

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Av

South Milwaukee, Wi. 53172

B U S I N E S S N A M E

**FOUNDED
MARCH
1972**

Founders

- Dennis Rankin
- Penny Rankin

Initial Directors:

- George Hook
- Mary McCarrier
- Bruce Rayeske
- Dora Lee Szewczuga
- William Domoe
- Lillian Dishong
- Chester Grobschmidt

Officers:		
President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Patti Bergeson	768-9549
Secretary	Sue Ziarek	520-1959
Treasurer	Judy Bal estreiri	762-6382
Board of Curators		
	Judy Bal estreiri	
	Richard Thinnes	
	Steve Schreiter, Genealogy	
Board of directors (Term Expires):		
	Todd Michal ek	(2018) 762-6876
	Lee Loveal l	(2018) 301-9171
	Rose Nosacek	(2017) 762-4279
	Pharis Brooks	(2018) 762-2084
	Addie Becker	(2017) 764-2118
	JB Bul l ey	(2017) 762-7605
	Vicki Bar toshevich	(2017) 764-2836
	Sunshine chairperson	



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F R O M T H E P R E S I D E N T ' S D E S K

Hi everyone,

It has been a busy summer, but worth the efforts. The 4 days at the Summer Farmers Market were hot, hot, hot, but 5 new members signed up. The Garden Tour was excellent again. *Thanks* Patti Bergeson and committee!! The 4 Canopy classes were wonderful!! *Thank You* to Pharis Brooks, Richard Thinnes, Steve Schreiter, and Gretchen Goelz. The fish fry get-togethers at the 125 year old Grant Park clubhouse were fun. *Thanks* Todd Michalek. I did 2 tours of the museum and signed up 6 more members. A good busy summer.

Keep laughing. *Lois*

P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:
 Help?? Do you have a memory of South Milwaukee you'd be willing to share with our readers? How about an interesting picture of a place or event from our city's past that we could use. Maybe you'd like to try your hand at writing a short article for the newsletter? Contact any one of the officers at the numbers above or send us an email. southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you

Canopy Talks were held the first four Saturdays in July.

The July 1 talk was held at the City Hall Council Chambers. With 25 people in attendance the location provided extra space and a chance to view the subject of the class in very accommodating surroundings. The topic was **the 1932 documentary entitled “A Visit to South Milwaukee” presented by Pharis Brooks** who did an outstanding job. The 30 minute documentary was originally made for the Garden Theater. The movie is on YouTube for **anyone who hasn’t had a chance to check it out and has access to a computer**. A copy is also available at the Museum.



The July 8 talk by retired SM High School history teacher and Society Curator Richard Thinnes focused on the Civil War and a trip he took recently to Pennsylvania and **West Virginia Civil War battlefields. Typical teacher.... he started the “class” by giving his 18 “students” a quiz!** (Did you know even Wisconsin talked of succession at one point?) Mr. Thinnes did a great job and we look forward to seeing what subject he comes up with for next year!

The July 15 talk was by Steve Schreiter, **always a crowd favorite. This year’s** talk was on the Founding Fathers of South Milwaukee. Steve is already thinking of ideas for next year.

Do you have a subject in mind for next year’s canopy talks? Perhaps you’d like to try your hand at giving one. Contact Lois Schreiter and let her know.



The final talk on July 22 was Prohibition in South Milwaukee presented by Gretchen Goelz.

MORE EVENTS.....

Evening on the Ave Our booth on the Avenue was located about midway 9th and 10th, facing south with Friends of Grant Park to our immediate east and Friends of the Mill Pond to our immediate north. A Credit Union was the 4th member of the back to back grouping. Two bands were located in the 9th to 10th block and made it very difficult to conduct conversations. Our booth consisted of the canopy, a table, the Society red tablecloth with emblem, an easel, trifold display of photos relative to the Depot, info on bus tour to Old Wisconsin and August fish fry.

Because of the wind we had to move the trifold to the table, it blew right off the easel despite being attached. Also had to get a brick from the Museum to hold down stuff on the table. (brick is marked "Empire S.M." - anybody know the history of this brickyard?) Thanks to Todd Michalek and Jeff Johnson for manning the booth and especially to Richard Thinness for biking down to our booth with the canopy roof which was not in the canopy case but was in a separate bag. Richard also arrived about 7:30 pm and helped take down the canopy when we left at 8:00 pm.

Lois had prepared a special handout for the event which had a time line of SM history on one side and info about the Society and Museum on the other. We handed out about 170 of the flyers and about 150 homemade chocolate chip cookies.



Society President Lois Schreiter & Vice President Patti Bergeson had fun representing the Society in the Heritage Days Parade

We have a facebook page!!

Thanks to Cheryl Sarasin for getting us up and running.



Election of Officers and Board Members

For many years, the election of officers and board members took place during the potluck meetings. Since we discontinued the potluck meetings, we had to come up with a **new system. For the coming year, we're going to give the following a try.**

1. Starting with this summer newsletter the Society is asking anyone who would like to run for a position to contact the current president (Lois Schreiter) by October 15th to get your name on the ballot.
2. The fall newsletter will contain a ballot. Please vote for your selections and mail it to the Society Museum by December 15.
3. Winners of the election will be announced in the winter newsletter. New terms will be effective on the first of the year.

PLEASE consider running for office or at least a position on the board. We need new blood and new ideas. Many of us have been in our positions for a long time, **we'd appreciate a break. If you would like information about any of the positions** you can contact the current office holder. Our numbers are on the front page.

