



# NORTH STAR MUSEUM

## BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

# Museum News

February 2009

### *Annual Meeting is a Smash*

If you missed the Museum's Annual Meeting on October 18, you missed a great opportunity to see our exhibits and network with your fellow friends of the Museum. Don't worry, though, the event was so successful, a similar format is planned for 2009.

For the first time in recent memory, the Annual Meeting was not combined with a regular meeting of the Board of Directors. A brief meeting of the membership was convened, the Annual election results were announced, a silent auction raised funds to benefit Museum operations, and Claudia Nicholson delivered her annual "State of the Museum" report.

Claudia Nicholson's report included acknowledgment of our outgoing Board of Directors members. She thanked Paul Anderson and Dr. Ken Crabb for their service. Claudia also welcomed incoming Directors, Rep. Nora Slawik and Julie Joyce.

In another format change, the meeting took place on a Saturday and lunch was provided. Since the meeting occurred in October, the meal was based upon an Oktoberfest theme. Bratwurst, sauerkraut, beans and draught root beer flowed freely. A local band, Lichtensteiner Nine, entertained us after lunch and filled the entire space with music. The 70-plus members and friends in attendance enjoyed a great event. Special thanks to Todd Levig for arranging the lunch, and to Joan Robbins for helping staff the event. You will not want to miss the 2009 Annual Meeting.



The meeting was well attended by Museum members.



The Lichtensteiner Nine performing at the Annual Meeting.



One of the sessions of Merit Badge Saturday at the North Star Museum.

### ***Merit Badge Saturdays***

One of the exciting new events at the Museum in 2008 was the Merit Badge Saturdays program for Boy Scouts. Six workshops were scheduled at which boys could earn one or several merit badges. The Museum offered: Emergency Preparedness; Electricity; Citizenship in the Community; Citizenship in the World; or, Textile. The registration price even included lunch.

By any measure, Merit Badge Saturdays was an unqualified success, with each workshop selling out. This meant that 59 boys participated, earning a total of 108 merit badges. Most of these boys and their families had never been in the museum before. The boys rated the workshops very highly, and one even said, “this is the best one of these, *by far*, that I have ever attended! Loved it.”

Due to the success of the program, we are doing it again this Spring. The cost will be \$6 per workshop and the workshops will be offered one Saturday a month, beginning in February and ending in June. Lunch is included when the workshop runs over the lunch hour for an additional \$4. The Museum is now accepting applications, and all information is available online at our website [www.NorthStarMuseum.org](http://www.NorthStarMuseum.org). If you know someone who would benefit from Merit Badge Saturdays, encourage them to sign up before the program sells out again.

### ***A Sign of the Times***

First impressions are important. For many, their first impression of the North Star Museum is provided by signage that identifies the Museum for those who visit and for those who just drive by. In addition, new permanent signage will help people find us when they are driving down Seventh Avenue. The next time you visit the Museum, you should see new signage out front and on the parking lot side of the building. The signs were supported by a generous contribution from Sandy and Don Craighead. When you see them, show them a sign of thanks.

---

### ***2008 Museum Attendance Grows***

It is hard to believe, but the North Star Museum’s North St. Paul building has been open to the public for three years already. It seems like the Grand Opening was only yesterday.

Thanks to your support and word of mouth, attendance has grown each year. In 2008, Museum attendance was 3,170! With more programs, workshops and events on the drawing board, we expect attendance to continue growing in 2009. If you have regular contact with a Boy Scout or Girl Scout unit, make sure they have scheduled their youth for a Museum tour this winter or spring.





Museum Director, Claudia Nicholson, gave the “State of the Museum” Address at the Annual Meeting.

real need. You may be hearing from Gary this upcoming year.

However, the year has had its stressful times as well. Our fundraising started out very slowly, but picked up. In the end, you did it, and ended up contributing enough to see us through. Thank you very much for your support, passion for the museum and its work, and all of your help.

I’ll see you around the museum in 2009.

Claudia J. Nicholson

### *From the Director*

Well. It has been quite a year here.

We’ve been working very hard to make the North Star Museum an indispensable place for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to gather and celebrate. And there is some very good news on that score. January was one of our biggest months for Scouting groups, and September and October were also very big months. We hosted 3 Eagle Courts of Honor, and four Troop Courts of Honor. The Northern Star Council Venturing Program held its annual banquet at the museum, as did the Juliette Gordon Low Society of the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys. We also hosted smaller meetings of groups that are interested in us.

We had some singular days: in September, during North St. Paul’s Fall Roundup celebration, we had one busy day. At 8 a.m., Boy Scout Troop 188 began serving pancakes to visitors; at 9 a.m., our first merit badge Saturday began, with 12 boys working on their Emergency Preparedness badge; at 1:30 p.m., a troop of Girl Scouts came to work on one of their badges; and finally, when the Fall Roundup parade ended at our corner, we hosted band members who were given hot dogs and a drink as they recovered from the heat. We ended up having several such days during the year—I’d like to see more of them.

