

Barnes County Historical Society MINUTES
Thursday, September 11th, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Present: Steve King, Sandy Hansen, Lewie Legge, Carol Faulkner, Tom Overn, Stacy Ingstad, Shawn Olauson

Absent: Alex Jorgensen, Derek Woehl

Also Present: Wes Anderson, BCHS bookkeeper Nikki Nelson

Call to Order: Quroum met; proceeded with financials first in deference to Nelson's time.

Agenda

1. Minutes of August 14th meeting were reviewed. Ingstad made a motion to approve, with Legge a second followed by unanimous approval.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – YTD Balance Sheets, Profit & Loss Statements, Bank Register
 - a. Income YTD: \$132,299.60
 - b. Expenses YTD: \$113,469.79
 - c. Net Income: \$19,495.11
 - d. Total Liabilities & Equity: \$588,244.53

Nelson pointed out that the fund-raising income for the WWII Heritage City project is skewing some of our figures but says that things are running smoothly, and membership numbers are good due to Anderson's efforts to contact lapsed members and getting them updated. King asked if there was anything the board could do to make her job easier, but Nelson indicated that there were no issues at this time. It was suggested that the CDs coming due be checked for what interest rates they are getting.

3. **Gift Shop – YTD Income:** \$4,190.92 (budgeted for \$2,500 so doing great)

Ingstad is working with Anderson and Bill Cochran of Bridgetown Imprints on ordering WWII items and will be bringing in some of those items to go over with them.
4. **Finance/Membership YTD:** \$21,370. Anderson sent out 389 newsletters – 57 for life memberships, and 330 paid memberships. He feels those numbers show a declining membership and is concerned. Some ideas were thrown out for upcoming membership drives to coincide with WWII 'Grand Opening.' Ingstad mentioned updating memberships online to make it easier to update/join.
5. WWII Heritage City: Mary Lee Nielson sent an update out to all board members that outlined what has been done and what is coming up regarding plans. Hansen gave an update to the panels submitted to Gopher Signs – they are all completed and approved as of the morning of September 11th. No indication at this time when Gopher will be done with their end. Ingstad mentioned meeting with Macy Schlaht regarding the website updates; Hansen added that she dropped off a thumbdrive with all the WWII information to Schlaht earlier this week for use on the website. We're hoping she will make the main site she's working on live soon, although the WWII pages will not go live until the Grand Opening. Legge will be checking on solar light options for lighting up the

WWII mural above the museum. Anderson will be checking with Cochran regarding the Victory Garden banner.

6. Wes' Report

- a. **Exhibits and Education:** the first part of the Lecture Series schedule is filled; Overn will be presenting at the first one next week with a talk on Kathryn History. Some discussion took place about a Social Night/Gala in January or February.
- b. **Community Outreach:** The VCHS Homecoming Parade is scheduled for September 19th at 4pm, and the VCSU Homecoming Parade is scheduled for September 27th at 10:30 am. Museum cars will participate but a driver is needed for the VCSU parade.
- c. **Site Management:** Reed McConnaughey and Marley Peterson are on limited schedules due to the start of school, and so Anderson received a proposal from volunteer Arlene Andrus who has used her volunteer hours to do cleaning. She asked if she could work 6-8 hours a week at the museum for \$15/hour while also continuing with 3-4 hours of volunteering. As the museum is currently short of help, the board agreed to Andrus' proposal to add her to the part-time staff. Anderson also mentioned that the soda fountain display on the main floor that belongs to Jon Wagar will either be picked up by Wagar or donated to the museum; some animated discussion was held on how the museum might use it if the soda fountain was donated.

Board adjourned at 5:55pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 9th, 2025, at 5:00pm.