of the Members, Madrid Community Center.

May 11 Saturday, 10:00 AM, Museum begins 2013 **Regular Openings to visitors**, 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10:00 - 2:00 PM. May 11 Saturday, 6:00 PM, **Annual Banquet**, Madrid-Waddington Central School.

2073 June 8-9 31st Annual **Antique Gas & Steam Engine Exhibition**.

Aug. 31-Sept. 1: 23rd Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.

Group Visits Promote Interest in Museum

C eptember marked the beginning of group visits to the Museum with two Odozen members of the Town of DeKalb Historical Association holding their annual picnic in the Pavilion Building. All the buildings were opened, and a grand tour was provided by several Museum members. During October, a Museum Studies class from SUNY Potsdam arrived. The University's Art Museum Director, April Vasher-Dean, and Collections Manager, Romi Sebald. escorted a dozen students. After a tour from one end of the Museum to the other the students were asked what was the most obvious shortcoming of our exhibits. The immediate response was not unexpected: labels and interpretation. The students are required to complete projects during their studies. We hope that some will choose the Museum as a work site. Meanwhile, Secretary Roger Austin was visiting seniors organizations, bringing Museum artifacts to illustrate a discussion of how inventions and new technologies helped shape life in the North Country. He emphasized the Museum's efforts to preserve that history. Over 100 attended programs from August to October including the St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens, the Potsdam Sandstone Seniors Club, the Norwood Golden Agers, and the Lisbon 89ers Sr. Citizens Group.

Finance Committee 2013 Budget Approved

At the recent Members Meeting, Assistant Treasurer Lee Dezell reported that the Finance Committee presented a budget for 2013 for the Board's consideration and that it had been approved. The 2013 budget closely follows actual and projected income and expenses for 2012, anticipating a gross income of \$102,180 and expenses of \$57,810 resulting in a net income of \$45,570. Dezell then reported that the Finance Committee had recommended that the extraordinary expense budget include nine projects focused on risk and loss reduction and completion of projects underway. These had been accepted by the Board which then adopted seven additional projects (page 3). Their total projected cost in 2013 is \$49,734. Dezell recognized Amy Moulton, CPA who had played a major role in preparation of the financial reports. The Museum still carries no debt and will end the year in sound financial shape. §

Museum 101 Programs Planned for 2013

A series of half and full-day *Museum 101* learning programs will be presented from May through October in 2013. The programs will provide Museum members and the public hands-on lessons about things in the collection or seen at exhibitions. Programs and coordinators currently include:

Canning: Mary Jean Chester and Helen Alton Early Textile Techniques: Andrea Castle

Gas Engines: Mike Gillette, Charles Alton, and Gary Hargrave

Hitching up the Horse: John Castle

Plowing and Harvesting: John Mouthorp and Jim McGraw

Steam Engines: Gary Hargrave

Tractor Pulling: Al Garrand and the River Valley Antique Tractor Club. There was also significant interest in having a music event. Contact the coordinators if you wish to help with the programs. Those wanting to attend the programs can sign up when the schedule is published in April next year.

In 2013 the Gate Fee at the Annual Exhibitions will increase to \$5.00 per person for those age 12 and older. The practice of allowing free entry to members who provide volunteer service or exhibits during exhibitions will be continued. Members wishing to volunteer may sign up before hand or do so at the gate. Thanks!



Members of the SUNY Potsdam museum studies program visit the Museum.



The farm house kitchen floor will be restored to the original wood in 2013.



Why watch when you can pull? Next year, sign up for the program on **Tractor Pulling 101** and learn from the experts.



Steve Hudson brought a load of tractors to the August truck show and was a host in Ontario during October (see page 4).

Photographs this issue contributed by Roger Austin, Dave Baker, John Bartholomew, Mike Caskinette, and Chuck Goolden

Board Approves Projects for 2013

Projects in 2013 approved by the Board (see pg. 1) first deal with risk reduction including installation of a fire suppression system for the new kitchen hood, repair of roof leaks, extension of roadways, installation of security systems, and high level alarms on the septic system. Projects in progress should see their completion including repairs to the Century Flyer, improvements at the Horse Equipment Building, completion of the Schoolhouse, and a donor memorial. Improvements are needed on the pull track, placement of Museum road signs, and replacement of a few wooden wagon wheels. Work on historic buildings will restore wooden floors to the Farm House kitchen and add new space for the vertical sawmill. A combination shop and tool storage building is planned, and logs will be purchased which will be turned into lumber for the projects. Other projects also demand attention including improvements to the Old Barn and the Public Toilets. Significant savings occur when volunteers provide some of the labor and direction of projects. If you want to help with any of these, please contact any board member. Thanks!

