

November 2006



Members enjoy the new Drum & Bugle Corps exhibit before the annual meeting. (Photo by John Raymond)

North Star Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, October 10, the Museum held its annual meeting of the membership. The evening began at 6 p.m., with a reception for members and others who have made a difference to us in the past year. This was an opportunity also for an advance viewing of the new exhibit on the St. Paul Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps.

At 7 p.m., the annual meeting was called to order. Executive Director, Claudia Nicholson, showed a fun slide show of the Grand Opening celebration. She also presented key volunteers with a “North Star All-Star” patch as a small token of appreciation for their efforts to support the museum.

The results of the elections for the Board of Directors were announced. Elected were Sandra Craighead, Pamela Grayson, Kristie Wanstrom, Joyce Rosene (1 year term) and Ron Phillippo (1 year term).

Claudia reported on the “State of the Museum”, which she characterized as “great.” She reported on our successes in receiving grants, described membership growth, (up 60% since she began working about a year and a half ago), and she said that \$25,000 had been raised in support of the Grand Opening. She reported that volunteer hours increased significantly over 2005. And finally, as part of the program to get the Museum’s resources better known, 15 photographs from the Museum’s collection have been uploaded onto the Minnesota Digital Library project.

Then she outlined some challenges facing us in the coming year. These include building membership and financial support, building relations with the Girl Scouts, and taking a leadership role in celebrating the centennial of the Boy Scouts in 2010 and the Girl Scouts in 2012. And, the Museum needs to work hard to build its name; rolling out a new brand for the museum in early 2007 will help in this regard.

The annual meeting was followed directly by a meeting of the Board of Directors.



Current and former members of Troop 100 enjoyed the reunion and program at the museum.

From the Director

Early in the new year, the museum board and interested supporters will be working on a new strategic plan for the museum. Among our duties at this retreat will be to focus the museum on just those things that it can do well, and set priorities for the coming three years. I believe that what we can do well is be the *best* museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the region, one with broad public support, and a reputation for excellence.

Being a museum that adheres to professional standards implies much more than we are doing now. We have to do more. To that end, we'll create a number of committees in the new year. You've already read about plans for our Girl Scout Advisory Committee. We'll move ahead with that in January. Because volunteer staff is so critical to the museum's growth, we'll convene a group under the rubric of "Volunteer Task Force". This task force will help identify potential volunteer projects and with sourcing volunteers for the museum. Those of you who have already lent us your time and talents are fabulous, and I appreciate every minute you've given us. But we need more of you—many more. I hope that the Volunteer Task Force, a short-term group, will be able to help me fill the building with the volunteers we need to make our program go.

Policy is another area in which the museum must play catch-up. We will create two board committees (the membership on which is not strictly limited to board members). The Collections Committee will enable us to deal more effectively with our collection. This committee has two responsibilities: first, to draft a collections management policy for the board, which lays out our overarching philosophy of collecting, care, and use. The second responsibility will be to make all acquisition and deaccession recommendations to the board. This ensures that decisions will be consistent, with policy and the contents of our collection being taken into account.

The last committee that we need is a Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will write and recommend to the board financial

management policy for the institution. Our finances have gotten much more complicated in the past two years (we have just completed our 2005 audit of the books—our first-ever), and it is critical that the board pass policy that dictates how we handle our finances. This group will also be responsible for reviewing financial reports and ensuring that they are in compliance with policy. Finally, the finance committee will take the lead on fundraising policy and fund development. As you are no doubt aware, our financial needs, in our new building, with our new ambitions, are significant. We can only continue our trajectory with a stepped-up effort to broaden our base of community support.

So we expect a busy year. While programming and new exhibits will continue, you will see greater progress in "back of the house" issues. As a 30-year-old institution, we have to complete this founding work soon, so that we may become the institution envisioned by the founders in 1976, by the board in 2003, and by you today.

