



**Kelleys Island
Historical
Association**

Kelleys Island Historical Association

July 1, 2020

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Board Members

Michael Beatty (Treasurer)
Teri Behrends
Chris Carrig (President)
Pat Fresch (Vice President)
Cindy Herndon
Janet Killam
Leslie Korenko (Secretary)
Alexi Panehal
Ned Williams
Newsletter: Leslie Korenko
Website & Social Media:
Leslie Korenko

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was a very quiet one, no one attended but the Board members. Here is what happened.

YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Alexandria L. Panehal - I have been a member of KIHA for several years. Last year I also began volunteering at the History Museum. I thoroughly enjoyed working at the Museum and hope when COVID 19 subsides, I can start up again. I retired from the U.S. Foreign Service (Diplomatic Corps) in 2018 and moved permanently to Kelleys Island in the Spring of



2019. I now live here year-round, and I love it! I am writing three books in my spare time. The first book is about Kelleys Island, called "The Island in Winter." The other two books are historical studies, allowing me to indulge in my love of history. In addition to writing skills that may be of use to KIHA, I am also accustomed to working on committees, finding common ground among people with diverse viewpoints, and developing strategic short and long-term plans, with measurable objectives to assess performance. I hope that the membership looks kindly on my candidacy and, if elected, I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this new capacity.

Ned Williams - I return to the Board for a second term. I, along with all of my family, have a deep love and a long family history with Kelleys Island. My great grandfather, Norman E. Hills, lived on the island for many years. He convinced his daughter, Alice, and her husband to build a cottage on the island. That cottage has now been a part of our family for 90 years. From my childhood I learned about the history of the island from my grandmother and my father. Preserving our island's history is paramount. We also need to find ways to share and promote the island's history with visitors and island regulars. That will be my focus in my second term.



MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS - Our Board members really stepped up this year with new people filling most of the Officer positions. Our new officers are: Chris Carrig-President, Patti Fresch-Vice President, Michael Beatty-Treasurer and Leslie Korenko-Secretary.

QUILT WINNER - Congratulations to Olivia Shank of Alexandria Ohio - the winner of this year's quilt. And thanks to Teri Behrends for making and donating this beautiful quilt.



PRESIDENT CINDY HERNDON'S REPORT

Thanks to the Board, our members and the community for their support of the Kelleys Island Historical Association during the last year. The various issues of the museum and campus needs are tough on a regular basis, then adding the Covid concerns, have required thoughtful attention and it has been challenging. Thank you Leslie Korenko and Michael Beatty for keeping the Facebook, new Blog, and website functioning. What you do helps us reach out to so many.

THE MUSEUM - The decision to open the museum Friday through Monday is bringing in less revenue, but we have been conscientious about making sure we are doing all we can for cleaning, preparation, and use of masks. We hired a new team of cleaners to keep the environment safe. This is a young couple from Columbus who volunteer at the State Park. They have been following the guidelines for Covid cleaning. Thank you Matt and Paige Leisure. Steve wanted to step back on cleaning as the older we are, the more vulnerable...so we understand. Thank you Steve for your years of cleaning the museum.

The Nickels and Haas families donated many items to the museum as they cleared out their new property. Donating archives and supplies like shelving have made a huge difference. We thank them for being thoughtful of the KIHA and for their generosity. Say thanks when you see them

THE GIFT SHOP - Leslie has kept the gift shop filled and operative. The museum requires masks, limits the number of visitors, provides hand sanitizer, and a plastic screen at the register. Leslie has done an exceptional job with preparation for the museum opening, putting together a Women's Suffrage exhibit, heading the gift shop and managing the volunteers. It is worth noting that many volunteers could not return due to limiting our hours. We certainly understand. As previously said, "Good Job, Leslie." Please take note, Leslie is thinking of stepping off the gift shop manager position. This woman does so much, we totally understand. Interested applicants should contact me at kiMuseum@msn.com or leave a message at the museum 419-746-2399.



