



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

December 2009

ANNUAL MEETING A HAUNTING AFFAIR

On October 31, twenty-five Museum members and seven guests enjoyed part of their Halloween attending the 2009 Annual Meeting. The business meeting featured Claudia Nicholson's report on the "State of the Museum", an overview of our *Celebrate the Journey* fundraising campaign by Ron Phillippo and John Guthmann provided an update on the soon-to-be published *Honor Bright: A Century of Scouting in Northern Star Council*. We also recognized outgoing members of the Board of Directors and announced the result of the election of new Board members.

We were not just celebrating Halloween at the Annual Meeting. October 31st also marked the birthday of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low. She was born in 1860. Claudia Nicholson provided an informative and entertaining overview of Ms. Low's life. We even celebrated with a delicious birthday cake.

In addition to the business meeting, the affair provided the first opportunity for our membership to see the new collection of memorabilia from Father Timothy Vakoc (see full article elsewhere in this issue). During a spectacular lunch, generously donated again this year by Todd Levig, the gathering was well entertained by the Eric Thomas Duo. Our silent auction raised important funds for Museum operations.

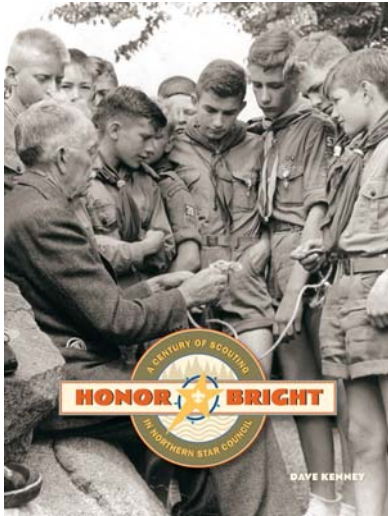
During the event, the 2008 Annual Report debuted. If you were unable to attend, a copy was mailed to you. If you did not receive a copy, just give Claudia Nicholson a call.



Museum attendees grooved to the sounds of the Eric Thomas Duo at the Annual Meeting



Claudia Nicholson makes a point during her "State of the Museum" address at the Annual Meeting



The cover of "Honor Bright: A Century of Scouting in Northern Star Council". Order your copy today!



Kent York and "Honor Bright" designer Cathy Spengler are welcomed at the Jostens Printing facility in Topeka, Kansas in October

THE BOOK IS REALLY HERE!

On November 16, 2009, we took delivery of *Honor Bright: A Century of Scouting in Northern Star Council*, the incredible centennial history of Scouting in this area that the Museum co-published with Northern Star Council and the production team of Peg Projects, Inc., author Dave Kenney and designer Cathy Spengler. Boy, was it worth the wait! This 236-page volume is much more than we could have hoped for. The book is pleasing to the eye and entertaining to the core. It is rich with the stories of Scouting.

If you do not already have your copy or one on order, it is easy to obtain. The book may be purchased in the Museum gift shop. You can also buy the book on line at the Northern Star Council web site. The soft-cover edition costs only \$25. The hard cover version is \$95 and includes the supplemental DVD/Digital Time Capsule. The DVD is also separately available for \$5. The book makes a great holiday gift for you and everyone in your family so don't stop at one. Get your copies today!



Kent York and Cathy Spengler conduct a press check of "Honor Bright" with a Jostens employee during their October visit to Topeka



Kent York inspects a pallet full of pages from "Honor Bright" at the Jostens printing facility in Topeka, Kansas

MUSEUM OBTAINS WAR HERO'S COLLECTION

On October 16, the Museum obtained a significant collection from the family of an American hero. Father Timothy Vakoc was an Army chaplain in Iraq when he was severely injured by a roadside bomb on May 29, 2004. Father Vakoc was believed to be the first military chaplain injured in Iraq. Fr. Tim died in June 2009. At the time of his death, Archbishop John Nienstadt said: "A man of peace, he chose to endure the horror of war in order to bring the peace of Christ to America's fighting men and women. He has been an inspiration to us all and we will miss him."