Claudia J. Nicholson – Executive Director

Altruism: The Joy of Giving

Human beings are hard-wired to care for their young and their families. Reaching out to strangers might not be instinctual, but it does have potential benefits: first, doing a kindness for a stranger may prompt a reciprocal response. But neuroscientists now know that it also feels good. The part of the brain that governs mother and child bonding is also engaged when one does a kindness for another. The scientists have learned that these kinds of acts increase the hormone oxytocin—a factor in the love of a mother for a child, romantic love, and trust and cooperation.

Doing good. Altruism. Generosity. Good turn. Philanthropy. Whatever you call it, it *feels good* to do.

The museum has several opportunities for members to feel good as we speed towards the end of the year. It is not too late, for example, to purchase a ticket for the Simon Day of Giving at the Maplewood Mall. For an \$8 ticket, the museum nets \$5, and in addition to a flood of

good feelings in your brain, you'll also have the opportunity to get discounts and deals from mall retailers on November 19, and register for a chance to win wonderful door prizes. Euphoria and bargains—a winning combination! (Call 651-748-2880 for details.)

As you will see in the letter accompanying this newsletter, this year three members stepped forward and offered you a challenge for our year-end appeal. They will match each dollar in *new money* that you contribute with \$1.25 of their own, up to \$6,250. If we fully utilize this match, the museum will net \$11,250—a sum far above what we have ever collected before in a year-end appeal.

And finally, Congress has done its bit to help you feel better: the Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows those individuals who are taking distributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) to contribute up to \$100,000 to charities without having to pay taxes on this distribution. As always, check with your tax advisor to see if this provision of the law would apply to you, but if it does, think of the rush of good feelings such generosity could provoke.

Do good. Feel better.

North Star at NOAC

Again this year, North Star provided displays for the History Museum at the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). The 2006 NOAC attracted over 8,000 Arrowmen to Michigan Statue University in East Lansing, Michigan from July 29 through August 3.

The OA History Museum was a popular destination for the attendees and contained over 50,000 items of Scouting and Order of the Arrow memorabilia. There were many rare items from the early days of the Order. North Star provided displays on the history of Boy Scouting.

This is the fourth NOAC that North Star has provided displays for the History Museum and provides an opportunity for our materials to be seen by a national audience.

Thanks to Tom Welna and Paul Bartyzal for transporting the displays to Michigan. Thanks also to Bill Lenker and his crew of Arrowmen who assisted with set up and take down of the displays. They included Alex Kahler, Paul Empie, Sue Ketel, Reid Christopherson, Ric Koval and Allen Nuessmeier.



Arrowmen enjoying the North Star displays at the 2006 NOAC. (Photo by Joe Glenski)

Lost and Found: One ladies watch, bracelet band, near the coat room, after the annual meeting on October 10. One ladies wool jacket (short, black, “Kristen Blake” label) in the coat room, after the Members’ Dinner during Grand Opening weekend. Call Claudia at the museum (651-748-2880) for pickup.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Jump-start your holiday shopping, and help the museum, all at the same time! This year the museum is participating in the “Simon Day of Giving” shopping event at the Maplewood Mall. This event will be held on Sunday, November 19, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the Mall’s open hours. For more details visit our website at www.nssm.org.

MEMBER S’ DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAY: On November 24, the day after Thanksgiving, the museum shop will offer 20% discounts to members on all of its small, but choice, selection of stock. Choose from books, B-P bobbleheads, a Rockwell print, and patches. Buy pencils for *everyone’s* stockings. Members’ Double Discount Day runs from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Member News

The following have recently become new, first-time members of the museum:

Troop 594	Troop 515
Helen & J. Kimball Whitney	Roger Nielsen
Priscilla Olson	Rodney Nelson
Donovan Schwichtenberg	GS Troop 1477
Debra Guthmann-Ternus	Faith Anderson
Jon Hammond	

Thank you all for your support of North Star!

**Remember the North Star
Museum in your will!**

Museum Hours

The museum will be open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Weekday evenings available for groups scheduled in advance. The museum will be closed Sunday and Monday. Museum holidays are: New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Contact the Executive Director

You can contact Claudia at the Museum by calling 651-748-2880 or reach her by email her at cnicholson@nssm.org.

Editor: 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) dedicated to the preservation of the historic items of Scouting. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

© 2006 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc