

# SPECIAL INSERT

**A last-minute EXTRA for the Chronicle to provide you with the latest minutes for the October general meeting, The 2011 ANNUAL MEETING and the subsequent Board Meeting**



The October meeting of the ICHS was called to order by outgoing President Linda Ciangi at 7:00 p.m. to a good-sized audience. She began with the announcement that long-time members and ICHS supported Fred Haight recently passed away. She also mentioned a letter of continuing support from Don Jandernoah and shared an announcement of a “Shipwreck” program series sponsored by Ionia’s Library. Linda also welcomed all our “regulars” as well as a guest, Nicki Lower.

Linda related a tale of serendipity: She had done a presentation on Civil War Nurse — Wheelock several months ago, and framed portraits of Ms. Wheelock were left on display. When a couple of guests toured the house a while back, they were intrigued by the story and purchased a copy of her memoirs for themselves. Just a short time later, the husband of the couple was working on a house, and struck up a conversation with the owner, whose name was Wheelock. It turned out that this homeowner is a descendant of Ionia’s Civil War heroine, and didn’t realize that there was a book available! Small world, eh?

Hank Knoop interrupted the meeting’s agenda with a presentation of flowers to Linda in commemoration of her six years as ICHS president. (The press was there to take a photo!)

Secretary David McCord reported that the latest Chronicle (covering the months of August and September) was now on the website, and brought some printed copies to the meeting. Once the present meeting’s minutes get typed up, they will be inserted into the print copies for mailing.

The total count for the new paid membership list is needed to know how many to print. (This total was received later in the evening.) He promises that the publication will get back on schedule in the months ahead.

Under old business, a quick review of the Dick Race results was given (see elsewhere).

Stephanie VanderMolen reported that things are almost ready for the Oct. 16th Cemetery Tour. Volunteers are still needed to read biographies and help with the event. She noted that advance tickets are available at the Keep of the Crows and from ICHS Board Members - they are \$5.00 each and \$2.00 for students.

Doni Knoop reported that the Quilt Raffle tickets were ordered, and will be available at the next meeting. They will be on sale at every possible venue in the coming months, with the drawing at the April ICHS meeting. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. (The quilt was not available for show because the quilters are adding a cloth tag to it with the appropriate names and dates.)

Hank Knoop delivered his monthly Treasurer’s Report, which included details of the eBay sale of several more books from the archives, with thanks again to Barb Hogan.

Under new business, President Ciangi noted that the Maintenance Committee had wrapped up some tasks for the season, but that new tasks were coming soon, including snow removal, leaf raking, cleaning of the eaves, and continuing repairs around the house. She also noted that fall cleaning and prep of the House for the holidays would be upon us soon, and all interested

volunteers should contact her for details.

Coming events, simply listed, are:  
Oct 8 - 9:00 a.m. Accessions Committee meeting

Oct 15 - Literary Club Meeting at the B. House - their 120th anniversary meeting

Oct 16 - Highland Park Cemetery Tour, 1 to 4 p.m.

Oct 17 - Economic Alliance Group has rented the B. House

Oct 18 - Tri-River meeting at the Lake Odessa Depot

Oct 19 - Business Meeting of the ICHS at the B. House, 7:00 p.m.

Oct 27 - Autumn Harvest Celebration in Downtown Ionia - The B. House will be open!

Nov 2 - ICHS Movie Nite at the Blanchard House (Vintage Ionia films + popcorn!)

Nov 12 - The AllChurch Bazaar at the First United Methodist Church

Nov 15 - Tri-River Museums Group meets at the Blanchard House

Nov 30 - The Grand Rapids Women’s City Club tours Ionia, including the Blanchard House and other area landmarks, plus a walk-on bus tour

Dec 3 - Mrs. Claus Bazaar at the Middle School (ICHS has two tables for the event)

Dec 4, 11, and 18 - the Blanchard House will be open for tours to show off the Holiday Decorations - greeters and tour guides are needed.

Joan McCord delivered a report on the Tri-River organization, confirming that the cost per seat for the November “Tea” would be \$8. She also said that the Tri-River Group was putting together an overall

brochure for the member organizations, and that they are asking each organization to sell a business-card-sized advertisement for \$60 to cover the cost of the printing. She also noted that she needed the ICHS response ASAP.

Also in regard to the Tri-River Group, she would not be available to attend the next two meetings due to upcoming eye surgery, and she asked other interested members to consider attending in her stead.

On another topic, Joan reported that the Travelogues at the Ionia Theatre (now in their 5th year) meet with continued success, and the City has given permission to continue (allaying any concerns to the contrary).

Josh Olger, manager of the new soon-to-open Burger King restaurant, called to ask if they could get some historic Ionia photos to decorate the walls of the new restaurant. Linda C. said that she would follow up with him, having done the same for others.

The idea was put forth that the antique organ in the east parlor office (which came from the Lyons-Muir church) be offered back to the Lyons Historical Society, now that they have more room. It was noted that they would probably not be ready to accept it for some time, having lots of work to do on the new (old) building. After a short discussion, it was moved by Bob Nixon and supported by Alice Whorley to make the offer when the opportunity arises. The motion passed.

