



**LYNDON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – “Bridging the Past with the Future”
February 2017 Annual Newsletter**

A Special Thank You

We are forever grateful to all who have so generously given to the Lyndon Area Historical Society. Your volunteerism and financial support keep our doors open. We thank the area businesses for donating items for our fundraisers. We thank the Prophetstown High School Leo and Art Clubs for their assistance at the Bridge Bash. We thank Norma Haan and Betty Frank for being our program pianists. We thank Bill Doering for being our photographer at the Bridge Bash. We thank Tony Winstead for keeping our website operational. We thank Linda and Rod Copeland for their partnership. We thank the Lyndon Village Board and the Public Works Department. We thank the Lyndon Fire Department. We thank the LAHS Board for their selfless commitment to the community of Lyndon.

Reflections of 2016

In 2016 we have met yet another goal. The exterior of the building was cleaned, repaired and repainted this fall by Color Star of Morrison, IL. Simple yet striking is the white façade accented with dark grey and burgundy trim. Thanks to Gary and Chad Sutton, the steeple’s stained glass window was reinstalled in the spring. It is now backlit providing a most impressive feature from sunset to dawn. Starting in January, LAHS board members diligently researched and prepared exhibits for 2016. LAHS assisted in the Wright Family Annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Richmond Park on March 26th. We provided the Bounce House and volunteers. On May 21st we were again a stop for the annual village yard sale. On June 6th we opened Lyndon’s Famous, Infamous, and Colorful Characters Exhibit. Jim and Mary Stern celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary at our facility on July 15th. August was spent preparing for the 3rd Annual Bridge Bash fundraiser. Held directly at the Lyndon Bridge on September 25th, the north face of the bridge greeted visitors with a display of Fall Foliage – a perfect setting for family photos. Sidecar Sarcasm provided the music. Attendees enjoyed a cake walk, kids’ games, and Bounce House. A pulled pork, coleslaw, chips, and baked bean lunch was offered. In addition, homemade pie and ice cream were available. A framed photo of the Lyndon Bridge was raffled off. There was also a 50/50 drawing. We were open Halloween night much to the delight of the village families. On November 6th a Veteran’s Day program was a great success due to the partnership of the LAHS board and community members in creating an impressive array of exhibits recognizing our area veterans. Cub Scout Troop #328 performed the flag ceremony. November 12th marked our annual Fall Trivia Night fundraiser. Santa’s Workshop was held on a snowy Sunday on December 11th. Santa arrived courtesy of the Lyndon Fire Department. The facility was decorated for Christmas; and an elf workshop was set up in the fellowship hall. A vintage pump organ was donated to LAHS by Kim Sommers Schmitt of Prophetstown just in time for the Christmas Season. It is a remarkable addition to our collection! The 2016 events and programs brought a recorded 325 visitors to our facility.

Archiving

Carol Crady, Dale Ann Cook, and Lois Pilgrim continue to diligently archive the mass of materials at LAHS – truly a labor of love and commitment. Currently, they are looking for a good and clear photo of the 1959 – 1969 Lyndon High School. If you have items of historical significance to Lyndon and wish to loan or donate them to us, please contact Carol Crady (815-499-7875).

Our Wish List

Please remember!! We are sustained through volunteerism, fiscal diligence, generosity, ingenuity, optimism, and elbow-grease. **Annual membership dues, donations, memorials, and fundraisers are critical to our continued existence.** LAHS is not funded through any foundations, trusts, or endowments. We have prepared a Wish List. Please consider helping us. Any monetary donation can be specified for its use on the attached Membership Form.

- Volunteers to help archive
- Volunteers to assist at our events
- Volunteers to repair plaster and paint fellowship walls especially staircase walls and kitchen area
- Volunteers to install new exterior lights at both the ramp and chapel entrances
- Volunteers in spreading new landscaping mulch
- Volunteers to repair the scale model of Lyndon Bridge
- Funds to assist us with our operational and maintenance costs
- Purchase of a small copy machine
- Purchase of a large ceiling mounted movie screen
- Purchase of a high quality LCD projector
- Purchase of a wireless microphone
- Purchase of 3' x 8' tables (white)
- Purchase of storage racks

Tax-Exempt Status Donations and Memorials

LAHS is a 501 c (3) tax-exempt not-for-profit organization. All monetary donations are tax deductible. Our treasurer will provide verification, if needed. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 may provide a valuable opportunity to maximize charitable contributions by directing a portion of your traditional IRA. If you are 70 ½ and have to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) before the end of the year, please consider donating a portion to LAHS. Request that your IRA provider issue a check in your behalf to the Lyndon Area Historical Society. Request that it be mailed directly to you. Please mail it to the Lyndon Area Historical Society at PO Box 112 Lyndon, IL 61261. This amount will be a tax-free transfer. Consult your tax preparer for verification.

