



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

2020

Annual Report

2640 East Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
651-748-2880 + NSSM.org



We felt someone hit pause ...

We felt a bit lost ...

*But we worked diligently
in the background.*

Dear Friends of the Museum,

As we all experienced, 2020 was an unusual and difficult year ... and for some people it was a lost year. The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting experienced all of that, but was very busy moving its excess collection from our longtime location at the 3M Case Warehouse. The board had to find and negotiate a new lease for warehouse space ... with of course additional operating cost. Thanks to a few hardworking volunteers, the move was completed in October.

The best news in 2020 involved two very generous bequests given to the Museum — totaling \$224,000! The Museum operated in 2019 and 2020 with an operating surplus; so the bequests were invested for long-term financial security. Our financial outlook is much better in 2021.

Another benefit of COVID restrictions was learning how to operate safely in a pandemic while providing programs for youth and holding business meetings in virtual format. A whole new skillset in electronic communication was gained by everyone.

The Board of Directors had to resume a much more active role in operations. However, plans are to change back into a small efficient paid staffing structure within the next two years.

Lorena Palm
Board Chair

Our Mission

Our mission is to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.

Objectives and Impact

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting seeks to place the history of the two organizations in the context of both history and the present. Enabling our audiences to see and understand the importance and contributions of the organizations to youth, adults, and the country.

Service Range

The museum's collections and exhibits cover the area encompassed by the original Region 10. The area ranged west from western Wisconsin into eastern Montana and from the Canadian border to Iowa and Nebraska. We work with a variety of Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils and local troops and packs.

Facilities

The museum located in North St. Paul houses exhibits, offices, and educational spaces. Our excess collections were housed in warehouse space on Case Avenue, St Paul, MN donated by 3M. However, in late 2020 those collections were moved to Robert's Properties on Buerkle Road, White Bear Lake.

Partners

The Museum works closely with the Heritage Group, Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Council and the Archives of the Northern Star Council BSA.

History

In 1976 a group of Scouters (adult Boy Scout volunteers) who were also collectors worried about what would happen to their collections and what could be done with them to benefit the BSA and the public formed the North Star Scouting Memorabilia, Inc. The group were largely members of the St. Paul Council which became the Indianhead Council and is now part of the Northern Star Council. The group created traveling exhibits to tell the story of Boy Scouts both to the Boy Scouts and to the general public. For the next thirty years their exhibits were a feature at council-wide events.

One volunteer, Dick Carroll, learned the skills necessary to begin to organize the collection made up of the original members' collections. They also continued to collect adding to the base for the present Museum collection. On Carroll's death he left his house to create a fund for the organization.

That gift opened the next phase of the Museum's history. In 2005 the Museum moved into its present quarters with its first professional staff. Claudia Nicholson became the Executive Director. She led the Museum into its next stage. The Museum grew, developed programming and built its new presence in the Boy Scout and Girl communities. As with all organizations growing pains occurred.

You — our donors and friends — make us a success ...