Members Step Up to Fill Jobs in 2013

Two important functions at the Museum will have new chairs in 2013. Collection Management Co-Chairs Jim and Julie McGraw will complete their duties this year and hand over their responsibilities to new Co-Chairs Phyllis Gilbert and Sheila Krieg. Training in the use of PastPerfect, the collection management software, has already begun. Both will assist Julie in preparation of the Annual Report. Jim will remain on the committee, assisting in gathering and evaluation of items. Joe Brooks will take over management of the Museum's water system. He will monitor and maintain the chlorination system, assure that the periodic biological tests are made, and provide monthly reports to the NYS Department of Health. Until the Museum is connected to the municipal water system, this will remain a critical function. Meanwhile, the Historian and Visitor Host Chairperson positions remain open. Hats off to the three. The Museum's success depends on our volunteers.

SLPEM Endowment Fund (Continued from page 1)

expressed strong interest in having the Foundation manage the Endowment Fund. The Foundation manages funds in excess of \$40 million. An investment committee of local business and investment professionals handles all the administrative details including expert investment management. Primary management is performed by competent external money management firms selected by the Investment Committee and subject to the approval of the Foundation's Board of Directors. The Foundation currently employs nine national money managers. Based on past performance, the Foundation has identified a prudent proportion for spending as 4.5% of a three-year average of the fund's market value. Annual fees total less than 1 percent of the fund. The Foundation could provide other services of interest to the Museum. Members may establish charitable gift annuities. In exchange for a gift of cash or securities, members would receive a guaranteed annual payment for life. Upon termination, the unused portion of the gift would support the Foundation which in turn would support the Museum. It could also manage bequests or named funds created by families or individuals to benefit the Museum. A legacy is established with annual proceeds distributed in their name. More information will be available on these opportunities once an agreement is concluded. Our generous members contribute to the Museum in a variety of ways including volunteering time and expertise, donating items to the collection, purchasing materials and equipment, and contributing to our several construction and improvement funds. New opportunities for member support will be created through the Endowment Fund and by provision for charitable gift annuities and named donor funds. Every member and every gift is important.



Judy Liscum (doorway) and Carl Caskinette (l) at the Schoolhouse in September.



A 1962 US Army 6X6 dump truck wintering in the Pavilion Building. Custodianship is being transferred from the Int'l. Union of Operating Engineers, Local 158. District 545 to the Museum.

Those who make their charitable contributions at year's end will find several opportunities for giving in this issue. Gifts may be made for either general or specific projects. The endowment fund is discussed on page 1, and projects planned for 2013 are listed on this page. Questions? Call Chuck Goolden at (315) 262-2525.



Don Carson, Lee Goolden and Marcia Oney painting the Walker Granary for last June's exhibition (not shown, Myron Langford). Gifting hours works.

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Nominations deadline moved to December 15. Museum Endowment Fund established. 2013 budgets and programs announced. Visit to amazing Ontario reported. Important committee positions filled.

To make nominations or vote, member dues must be up to date. Send them now, with your nominations, or with your ballot next year. Check your mailing label. A v13 means dues are paid for next year.

Museum Trustees

President/Trustee: Alan L. Garrand, 299 County Rt. 20, Richville, NY 13681. Phone (315) 287-7225. E-mail nagarrand@twcny.rr.com.

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Amazing Ontario Collections

In late October, 35 members of the Museum and the Northern Empire State Chapter of the Antique Truck Club of America visited two great antique truck and tractor collections. They started in Brockville, Ontario, visiting Steve Hudson. In addition to a large number of tractors, his collection features vintage Cub Cadet tractors. George Tackaberry and his world famous collection of antique tractors, trucks, and other fine antiques was next. The group toured his buildings in Plumb Hollow and many more in Athens as well as the shops where he and his son Charlie oversee restorations. Steve, George

and Charlie had brought several items to the antique truck show at the Museum last August and had invited folks there to come over and see the rest. All agreed they were glad they did.



One of many Tackaberry buildings with restored trucks, tractors and other equipment visited by members at Athens.