



Inside this issue:

New Membership Program 2

From the Director 3

New Members 3

Memory of the Month 4

Camp North Star Museum 5

The Holidays Were Hopping 6

New Carpet 6

Pause That Refreshes 7

State of Girls 7

Big Deal 8

Watch Out 2014, the Museum is Growing

The last three years have been incredibly productive for the North Star Museum, and we plan to build on that momentum in 2014. In fact, most of the Museum’s educational and youth-oriented programs were either established or grew significantly in the last three years. Think about it: year-round Merit Badge Workshops; Super Merit Badge Weeks in each of the summer months; S’Mores with Juliette; Club Bruce; Milk and Cookies with Santa; and, Overnights at the Museum. These programs exist in addition to troop, patrol and den tours, meetings, and special events. With the Founders Hall and the Pause That Refreshes, our adult programming has kept right up. To support these increased activities, part-time and full-time staff members were added to the North Star Museum team in 2013. For visiting Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and alumni of each organization, values are truly kept at the North Star Museum.

In 2014, we plan to build on this success. Our goals are lofty but attainable. We will work to increase our numbers by 25% in a number of key areas. First is visitation. Last year’s visitor total was 2,599; so this means an additional 650 visitors in 2014.

To reach our goal, we will continue to offer first rate programming and experiences for our visitors. Keep an eye on the *Museum News*, our web site (nssm.org), our Facebook page, and individualized emails to keep abreast of all of the fun happenings at the Museum in 2014.

Next is Museum membership. Membership is the foundation upon which all of our plans and goals may be realized. The plan is to retain 90% of current members as of year-end 2013 and grow membership by 25% in 2014. At the end of 2013, we had 255 members, so we need to finish the year at 319 members to reach our goal. The Museum’s Development

Committee plans on increasing the number of donors who support the Museum financially (exclusive of or in addition to the cost of membership) by 25% in 2014. In 2013, 242 individuals donated to the Museum; so we will need to add 60 additional donors. To reach goal, the Development Committee is revamping its existing development plan.

Thanks to your past support, the Museum has grown steadily and has fulfilled if not surpassed the expectations of our founders. With your continued support, we can do even better. Spread the word—watch out 2014!



COMING THIS SUMMER: A NEW MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM!

Our membership dues have been \$35 for over ten years. At that time, the Museum had no building and only one paid staff member. Our programs, events and exhibits were all very small and humble. Back then, the North Star Museum was in a different stage of its life. We were just discovering what the Museum means to people. That was then. This is now! It is 2014 and we have a glorious space, a calendar heavy with innovative programs and events, and a membership base that has grown and is growing.

Now we have a building that was paid off in 2012 and we continue to make improvements to the building. The Museum has exciting new programs like: "Overnight at the Museum"; "Club Bruce" for kids; the "Pause that Refreshes" monthly speaker event that brings in notables like Dr. David Walsh and Justice Wilhelmina Wright; a brand new Pinewood Derby Track featuring ready to race cars for packs and troops to enjoy; our "S'mores with Juliette" events; an annual Open House; and, a presence at our local county fairs and numerous Boy Scout and Girl Scout events throughout the year. As a member, you enjoy discounts on most of these events, not to mention a discount on renting the Museum for your private events and celebrations, a discount in our Museum gift shop, a bi-monthly newsletter, and members-only invitations. We have so much MORE that we can offer now.

In addition to program, the Museum has upgraded in other areas over the last ten years. Each improvement has added new costs so we can keep pace with member and non-member requests. These costs include building maintenance and three new staff members. Yet, our membership dues structure has not kept pace with the vast changes made by the Museum.

After hearing from our members, we knew it was time to look forward and devote some serious attention to the membership program. When membership renewals came in late last year, several of them included comments such as "I can't believe you haven't raised your rates yet!" and "Here's my \$35 renewal for my membership, but here's an additional \$50 – I thought you'd be asking for more this year." We heard you loud and clear.

Therefore, it is with great excitement that the Museum announces a new membership program that will begin July 1, 2014. We have created different levels of participation so you can choose your desired level of investment in the Museum—one that best fits your budget and your goals. Of course, we will continue to offer our popular "Sustained Giving" program so you can give or pay your membership automatically on a monthly basis. We hope you agree that it is indeed time we stepped up the next level of success, and we want you to move forward with us!