Fr. Tim grew up in the Robbinsdale area, where he became an Eagle Scout. Prior to enlisting, he served for a brief time as chaplain at Tomahawk Scout Reservation. The Museum's Father Tim Collection includes his Boy Scout memorabilia along with the field desk he used in Iraq. North Star Museum Executive Director Claudia Nicholson noted that "the field desk is still covered with the sands of Iraq. Fr. Tim used the desk for conducting Communion in the field, among other duties. Now, the public will be able to come to the Museum to honor Fr. Tim's service to his country and see the evidence of a Boy Scout career that helped prepare him for his life of accomplishment." Although the final exhibit of this collection has not been completed, the present exhibit is well worth a special trip to the Museum.



Howard Guthmann and Peter Devine inspect the new Father Tim Vakoc exhibit at the Annual Meeting

Claudia Nicholson and Charlie Opp recognize outgoing Board members Paul Bartyzal, Kristie Wanstrom and Joyce Rosene for their service to the Museum at the Annual Meeting



Paul Bartyzal



Kristie Wanstrom



Joyce Rosene



The birthday cake in honor of Juliette Gordon Low before its consumption at the Annual Meeting on October 31

From the Director

Time has made fools of us again, and here we are, near the conclusion of another year. In late February 2010, I will be observing my 5th anniversary at the museum, and I have been thinking back a lot lately, trying to remember where we have been, and where we are at the moment.

I came to work in 2005 for an institution that had no permanent home, no fixed exhibits, and no place to invite people in—particularly young people. Most of the collection was in boxes, on shelves, or otherwise in storage. We didn't have any programs because we didn't have anyplace to hold them. And we could not serve as a gathering place for the Boy Scout and Girl Scout communities.

What a difference five years makes! We have a home into which we can invite people. We have unpacked and exposed at least some of our very large collection. We've held programs, hosted events, and served as a venue for others. We have seen several thousand young boys and girls, who have learned more not only about the history and traditions of their own organizations, but something about our collective history as Americans as well. We have produced and installed a number of small exhibits, with more ambitious ones on the drawing board as I write this.

All very good news. But we have some distance to travel to reach the vision for the museum, articulated in the 2007 Strategic Plan: **The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting is recognized as a high-quality museum that promotes, interprets and celebrates the unique role of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting around the world.**

By 2012, this is where we want to be. For that to happen, we need you—we need your time, and your monetary support. We need your willingness to promote the museum to your friends. We need you to bring people here, and show them what we have, and allow me to tell them what we plan. No museum can succeed, or even operate, without the efforts of many people. In the next three years, I am counting on all of you to help us achieve our vision.

Thank you for another great year!

Claudia J. Nicholson



Claudia Nicholson gets into her Halloween costume at the Annual Meeting on October 31



Alex Cirillo of the 3M Foundation accepts a thank you at the Annual Meeting for the donation of the Case Street space to the Museum

Remember the Museum This Month

A significant percentage of the Museum's annual operating income comes from your year-end giving. By now, you have received Claudia Nicholson's year-end letter. The letter outlines the Museum's 2009 successes and accomplishments. Without your support, we will not be able to build on our past achievements. Please return your year-end gift today and the Museum will put your last deductible contribution of the decade to good use.

The year-end operating fund push got off to a great start on November 18—"Give to the Max" Day. Due the generosity of several local foundations, \$500,000 in pro-rata matching funds was made available to qualifying charities whose members donated through the GiveMN.org web site on November 18. Thanks to many of you, we raised \$3,285. Numerous organizations, including the Museum, promoted this opportunity and an incredible 14 million dollars in cumulative gifts was raised in only twenty-four hours. As a result, the Museum will receive an additional match of 3.5 cents on the dollar. If you participated, thank you. If the day snuck up on you and you did not get a chance to donate, just pop the envelope you received with Claudia Nicholson's letter in the mail, or, you can continue donating through GiveMN.org. Thank you for your support.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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