

# NORTH STAR MUSEUM

OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

## Museum News

**Inside this issue:**

First Things First: 10 at a Time! 2

Founders Hall Recognition 3

Overnight at the Museum 4

New Members 5

Year-End "Pause" 5

Club Bruce Christmas 6

### Remember the Museum as You Close Your 2013 Ledger

The year-end appeal is the Museum's single largest source for annual operating funds. With your help, the Museum made great strides in 2013: new gallery lighting; new employees; new programs; Bruce the Moose; and, more visitors to enjoy our programs. In fact, this issue of the *Museum News* is filled with stories and pictures documenting the fantastic programs that scores of youth enjoyed in just the last two months.

Just before Thanksgiving, the year-end financial appeal letter was mailed. If your turkey, all the trimmings, and holiday shopping caused you to set the letter aside, that is certainly understandable. However, don't forget to make your gift before the end of the year to take advantage of a 2013 tax deduction.

There is more than one way to give. Of course, you can just send a check directly to

the Museum. But, you can also give through the GiveMN.org website. Your GiveMN.org gift can be made on a one-time basis or, better yet, as a sustaining gift that is automatically charged to your credit card each month. Funding a sustaining membership is the surest path to help secure the Museum's financial health. Don't forget to make your gift today!

### Milk and Cookies with Santa

The Museum's "Milk and Cookies with Santa" was a first-time event the Museum conducted on Sunday, December 8. Thanks to Santa (Chuck) Clausen, Elf Extraordinaire Nell Nere (with her creative magick and joyful energy), and helper Bonna Scherer (master cookie baker), the event was enchanting for all who attended. The festivities were so much fun for those in attendance that some inquired about future participation in Overnight at the Museum, and a Cub Scout leader booked a meeting for his pack in February.



**"Santa" Clausen arrives at the Museum.**



**"Elf" Nell Nere helped kids with crafts.**

## FIRST THINGS FIRST: TEN AT A TIME!

It has been quite a year. After paying off our home in North St. Paul in 2012, we put additional funds into the building this year to improve it. Most notable was the completion of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Grant Lighting project in our gallery spaces. Late this year, we replaced the wooden (and woodpecker-damaged) siding that runs around about half the building with steel board-and-batten style siding that looks very similar, but will be much more durable. And, before New Year's Day, we expect to have replaced the carpet in the Founders Hall, for a new, warmer look.

And that's not all. By June 4, we doubled our paid staff and added PR/design/branding consultants. All of these new hands have made a significant improvement in our ability to be responsive, innovative, and successful. If you have not yet met Shirley De la Torre or Katy Epler, please plan to come by soon and do so. They are super people, and both interesting to know. We were also able to bring in two summer interns—master's degree students with museum training. Robin and Katie organized and inventoried what remains of the museum's collection at the Case warehouse.

We've introduced some new programs, and unveiled a new mascot for the museum: Bruce the Moose! If you have visited,

you already know Bruce, even if you did not know his name. Since 2006 Bruce has been with us in North St. Paul, and was recently given his own personality, logo, and neckerchief. Bruce is the moose behind "Club Bruce", a new junior membership program for kids up to age 11.

In August, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Minnesota Masonic Charities supported the purchase of a new Pinewood Derby track and its accompanying equipment. This will allow us to begin running derby car clinics, open races for all comers, and host Pinewood and Powderpuff Derbies for troops, packs, districts, or service units. It also allows us to work more directly with Scouts, and to engage more volunteers in working with youth. "Pit Crews", made up of volunteers trained in running races, building, and improving fast cars, will run these programs. We expect to get this going after the first of the year.

And, we have begun an overnight program for troops, packs, and dens. We piloted this program in November with three Girl Scout troops, and found that a ton of fun and learning could be had here at the museum between 7 p.m. on a Saturday, and 10 a.m. on a Sunday. After the first of the year, we hope to make these events a regular thing.

More hands on deck actual-

ly require us to have more hands, as we are all generating more and new ideas for museum program. We need many more people to donate some of their time to the museum. The more the public expects us to do, the more help we need to do it.

When Claudia attended the American Association of Museums' annual meeting in Baltimore this year, she purchased a book called, *Magnetic: The Art and Science of Engagement*. This book has had a great deal of influence on her, and we plan to implement some of the principles in the book at the museum this year. In essence, the principles are: to create a compelling vision that everyone can get behind; look everywhere for opportunities to collaborate; listen to every idea—no matter the source; invite everyone in; become essential; and be excellent and transparent in all of our operations. By working through these six principles this year, and going forward, we expect that we can become the "indispensible community asset" we believe we are destined to be.

What that means for us next year is still not entirely clear. We have discussed building infrastructure (the less-exciting, but necessary, work to provide a stable foundation of policy and practice that will ensure a high performance organization). We have discussed the museum's

next phase of life, including a new mission, as a way to create a compelling vision. We want to have everyone on board with our vision and pulling in the same direction: staff, board, volunteers, members, supporters, and our various communities. We hope to begin to uncover the treasures in our collection, and make better use of them, particularly through new and interesting exhibits. And, we want to keep on doing what we have been doing—making the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in our region interesting and relevant to both youth and adults.

Watch this space. And join us! Things are about to get really interesting.

Ron Phillipppo and Claudia Nicholson

### Interested in working with the collection?

Only have a limited amount of time once a month or once a quarter? We want you!

Contact Katy Epler at 651-748-2660. Even an hour here and there will help!

## Another Terrific Founder's Hall Recognition Celebration

The fourth annual Davis & Randall Founders Hall recognition celebration produced a boisterous group of more than 75 members, guests, friends, and family members of the six inductees. The Founders Hall is a permanent exhibit recognizing the extraordinary contributions of special volunteers and others who have played a pivotal role in the on-going work of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. The Scouting careers of this years' honorees collectively span nearly the entire history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the United States.