The Museum's new membership levels will offer you more flexibility and more for your investment. Not only will you continue to receive the discounts and benefits of membership you have come to expect, you will now receive special new membership benefits: any person joining or renewing at each membership level receives a membership pin and beautiful token of our appreciation that is unique to each level. Here are the new membership levels, with their accompanying recognition:

BRONZE Level - \$50 to \$74

Tall coffee mug with Museum logo

GOLD Level - \$100 to \$149

Rugged sportsman's compass and belt loop case with Museum logo

SILVER Level - \$75 to \$99

High quality flashlight with Museum logo

PLATINUM Level - \$150 or more

Exquisite journal with refillable paper and calendar, and elegant pen with a touch-screen friendly tip

CLUB BRUCE KIDS MEMBERSHIP - We will continue to offer the Club Bruce Kids Membership at the original rate of \$35, with its accompanying "Adventure Pack."

AFTER JULY 1, as your membership renewal date approaches, you will have the opportunity to renew your membership at one of these new levels at your choosing. If you have any thoughts or questions about the new membership program when your renewal time comes, we invite you to contact Executive Director Claudia Nicholson. She will be happy to assist you with your selection.

Vince Lombardi said, "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company [Museum] work, a society work, a civilization work." As continuing and valued members of the North Star Museum, you are partners in our commitment to do more and be more. Our future may only be achieved with and through you, our members. We look forward to bringing you more in the months ahead!

FROM THE DIRECTOR: What Goes on in the Parts of the Museum You Cannot See

As you have read elsewhere in this issue of the Museum News, we are trying very hard to plan our work, work our plan, and offer even more fun and educational programs at the North Star Museum. Our visitation numbers and our ever-filling calendar speak for themselves. There is more going on at the Museum now than at any other time in my nine years as Executive Director. Our new programs make it even more important for us to double down on our efforts to get a firm handle on our collection so we can use our wonderful artifacts to make your experiences with us better, more interesting, and even, sometimes, exciting.

The Museum has a rich collection. Like a typical history museum, the North Star Museum sprang out of an *idea* thirty-eight years ago and, after it was established, *collecting* was emphasized for the majority of its first twenty-nine years. Much of the collection was gathered without a system for *documenting* what was being collected. Add that to the Museum's nomadic existence, with the attendant need to pack up and unpack a number of times, and one can understand how it became difficult to find things or even know what things there were to find.

In the last nine years, we have made some progress with the collection and a

number of our discoveries have found their way into our displays and exhibits. We have upgraded our computer system and we have managed to mostly keep up with new artifact donations. In addition, we have had valuable assistance from volunteers and interns, not to mention some key grants.

Beginning this year, we expect to take even larger steps caring for our collection. It will be properly tracked and documented from the moment it comes in the door, until it is numbered and put away in storage. We have implemented a number of initiatives to put our plan in place.

The keystone of our new effort is our new PastPerfect Museum Software—an off-the-shelf collections management program. We bought PastPerfect with funds from an Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Grant. We finally have the confluence of both technology and technological help to get it up, running, and populated with our existing collections database. As we begin to use PastPerfect for documenting incoming collections, our entire process will run more smoothly.

Through the assistance of two graduate museum studies interns, 99% of the Museum's collection stored at the Case Street warehouse has been organized and

documented. Thanks to their efforts, we can now decide what objects should be at the Museum and what should stay at Case Street. We will import everything we can directly into the PastPerfect software at the Museum. Our next step is to make the same effort with the collection housed here in North St. Paul. There are a lot of moving parts and the standard for museum documentation is fairly rigorous.

There is no doubt that we need your help. Knowledge of the material culture of Boy Scouting and/or Girl Scouting is helpful, but not required. The ability to learn a database program is crucial, as is interest in learning how to describe, handle, mark, and properly store three-dimensional objects. Call me at the Museum if this sounds like something you would like to become involved with. It is detailed and challenging, but rewarding, work. Our collection has never been as well-managed as we'd like to see, but it has never been in better shape. There is much to do and, with your help this year, we can do even better.