Ferial Abraham	Robert and Louise Elliott	Brad and Susan Johnson	Grant and Betty Lubin	Craig D. Peterson	Jon A. Theobald
Mike Aeling	Becca Emmons	Gene and Kathy Johnson	Michael and Sharon Lund	Susan K. Hedlund	James and Cheryl Thomas
George L. Allen	Angela English	Jack K. and Judith A.	Hugh and Marilyn Madson	and Brian O. Peterson	Roberta Thompson
Mary Anne Anderson	Idelle Erickson and	Johnson	Steven and Beth March	Robert and Carol Pettitt	Totanha Nakaha Lodge,
Terri L. Anderson	Katherine Duyfhuizen	Laurie Jo Johnson	Ann Marino	Bradley and Virginia Pfaff	Order of the Arrow
John Andrews	Mavis C and Mark A Fisher	Peter A. Johnson	Donald Marose	Damon and Rachael Pfaff	Virginia Turba
Anonymous (1586)	Roger A. Forman	Donald Jordan	Mary Jo Martin	Betty Phillippo	Terry Tveita
Timothy and Anne	Patricia Frankenfield	Betty and Paul Joyce	Alice Mattson	Nancy Randall Dana	Donn N. Valentine
Arimond	Michael J. Fratto	John Kablan	Padraic McGuire	John Raymond	Joseph F. Vochko
Timothy G. Barrett	Sharon Toogood Froehle	Mitzi Karl	Mary Lou McMenomy	Joseph A. Reding	Beth and Gerald Voermans
Paul Bartyzal	Robert and Christine	Katherine B. Andersen	Medtronic	Joan L. Robbins	Clinton H. Voorhees
Sandra and Nancy Berg	Gagner	Fund of Saint Paul &	Loren Meinke	Cindy L. Rosch	Kristie and Chuck
Dickson	Gloria J. Gebhard	Minnesota Foundation	Brian Merhar	Robert W. Rosene	Wanstrom
Gurtie and Stan Berkner	Jerome and Beth Marie Geis	Sarah Keller	Michael S. Meyers	James H. Rupert	Teresa Wells
Danielle Bitz	Dr. Robert W. Geist	Steve Kelley	Calvin H. Miner	Tom Rush and Nora	Thomas Welna
Patricia M. Bolger	Girl Scouts of Minnesota	Carin Kelly	Minnesota Youth Amateur	Whiteman	Richard and Julie
Barbara J. Bonifas	and Wisconsin River	John F. Kemper	Radio Council	Mark J. Salmen	Wendland
Judge David S. Bouschor	Valleys	Charles Kenow	Dale and Heidi Mischke	Cindy and Peter Sanders	JoAnne Wetherell-Moriarty
Risa G. Brandon	Joseph W. Glenski	David and Susan Kibler	Pearl Mitchell-Jackson	Sandy Sanders	and John Moriarty
Natalie Broshar	Mary Glenski	Byron Kieser	Howard Mooers	Jennifer Schaefer	David L. Wettergren
C. Edward and Cynthia	Gary Gorman	Kiwanis Club -	Betsy Moore	Bonna Scherer	Emily White
Buchwald	Ann M. Green	N. Suburban St. Paul	Lawrence E. Moser	Barbara L. Schmidt	Grant Wiessner
Darrell Butterwick	Janet Grieder	Nancy T. Klemek	Linda and David Murray	David Schmidtke	Steven J. and Terri Wilcox
Jon and Sherrill Carlson	Elizabeth Guthmann	Karen A. Klose	Richard and Nancy Nelson	Ann M. Schnaith	Debra C. Wilkinson
Estate of Richard E. Carroll	John and Teresa Guthmann	Joann Knuth	Network for Good	Securian Foundation	Steven Wojan
Larry Carson	Debra Guthmann-Ternus	Brandon D. Kotula	Marianne Nicholson	James H. Sharpsteen	Kent York
Bruce Cary	Hugh H. Gwin	Steven Krech	Brian and Julia Nordling	Susan and Wayne Shelton	Steve and Julie Young
John and Pamela Chandler	Robert E. Gwinn	Dan and Karin Kuntz	Patrick Norris	Chad Skally	Your Cause nVent
Edward B. Chapin Jr.	Robert J. Hannah, Sr.	Gary J. Kwong	Northern Star Scouting	Rebecca Skally	Foundation
Charles and Judith Clausen	David C. Hansen	Corinne L Lambert	David and Billie Novy	Nora Slawik	Kurt and Diane Zilley
Sandra Craighead	Tamra Davis Cownie	Alexandra Lape	Mary Jane Okan	Dr. Richard E. Smith	Jim Zimmer
Severin Dehler	Dennis and Nancy Hebrink	Wesley J. Laseski	Carol and Robert Oldowski	Stuart Smith	William and Mary Lee
Lloyd Dewey (dec.)	Susan Guthmann Henry	Linda Lee	John and Lynae Olson	John Stafford	Zrust
Chuck Dietz	Barbara Corti Herrmann	Kurt E. Leichtle	Biz O'Mara	William L. Sulzbach	
Jerald Dosch	William & Virginia Hickey	Norman Lerbs	Gerald E. Oss	Doug Swanson	
Kenneth R. Edd	Allen E. Hoppe	Jenny Levernier	Bridget Pace	Patricia and Richard	
Russ Edhlund	Judy Hunter	Al Linder	Valerie Pace	Swanson	
David L. Eisenbrandt	Charles Huntley	Jim Lindfors	Lorena A. Palm	Jean Sweeney	
John D. Elholm	C. William "Bill" Ireland	Joshua Losa	Sophie Pederson	Robert F. Szczys, MD	

Notes from the Director

Did 2020 actually exist or happen?