2016 Financial Summary

Upon request, detailed monthly treasurer reports are available for your review.

- **Total Income** = \$7721.41
 - Income (dues, donations, memorials,) = \$4957.05
 - Income (fundraisers) = \$2764.36
- **Total Operational Expenses** = \$3997.50
 - Utilities = \$1235.28
 - Insurance = \$905.00
 - Website = \$200.00
 - Supplies = \$1657.22
- **Building Renovations/Repairs** (roof, power washing exterior, exterior painting) = \$23,304.03

2017 Proposed Calendar of Events (All events and dates are subject to change. Refer to website calendar for updates)

- April 8 Spring Trivia Night(Fundraiser)
- May 7? Mother and Daughter Tea (Fundraiser)
- June 10? Exhibit of Wedding and Prom Dresses
- July
- August Bridge Bash Preparation
- Sept 24 4th Annual Bridge Bash (Fundraiser)
- Oct 31 Trick or Treating (Service)
- Nov 4? Fall Trivia Night (Fundraiser)
- Nov 11? Honoring Area Veterans Program
- Dec 4? Santa's Workshop (Service) and Holiday Bake Sale (Fundraiser)

We are also looking into movie and board game nights, book club meetings, scrapbooking, basket weaving, and a variety of other crafting classes. Bike rides through town with potluck luncheon served afterwards and other community-centered activities are all being considered. Remember our Little Free Library, too!

Usage of the Facility

Both the chapel and downstairs fellowship hall may be reserved for private events and celebrations. Visit our website for a copy of the Facility Usage Agreement. Contact Kris Bielema (815-499-4015) for further information.

Media and Marketing - www.lyndonareahistoricalociety.org

If you wish to contact us, best to call Kris Bielema at (815-499-4015). She will direct your inquires. We also are on Facebook as **Lyndon Area Historical Society**. "**You Know You Grew Up in Lyndon if You Remember...**" is another excellent Facebook page you will enjoy visiting. We are generally featured in The Echo, The Whiteside Sentinel, The Erie Review and the Fulton Review. Our website has a photo gallery, calendar, history, facility usage forms, genealogy research, Lyndon Bridge chronology, past issues of our newsletters, and a membership form. Call Mary Ellen (Hunt) Rogers (815-778-4962) for information on donations, memorials, or other financial questions.

Board Meetings/Hours

We meet the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at 405 4th St. West. All board meetings are open to the public. (No regularly scheduled meetings December - February). Generally, we are open Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm April through November. In the winter months, it is best to call Kris Bielema at (815-499-4015) if you plan a visit.

Sincerely,

Carol (Richmond) Crady – president; Lindy Greenwood – vice president; Mary Ellen (Hunt) Rogers – treasurer; Kris Burke-Bielema –corresponding secretary; Alicia (Attig) Wetzell – recording secretary. Board Members: Bart Bielema, Jim and Connie Boonstra, Dale Ann and Terry Cook, Lindy Greenwood, Neil Johnson, Brady Nance, Lois Pilgrim, Kodi Wright

Lyndon Area Historical Society Membership Form

Return this portion with your membership dues/donation/memorials.

To make a monetary donation and/or to become a member, please mark the appropriate area and mail your check to our address: Lyndon Area Historical Society PO Box 112 Lyndon, IL 61261. Check Payable: Lyndon Area Historical Society

_____ **Single Membership (\$10.00)**

_____ **Family Membership (\$20.00)**

_____ **Monetary Donation/Memorial**

(Please specify the intent of donation/memorial in the space provided below).

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please check if you are interested in:

- Board or committee member**
- Help maintain visitor hours**
- Catalog and archive**
- Media/Technology**
- Help with small maintenance tasks such as _____**
- Other _____**

**Lyndon Area Historical Society
PO Box 112 - 405 W. 4th Street
Lyndon, IL 61261**

**Local Postal Patron
Lyndon, IL 61261**