Pat Fresch created the Doctors on Kelleys Island exhibit. The wood hutch in the exhibit was from the Doctor's House donated to the museum by Jackie & Gary Finger. Fresch gathered information about the Spanish Flu and a study of results on Kelleys Island in 1920. If you have not seen this exhibit, please do so before the end of 2020. It is very interesting.

MEMBERSHIP - I am really happy that our business memberships have increased. We thank these businesses that have history in their heart. We also have 245 active members. It is my personal vision to increase all members and that we, the Board, should develop a plan to do so. We need more members and we need more energy to continue to move this organization forward.

Thanks to DeeDee Ritchie and Chris Carrig for their efforts with our finances. This organization has moved forward in a grand way as we establish a budget and stick to it. There is momentum in this effort, to carefully look at spending ... and continue to be the best we can be.

THE RESALE SHOP – Extraordinarily fun and successful. A big thanks to Sonia Taylor for managing the shop. Janet Killam and Jodie Smith spend much of their time to help with its success. And thanks to all the volunteers. The parsonage houses the resale shop. The KIHA Board, working with our newly created Preservation Committee is working to prioritize projects to improve building and working conditions. We intend, in 2020, to do some roof repairs, install attic insulation and venting and to put in new windows. We are trying for a grant for the windows. In 2021, the priority would be to install heating and air conditioning. With preservation money, we are exploring restoration of the Bake Oven at the State Park, as a community project with the support of manager Chris Ashley. It is my hope that someday as a community we would bake in it.

WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED - As you know, we planned a Vegas Night benefit for the Historical Assoc. this year, but have postponed it to 2021. I would like to share one project I would like to develop for Kelleys Island Museum and that is to develop a Junior Curator Program for ages 12-16 and possibly internships for college level. Youth bring good energy and can get things done.

Another oral history has been started with Ben Elfers and is being put together into video format by Brian Furkayawa of Cleveland, otherwise known as Fooxs. We need to organize a committee to continue movement forward in doing these histories. Ben Elfers was an exemplary participant telling great stories and words of wisdom. Ben, in his interview, talked about the importance of community and helping one another. This is history that repeats itself. Thanks Ben and thanks to this Kelleys Island community for their support and thanks to the Board for all they do.



WHO DOES OUR YARDWORK?

Teri's new dog was helping her weed our gardens and clean up the stone walkway to the parsonage house. She calls him Lucky – and we think we know why. He is one lucky dog.



KIDS LOVE THE MUSEUM



(L) One young visitor was 'keeping it cool' in the museum. (R) Searching for Tarzan in the museum is still a fun game. When we asked this group to "hide your eyes and don't peek" while their friends went to hide Tarzan – well, this is what they did. They were quick to point out that their noses and mouths were still covered! Great job.



OUR NEW BLOG - Thanks to Leslie Korenko and Michael Beatty we have a new Blog. Leslie has been posting some really interesting items about this Island and its more unusual past. Her articles tell the story about the first cable (telegraph) laid under the lake, that big cement building at the State Park, and the story behind the Statue of Mary on Titus Road. Now that winter approaches, she will be adding more fascinating stories behind some of our historic sites. Just click on **BLOG** on our website www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org. What would YOU like to see featured?

OLD ISLAND NEWSPAPERS – Leslie finished posting the issues of **The Islander II** 1937-1938 and thanks to Patti Fresch's patience in scanning each page, we are now posting the **Home Town News** 1978-1983 on our website. These are so much fun to read as many of us will recognize names and events featured in its pages.

A LETTER FROM 1847 - December 15, 1847 – Letter from Datus to Irad: "There is now five hands here, John Estes, Strobe and one other, besides the two Dutchmen. It is more than I want this winter. We were in hopes that you or George would be here to take them away (the Germans I mean). They try to do as well as they can, but are as yet, unprofitable to keep, especially in the winter. There has been a great deal of rain since you left here. Your orchard has been wholly unfit for sowing wheat. The corn is all picked and secured. The black horse was so unruly I concluded to sell him, which I did in Sandusky for \$40 payable in lumber next spring. The roads are perfectly impassable, but there being a few inches of snow....."

Kelleys Island Historical Association
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We are a 501 c 3 organization
Your contributions are deductible.

Let's make history together!

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