In many ways 2020 seems a lost year for many organizations and individuals. Yet, looking back the museum did accomplish things and move forward though with a zig zag or two or three. The volunteer staff and board learned a lot about Zoom. Zoom for staff meetings, for merit badge classes, for board meetings, we persisted, and the museum continued to operate and to grow.



Kurt Leichtle
Interim Executive Director

Kurt Leichtle, Interim Executive Director, gave a virtual tour of the Museum during the August Founders Hall event.



Lorena Palm, Board of Directors Chair, became a virtuoso at leading meetings on Zoom. She also presided over the October 29 Annual Meeting.

The collections grew!

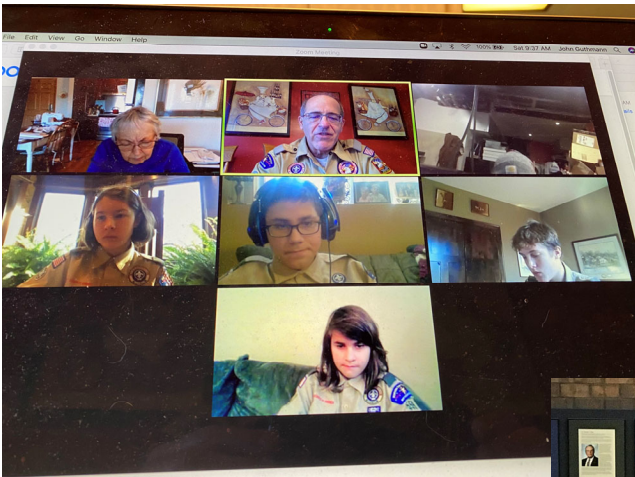
Donations came in from the Minnesota, from Milwaukee, WI, and several very interesting donations from California. One led to another zoom meeting as I talked with a Scouting family about their experiences in the last third of the 20th century. Now I am working on including that interview in plans for an exhibit. The interview was intriguing also in that the donation came from family in California who then joined me with a family member in Georgia. This donation also illustrates our increased ability to talk about the adults in the scouting movements. The Museum received several gifts from people who served as volunteer leaders and/or as professional scouters. So rather than being about youth, the museum can now also discuss and document the roles adults play in the history and how their adult roles in Scouting also influenced and enriched their lives.



Thanks to the generosity of the Pederson family, Jon Pederson's considerable collection of Scouting memorabilia is now part of the Museum's collection. Some of the collection is now on display at the Museum.

Programs were active, but limited ...

... by the epidemic. The escape room project was just completed when we had to stop before testing it out. Finally, in 2021 we are looking at testing how it will work in the early winter, the public roll-out will occur in January 2022. Exhibit design and construction slowed but progress has been made and the completion of the Teamwork and Competition exhibit discussing Chariot races, Push Car races and the Klondike Derby is in the final stages of fabrication.



The merit badge workshops spent 2020 on Zoom. Thank you to the volunteers who sat through as observers allowing the museum to maintain two deep leadership. We were surprised and pleased when we found that the participants came from as far away as California. 224 merit badge workshops were held.

Summer Super Merit Badge Weeks and other workshops through the end of the year were a mix of Zoom or in-person. The idea of continuing some classes on Zoom or as a hybrid is an idea we are considering.



After putting the wheels on their cars at the January Pinewood Derby Workshop, Harvey Carlson of Pack 561 and guest Olive Goff tested their cars. Just for fun, they also raced against of the Museum's in-stock cars.



One of several rooms in the maze that makes up the Escape Room.

One of the highlights of any recent visit to the Museum is the excellent and realistic camping exhibit. The Exhibits Committee added a winter camping component to the exhibit, dubbed, *Winter Camping — Challenging Nature*.



It was all about being outside ...