Available positions are:

- President, Vice President, Treasurer,
- Secretary*, Newsletter Editor*, Newsletter Distribution*, Membership Chair*
- Webmaster* (Web page, Facebook page, Society email account)
- Board of Curators,
- General Board Member

(*Can be held by one or multiple individuals)

CURRENT OFFICE HOLDERS: *You must call to get your name on the ballot if you want to continue in your current position*

We're planning a Picture Scanning event on October 7 from 10am to noon. The society is looking for old photos of South Milwaukee that we can scan and add to our archives. We're especially interested in businesses and buildings like churches, hotels, schools, neighborhood grocery stores and taverns, houses, barbershops. Do you have any multigenerational family photos?? How about events at Grant Park? Any wedding photos that include a good view of the local hall it was at? Hunt them up, identify the place or people please, and bring them to us. **ALL PICTURES WILL BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCANNING** unless you prefer to donate your originals.



8th Annual Garden Tour

8th Annual Garden Tour was held on June 24th. Attendance was good but down a bit from last year. Reports from the gardeners who showed off their yards, the vendors and attendees were all positive. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make it a success.



Thank you to Bob & Sue Janowski who donated a portion of the profits from their hosta sales during the tour. Your generosity to the Society is very much appreciated!

Thank you also to the South Milwaukee High School students in the new “Fab Lab” for creating the plaques used on the Garden Tour Stepping Stones.



Legion was on hand selling hot dogs and brats. They sold out and are looking forward to coming back again next year. Thanks to our neighbor Craig Luther from Military Connections for not only letting them set up on the lawn east of his store but providing the electricity for their equipment.



The tour this year included the Wulff Lodge in Grant Park which celebrated **it's 100 year anniversary.**

Garden Tour Highlights



Mayor's choice Award Winner Sandy Webb



From the Vendors





In mid-May, Dibley family descendants Kathy Snow, her brother David and his son Brad visited the museum. They were in town from Florida settling affairs for their uncle, long time Society member Roger Dibley

Wick who passed away in March. They specifically **wanted to check out “the Trunk” as it’s referred to in their family.** They found a fellow Dibley relative in curator Judy who was on hand to show them around. The four of them had a great time discussing relationships and family histories!

The weather wasn’t very cooperative for this year’s

Plant Swap on May 20th, starting out cold and windy with rain moving in before it ended. A few brave souls ventured out anyway and there was an interesting mix of plants available for exchange. Thanks to the generosity of gardeners, there were a number of extra plants that were used to fill in some empty spots at the Museum as well as at the *Welcome To South Milwaukee* signs. To help pass the time we got a bit of clean up **work done around the shed. Don’t suppose we can interest anyone in building a small compost bin at the museum?? Contact Judy or Sue if you’re interested.**

Weather also kept the crew from planting at the War Memorial on N Chicago Ave but Sunday morning's weather was much better and they were able to do it **then. Thanks to the Veteran’s Council for covering the cost of the flowers.**

The first South Milwaukee Historical Society Friday night Fish Fry Social at the Grant Park Golf Clubhouse was held on June 9. 15 people attended, both Society members and non-members, even a couple from Cudahy! Food was good and the company was excellent. The second Fish Fry Social was held on August 25. For next year we’re planning a joint get together with the Oak Creek Historical Society that will include a tour of the old St. Mathews church on S Chicago Ave with a social gathering at their annual **spring Fish Boil. We’ll be hosting them in the summer** for another fish fry social at the Grant Park Golf clubhouse. Watch future newsletters for details on both events.

The Historical Society scholarship winner this year was South Milwaukee senior, Jason Hackbarth, who will be attending UW Platteville in the fall. Congratulations Jason and good luck in your studies.

During June the Society had a table **set up at the Farmer’s Market** to promote the Garden Tour along with all our other summer events. Anyone joining the Society during June was entered into a drawing to win 2 tickets to the Garden Tour and a Society T-shirt. Congratulations to the winner, Jeff Johnson, thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth and welcome to our five newest members who signed up at the Market!

Steve & Lois Schreiter attended **the Bucyrus Erie retiree’s lunch** on June 29 where Steve gave his Lawson Airline talk. They were treated to lunch and presented with a \$100 check from the retirees.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Richard Raatz who passed away on July 5. Richard was past treasurer of the Society, an active participant in many society event and he brought a great pan of lasagna to the pot luck meetings! **We’ll miss him.**

MEMBER MEETING DATES

Our monthly meetings are now held at the South Milwaukee Library. Meetings begin at 6:00PM and are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. **We'd like to invite ALL our members to attend.**

October 9
November 13
December 11

Just a reminder that all new Historical Society members are entitled to one hour of genealogical research from Steve Schreiter. If you haven't taken advantage of that yet give Steve a call. You can download the basic information form from the *Contact Us* page of our website if you have access to a computer.

The Historical Society would like to extend our condolences or congratulations to its members. Please leave a detailed message for the Sunshine chairperson at 414-764-2836. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached if she has questions.

As always...I'd like to encourage anyone who's able but hasn't done so yet to sign up to receive electronic notification of the newsletters. You get access to it sooner, the picture quality is much better, it saves the Society money on printing & postage and it helps the environment! If you'd like to give it a try send an email to the Society email address:

southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com

You can always change your mind.....