Newly-retired museum member Gary Gorman has joined our team as the Volunteer Team Leader. Gary will be assisting me to further develop our volunteer program, develop job descriptions, make contact with potential volunteers, and help train them in. This is a huge job and a



Some of the many patches in the museum collection.

### *Patch Project Winds Up*

One of the North Star Museum’s first grants came from the Minnesota Historical Society to inventory the Museum’s extensive patch collection. The patches were culled from the collection, identified, numbered, placed in a protective envelope and stored in standard-sized boxes. Considering the fact that the Museum has over 12,000 patches, we are not talking about a small project!

Now, after two years of effort, the project has been completed. The Museum has many volunteers to thank. In particular, volunteers Joan Robbins, Jay Jonasson, and Russ Edhlund deserve special mention. However, the final push to completion came from Max Haight of Roseville Troop 297. For his Eagle Scout project, Max organized a crew to do four inventory work days during the summer and early fall. Thank you to Max and his crew and to all who volunteered on this important project. We cannot wait for our next MHS grant.



Boy Scouts of America Anniversary Logo © BSA

### ***The BSA Centennial Is Almost Here***

Just yesterday, it seems like the Museum started its five-year planning process for the 2010 Boy Scout Centennial. Now, it is 2009 and the official February date for the Centennial is only a year away.

Planning and implementation of four Centennial projects is moving forward. In 2007, the Museum entered into a contract with Peg Projects, Inc. and the Northern Star Council to produce a Centennial history of Boy Scouting in the Northern Star Council service area. The book is well underway, with a first draft expected from author David Kenney in March. In addition, pre-sales of the book kicked off on January 31. If you wish to order, go to [northernstarbsa.org](http://northernstarbsa.org) and the "100 Years of Scouting" link will direct you to the area where you can place your order.

The Museum also continues with plans to develop The Camping Game, an online game that will allow players to go on a virtual camping trip in one of a number of historical eras. Grant requests to fund the project are pending.

One or more traveling exhibits focusing on Boy Scout history are also in the works, subject to funding. The exhibit will travel to county and local historical societies across the state to supplement local collections and increase awareness of the Boy Scout Centennial.

The Oral History Project is also up and running. The project will capture the unwritten history of Boy Scouting in the area currently encompassing the Northern Star Council, BSA, including the former Viking and Indianhead Councils of central Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Through this project, Scouting events and stories from the past century will be preserved in the taped interviews of witnesses to

*Museum News - February 2009*

these experiences. Five areas of focus have been identified for the interviews. In addition, the Museum has purchased tape recorders and has trained volunteers to interview the witnesses to Scouting history. Interviews have begun. We still need plenty of volunteers to help us carry out more than 50 interviews. If you would like to volunteer for the Oral History Project, just call Claudia Nicholson (651-748-2880), Terri Anderson (651-254-9151).

---

### ***New Grant Announced***

The North Star Museum collections are filled with light-sensitive items, such as artwork, uniforms, and paper records. The ravages of light are cumulative and often go unnoticed until it is too late. Light damage is an important concern to all museums, but our lighting problems are particularly acute. As a result, designing, funding and implementing a lighting plan has been a priority from the time our North St. Paul Museum was purchased.

Now, help has arrived. In the December 2008, we were notified that the Museum had been awarded a \$6,000 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will allow the Museum to engage a lighting designer to design a new lighting system for the Museum, including electric lighting, window coverings, and creating "dark rooms" for the display of particularly light sensitive material. Once the design work has been completed, we expect to fund implementation of the plan through future grants.



This Cub Scout uniform faded after being on exhibit for a number of years in the dining hall at Phillippo Scout Reservation. Blue dye is what conservators call "fugitive", which means they are more sensitive to light than other colors.

## *Year-End Giving Reaches Goal*

Each year-end, the North Star Museum asks its members and friends to provide much-needed operating funds to support Museum operations. In 2008, we set a year-end fund raising goal of \$12,000. Thanks to your generous support, we not only reached goal, total receipts exceeded \$13,000!

Our entire fund-raising effort for 2008 was also successful. Although annual fundraising has yet to raise enough to cover the annual operating budget, our fundraising has grown considerably over the last five years and is making progress in line with plans that were made at the time the North St. Paul building was purchased. In 2008, cash donations to the Museum totaled just over \$116,000 and gifts in kind, primarily the 3M warehouse space, exceeded \$113,000. Thanks to all who provided financial support to the Museum in 2008.

---

### *More Photos from the Annual Meeting*



## 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 Nicholson at the Museum by calling 651-748-2880 or reach her by email her at [cnicholson@nssm.org](mailto:cnicholson@nssm.org).

*Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson and John Raymond. Photos by Charlie Opp.*

*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.*

© 2009 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc

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

**First Class**

**2640 E. Seventh Avenue  
North St. Paul, MN 55109**

**NORTH STAR MUSEUM  
BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING**