... with the museum seeing the completion of one Eagle project, a pollinator garden near the parking lot and the start of two more — an entrance gate for the Campcraft exhibit and the construction of new benches for the relocated fire pit. In terms of the building, one of the adventures of 2020 was an unusual accident when a car tried to enter the museum. The front entrance was damaged, and we spent the holidays and into 2021 being repaired. No one was hurt and the Museum looks as good as new.



During the Founders Hall Recognition, Rachel Van Houten described her Gold Award project—educating the public about the monarch butterflies and how we can preserve them.



Life Scout Quinn Vochko completed his Eagle Service project. He described his project plans during the Founders Hall Recognition event.

Yes, we even had a large recognition event ...

... with Tish Bolger, CEO of the Girl Scouts River Valleys and the late Jon Pederson, Museum Board member, were honored as Founders. This was our first Facebook/YouTube viewing that was professionally edited thanks to the generosity of videographer Peter Myers of Myers Communication Group. Turn out was spectacular with 557 people tuned in on August 8 and with many others watching later. This was the largest attendance of any single day event at the Museum.



Founder Tish Bolger has spent her career in youth development. In addition to her leadership at a crucial time in the life of our local Girl Scout councils, she has remained a steadfast supporter of the Museum.



Founder Jon Pederson was a legendary and larger than life presence in Boy Scouting and at the Museum. He worked at all levels of Scouting and led local contingents as Scoutmaster for multiple World Jamborees.

And we had a virtual annual meeting ...

... in October where the Polaris award, the Museum's highest award was given to Dan Kuntz (not pictured here). Also recognized many other volunteers were recognized. Most memorable is Judy Johnson (with husband Jack) who displayed an outstanding reaction to the announcement of her volunteer recognition.

Board of Directors

(A Volunteer Board)

Lorena Palm — *Chair*
Sandy Craighead — *Vice-Chair*
Barb Herrmann — *Secretary*
Jim Stevenson — *Treasurer*

Members

Natalie Broshar
Idelle Erickson
Gary Gorman
John H. Guthmann
David Novy
Bonna Scherer
Emily White

Board Emeritus

Thomas Welna

Kurt Leichtle, Ph.D. —
Interim Executive Director

Diana Foss — *Bookkeeper*

Volunteers ...

... are crucial to the Museum; at present the Museum is run by a board of volunteers and staffed by volunteers. One paid employee takes care of administrative tasks such as bookkeeping and being a contact point. The Museum welcomes members and people of all interests and skill levels who wish to become volunteers.

Other Volunteers

Terri Anderson	Jim Lindfors
Tim Arimond	Don Marose
Mike Bagstad	Mary McMenemy
Paul Bartyzal	Nell Nere
John Capecchi	Claudia Nicholson
Chuck Clausen	Biz O'Mara
Richard Clem	Charlie Opp
Russ Edhlund	John Raymond
Bob Elliott	Jim Rupert
Becca Emmons	Dennis Stolp
Scott Foss	Will Sulzbach
Mike Fratto	Clint Vorhees
Bob Hannah	Kristie Wanstrom
Mike Herrmann	
Jack Johnson	
Dan Kuntz	
John Kysylyczyn	



Mike Herrmann, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 91 in St. Paul, reinforced the door and hinges while sealing any places where water could leak and damage books in the Museum's Little Free Library.

Saying "Goodbye" to Friends and Volunteers



Richard M. Cisek
November 2020



Dan Knuth
October 2020



Jim Lee
March 2020



Robert Rosene
June 2020



Paul Verret
June 2020

Financials

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenses (For the Year Ending December 31, 2020)

Revenue:	
Contributions	\$80,429
Bequests	\$224,842
Membership	\$18,360
In Kind	\$56,871
Other	\$50,885
Total	\$431,387
Expenses:	
Payroll and Related Costs	\$23,610
Professional Fees	\$5,659
Occupancy	\$80,710
Warehouse Lease and Expenses	\$16,977
Other Operating Expenses	\$22,648
Depreciation	\$39,332
Total	\$188,936
Net Revenue over Expense	\$242,451

Summarized Balance Sheet (For the Year Ending December 31, 2020)

Assets:	
Cash	\$405,686
Other Current Assets	\$42,556
Property and Equipment—Net	\$522,579
Total Assets	\$970,822
Liabilities and Net Assets:	
Liabilities	\$3,306
Net Assets	\$967,516
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$970,822