Claudia Nicholson

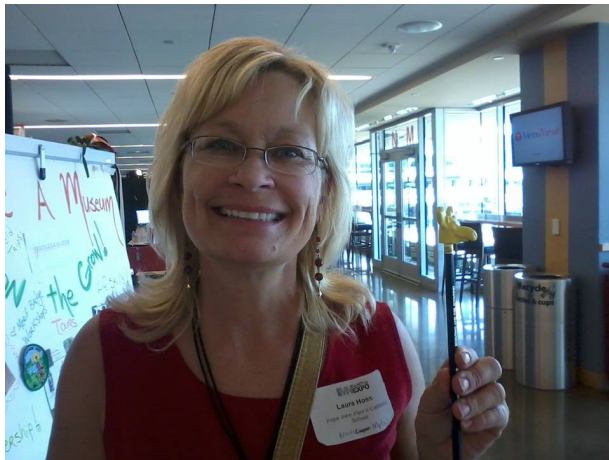
New Members Since December 2013

- *Barrett Connolly*
- *David and Shirley Fihn*
- *Anna Hudak*
- *Carter and Amy Johnson*
- *John Kablan*
- *Wesley J. Laseski*

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

Memory of the Month

Editor's Note: *There is a kiosk in the Guthmann Gallery where people can post their favorite memory of their days in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting. We also take note of other reminiscences at our events. Starting with this issue of the Museum News, we will feature our favorite memory of the favorites that we hear. We will not be lucky enough to have a photo of each person who posts a memory, but this time, we do. We hope you enjoy the new feature.*



Laura Hoss

Our Favorite Girl Scout Memory

We met former Girl Scout Laura Hoss at the Minnesota Field Trip Expo last August. She was delighted to hear of “a Scouting Museum” and wanted to learn more. While visiting with us she shared her favorite Girl Scout memory. Her parents could not afford to send her to camp so she won a two-week camp scholarship. She said her camp experience changed her life. In fact she stated that her time in Girl Scouts pointed her “in the right direction” for her entire life. As she re-lived this experience, Laura was so moved that she shed tears. She was so proud to be a Girl Scout! Once a Girl Scout – ALWAYS A GIRL SCOUT!



John Kelly

Our Favorite Boy Scout Memory

We met John Kelly at the Washington County Fair last year. He was a Boy Scout through and through! A decorated Marine, he carries a picture of himself in his wallet – a picture of himself when he was a Cub Scout. He said that Scouting gave him the guidance and the training to be a good citizen and it shaped both his career and his life. John spoke fondly of a fellow comrade in arms – a gentleman who was also a Boy Scout. His friend loved Scouting so much that when he passed he was buried in his Boy Scout uniform and not his Marine uniform. Wow. A Scout is Loyal.

CAMP NORTH STAR MUSEUM

On the February 8-9, the Museum's 2014 camping program got off to a great start. Arriving Saturday evening was Girl Scout Troop 16045. They brought some Juniors and an assortment of Brownies and Daisies. In total, ten youth and three adults attended.

The girls enjoyed a great program. They visited the North St. Paul Fire Station where "Fireman Zach" told the girls what it is like to be a first responder. The girls left Zach a "thank you" box of Girl Scout Cookies. They then returned to the Museum where they completed activities to earn their Junior First Aid Badge.

After some education and advancement, the girls made GORP around the indoor "Campfire" and learned about the Girl Scout

Law. Then, it was time for some crafts and a movie. They decorated stash bags with valentines and stickers, drawing with colored markers and crayons. Next, they watched the Juliette Gordon Low film from 1917 called "The Golden Eaglet" and enjoyed s'mores. The evening concluded with a crackling campfire, the sound of crickets, and sweet dreams in the gallery.

The next morning, the girls awoke to a pancake breakfast. Along with the food came more adventure. This time, it involved making an animal tracks book, searching for tracks in the gallery, making a camp journal, and getting autographs from their fellow campers. With all of their great memories and experiences, it was time to go home.



After a busy night of activities, it is time for bed. Or is it?



The girls of Troop 16045 attentively learn first aid at the North St. Paul Fire Station.



The girls pose with their creations--craft bags.



Bed time!

THE HOLIDAYS WERE HOPPING

With February well on its way, the 2013 holidays seem far in the distant past. On the other hand, looking out the window, the scenery looks the same. Well, on December 21, 2013, the Museum joined its fellow

North St. Paul merchants to create a little fun for the whole community—the Holiday Hop. The event was established to draw more people to downtown North St. Paul for the holidays.