Once again, the recognition of new Founder's Hall honorees was emceed by John Guthmann. Early Boy Scout pioneer Charles L. Sommers was presented as a Founder by Gene Peterson. Three Builders were also added to the wall of honor. Former Girl Scout Council president, and North Star Museum Board member Sandra L. "Sandy" Craighead was presented by Betsy Moore. Trend Enterprises CEO and past Indianhead Council Presidents Kay Fredericks was inducted by "Sandy" Klas. Retired 3M Vice President and former Indianhead Council President Charlton "Chuck" Dietz was presented by Howard Guthmann. Finally, two legendary volunteers were welcomed to the Founders Hall as Trailblazers. Girl Scout volunteer Ruth Davis was inducted by Claudia Nicholson and Boy Scout volunteer Robert "Bob" Plante was presented by Jim Rupert.

Following the formal ceremony, a luncheon was enjoyed at ta-

bles spread throughout the Guthmann Family Gallery. Placement of the lunch tables allowed the guests to enjoy the newly installed gallery lighting and window murals first hand. The 2013 Founders Hall Celebration will be remembered as a special event for years to come.



**Ruth Davis's family: Neil Naftalin, Greg Tetrault, Marta Davis-Tetrault Powers, Maxine Davis, and Bobbie Greene.**



**Kay Fredericks (left) and Sandy Klas.**



**Betsy Moore and Sandy Craighead (right).**



**Chuck Dietz (left) and Howard Guthmann**

## Overnights at the Museum Are a Hit!

On November 16/17 and November 23/24, the Museum piloted its new “Overnight at the Museum” program. The three groups that participated, Brownie Troop 55130, Cadettes 15020, and Juniors 33616 had a great time. Volunteer Nell Nere and NSSM Director of Institutional Development Shirley De la Torre, were the “masters of mirth” for these camping adventures. Thanks to them, each group enjoyed a tailor-made experience.

The groups started their overnight experience with a welcome and tour. Next, they gathered in the Founders Hall for an evening of crafts and activities, such as making SWAPS, decorating stash bags for their home-made crafts, making Bruce the Moose buttons to wear,

making shadow puppets, and performing a shadow puppet theatre and skits. One of the groups even brought their own cars to race on the Museum’s new Pinewood Derby track. Then, it was off to the indoor “bonfire” to make some GORP, explore the meaning of the Girl Scout Law, and sing camp songs. The evening concluded with s’mores and watching the Golden Eaglet silent film that features Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low. After that, it was sweet dreams in the gallery. Anyone who could not fall asleep was lulled to sleep with the sounds of a crackling bonfire and crickets.

Morning greeted the campers with more activities. The girls assembled their own camp journal, made

an animal tracks book, used what they learned to locate and identify animal tracks placed throughout the Museum, and then there was breakfast. Nothing generates smiles like pancakes and juice! After it was all over, Shelley Sewell of Troop 55130 said: “Our entire Brownie troop said they LOVED it and want to do it again. Our troop would definitely recommend this to other troops. What a great experience!”

The Museum will be offering more camping experiences. When the next dates are announced, be sure to snap them up.



Campers arriving at the Museum



Enjoying songs around the campfire



Getting ready for “lights out”



A tent full of Brownies!

## A YEAR-END PAUSE

On December 12, the "Pause that Refreshes" featured Naval Commander Gregory Schlichting. Focusing on his title, "Be Prepared: From Camp to Combat", the Commander

shared riveting footage from Afghanistan and tied his stories and insights to his experiences in Boy Scouting. His presentation left all who attended wanting more.

Speaking of more, look soon for the announcement of the Museum's next "Pause that Refreshes."



The recent "Pause that Refreshes" featured footage from Afghanistan.

Ron Phillippo with Commander Schlichting following his presentation.



Bob Rosene, Wes Laeski, and Tom Alt discuss the presentation.

## New Members Since October 2013

- Edward and Eileen Gordon
- Victoria Huntley
- Melissa Kissling
- Julie Nitti
- Renee and James Sass
- Tim and Lee Ann Schlarman
- Mary Kay Sobcinski
- John and Cleo Young
- Steve Young

Know of anyone interested in joining?  
Contact Katy Epler at 651-748-0660 or kepler@nssm.org and she will gladly help you.

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## It's a Club Bruce Christmas

Looking for a great gift for the "little Scout" on your holiday list? Give the gift of adventure with a "Club Bruce" gift membership!

You'll hear squeals of delight when they find a Club Bruce Adventure Pack under the tree. A reflective backpack, water bottle, and flashlight/whistle/compass—all adorned with our mascot "Bruce the Moose." They'll also get a beautiful "Bruce the Moose" plush, and a quarterly "Moose News" newsletter filled with all kinds of educational topics, stories, and puzzles. Best of all, they will be a

member of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting and will receive all the benefits of membership, like discounts in our gift shop, invites to members-only events, and discounts on new programs like "overnight at the Museum", Pinewood Derby, and more. Club Bruce annual membership is just \$35.

And, here is a wonderful little extra: A portion of the proceeds are shared with the DNR's Moose Research Project, helping to save the declining moose population in Minnesota! So, give the gift of Club

It is perfect for any Daisy, Cub, Brownie and Webelos, or for any youngster who loves wild-life and the great outdoors. Come by the Museum to pick up your Club Bruce membership—a great holiday gift for the adventurous youngster or little Scout in your family.



*Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, John Raymond, Shirley De la Torre and Kathryn White.*

*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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First Class

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