During the Holiday Hop, the Museum hosted a number of families for some holiday fun. They enjoyed tours, milk and cookies, and an opportunity to make an ornament. Of course, there was a visit from Santa.

There was holiday fun all around. The event was just another way to raise the public's awareness of our little treasure.



Claudia Nicholson and Shirley De la Torre join Santa at the Holiday Hop.



Father and son work on an ornament at the Holiday Hop.

NEW CARPET IN THE FOUNDERS HALL



The Founders Hall received a much needed face lift late in the year. The worn carpeting was replaced by beautiful new carpeting. We love it. Let us know what you think next time you visit the Museum.

Justice Wright Gets 2014 “Pause” Series Off to a Good Start



Riley Schwiertz poses with Justice Wilhelmina Wright following the Pause That Refreshes. Speaking of refreshing, Riley delivered a terrific introduction of Justice Wright.

On February 12, the first 2014 “Pause That Refreshes” featured Justice Wilhelmina Wright of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Justice Wright graduated with honors in literature from Yale University in 1986. She received her juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1989. After law school, Justice Wright was a law clerk for the Honorable Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She practiced

with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Hogan & Hartson, LLP until moving to Minnesota to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota. Justice Wright took the bench in 2000 when she was appointed a Ramsey County District Court Judge by Governor Jesse Ventura. Only two years later, Governor Ventura appointed her to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Governor Mark Dayton appointed her to the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2012.

Nearly thirty “Pause” attendees enjoyed Justice Wright’s entertaining and moving reminiscences. A self-described woman who “bleeds green”, Justice Wright was a Girl Scout growing up in Norfolk, Virginia and she has remained an active volunteer in the Girl Scout organization as an adult. Her service includes a stint on the Girl Scout Council of Saint Croix Valley Board of Directors. Justice Wright fondly recalled the positive influence of her Girl Scout leader, Mrs. Bagby. Mrs. Bagby instilled in the girls of Troop 200 the values of patriotism

and mutual respect. Justice Wright knew she was part of something bigger. She still carries her 1972 Girl Scout membership card in her pocket. To Justice Wright, a direct line can be drawn from her experience as a Girl Scout to her success as an adult.

The Pause That Refreshes is off to a great start in 2014. Stay tuned for program announcements for future Pauses. To be prepared, just block off your lunch hour for any month on which the 12th of the month falls on a week day.



Board Chair Ron Phillipppo stands between Judge John Guthmann and Justice Wilhelmina Wright at the February Pause That Refreshes.



Shirley De la Torre, the Museum’s Director of Institutional Advancement, recently attended the “State of Girls” event run by the Girl Scouts River Valleys’ Alumnae Association. Here, she is pictured with local actress Norah Long (left) and non-profit attorney Kim Lowe (right). This was a great networking opportunity for the Museum. Shirley met many dynamic women of business and shared all that the North Star Museum has to offer. A number of the attendees learned about the Museum for the first time and were delighted to learn about the opportunities we offer.

FEBRUARY 2014

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Yes, It Is A Big Deal!

The Museum has struggled without an on-site copy machine for its entire history. That is why a copier was listed on our nssm.org "want list." Then, at the October University of Scouting, Claudia Nicholson was approached by a Scouter named Dave Dopp, who works at the Mankato office of Marco, Inc. He asked if the Museum still needed a copier. You can guess what Claudia's reply was. Dave said that he "might" be able to procure one.

We did not hear anything more until mid-November when, voila! It was delivered. The copier is a lease return that had a low meter count (which means it should run great for us for years to come). With our very own copier, in addition to our own day-to-day needs, volunteers will be able to make copies for the programs they are run-

ning and we will no longer need to spend money on outside vendors for copying projects we could have done easier, faster, and cheaper in house. In short, this is a HUGE deal for the Museum. And, the machine is more than just a copier—it also does two-sided copying, collates, and staples.

We are grateful to Jim McGuire, in Marco's St. Louis Park office, for facilitating the gift and to Dave Dopp for making the initial contact. Thank Jim, Dave, and Marco, Inc. if you get a chance.



The copier poses and smiles for the camera in its new Museum perch.

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

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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