Linda noted that one of the things she has been learning from other area Historical groups (specifically from the Lowell newslet-

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ter) is the importance of budget and planning. She encouraged the members to be open to new ideas in that regard, and watch for more opportunities. It was noted that the Tri-River Group continues to be a great recourse for sharing ideas and experience.

One of the suggestions Linda shared was the idea of publishing a book on the history of the Ionia Elks, based on the wealth of documents and artifacts in the ICHS collections, and the recollections of past Ionia Elks members. To fund this publication - or other ideas that might come to light in the near future, she suggested approaching the Ionia County Community Foundation, who has been generous for us in the past.

Linda also showed the most recent "President's Scrapbook" - the fifth such notebook that is a record of her tenure as president. The collection will go into the ICHS archives along with those of other past presidents.

Stephanie VanderMolen acknowledge the great contributions from Keith Bailey towards the Cemetery Tour (which she chairs). She presented to the ICHS a large notebook containing copies of his research results on that project, as well as CDs of information, and a notebook of other area cemetery research. The members asked Stephanie to extend their appreciation to him for his many hours of work on the documentation.

With that, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., and the Annual Meeting called to order.

### **ICHS Annual Meeting 2011**

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the ICHS was called to order by out-going President Linda Ciangi at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5. She shared the published notice of the meeting with the members. Patty Simpson-Goeke moved that we forego the calling of the role, the reading of previous minutes, and the various reports called for on the agenda. The motion was supported by Mike Gallagher, and passed. President Ciangi then announce that there were three seats open on the Board of Directors, and three candidates for these seats: Stephanie VanderMolen (incum-

ment), Kris Haskins (incumbent), and Kathleen Cook. Bob Nixon then moved the members cast a unanimous ballot for these nominees, which was supported by Gerry Perry. The motion passed. Re-elected Director Stephanie V. addressed the members, urging them to be positive, and if there are any concerns, please bring them to the Board to be dealt with. She also thanked everyone for their continuing support of the Society and its programs. Kris H. then assured the members that the Board will continue to stay on track and keep the programs going. Newcomer Kathleen C. expressed her thanks to the members, and stated that she is very happy to be more involved in the Society and the Board of Directors. Secretary David McCord noted that this was probably the shortest Annual Meeting on record at just over 3 minutes! Outgoing President Ciangi then adjourned the meeting, and refreshments were served.

### **The First Board Meeting for the New 2012 Directors**

The new Board of Directors of the ICHS met briefly following the annual meeting in the Parlor of the Blanchard House. Present were Vice President Stephanie VanderMolen, Directors Kris Haskins, Carole Gallagher, Patty Simpson-Goeke, and Kathleen Cook, plus Secretary David McCord, former President Linda Ciangi, and (for part of the meeting) Treasurer Hank Knoop.

V.P. Stephanie V. called for nominations for President, starting with her own nomination of Kris H. for the office. Some discussion ensued, and Kris accepted the nomination, supported by Kathleen and unanimously elected. Kris then nominated Stephanie V. to remain in the Vice Presidential office, supported by Patty S. and elected. Stephanie then nominated David McCord to continue as Secretary, which was supported by Kathleen and passed, and Carole G. nominated Hank Knoop for Treasurer, supported by Patty S., and passed.

New President Kris Haskins then opened the floor to comments and pressing business.

Linda Ciangi expressed her

intentions to continue to be as involved as ever in the ICHS even though she was no longer on the Board, and noted that the formation of a "Rental Committee" remains high on her wish list.

David M. presented a preliminary copy of his "History of Bertha Brock Park" booklet, with the proposal that the ICHS could purchase copies at \$4.00 each, and resell for whatever profits they saw fit. He would like a commitment to buy 25 of them as part of the effort to get them professionally printed, noting that Loren Gage at the park had committed to the same, and one more such commitment is still being sought so as to afford the printing costs. Stephanie V. moved that the ICHS do so, which was supported by Kathleen and passed.

Linda C. asked the board to decide on the commitment to a \$60 advertisement for the new Tri-River brochure, and Stephanie moved that the ICHS purchase the ad ourselves and use the opportunity to advertise the Blanchard House for rent. This was supported by Kathleen and passed. Stephanie will contact Joan McCord to notify her of the decision, and she will set up the artwork for the ad which is due at their next meeting.

The Economic Alliance wishes to have wine at their gathering in the Blanchard House next week. As dictated by policy, the Board is required to vote to permit this on a case-by-case basis. Stephanie V. moved to allow wine at the gathering, supported by Patty S., and passed.

Linda C. mentioned that Kathleen would be privileged to have a key to the Blanchard House and should be trained as to the security systems and so on. She also hoped that she could keep her key, since she is so often in the House for various reasons. Carol moved the Linda keep her key and that a new key be made for Kathleen, which motion passed. Linda C. also pointed out that Kris needs to notify the keymaker that he is authorized now as President to purchase additional copies of our keys.

The issue of the upcoming Chili Dog Challenge participation was brought up, and due to the business of the season with other

activities, the Board decided by consensus not to participate this year.

Some discussion was had regarding the mailing list now being administered by Patty S., and the e-Mail list administered by David M. David pointed out that the address "members@ionia-history.org" was available to the Board to send notifications to the entire eMail membership list if they had a need to do so. Also, the address "bod2010@ioniahistory.org" would send a message to all the Board members in the system. The address "info@ioniahistory.org" does not presently reach the entire Board, but it was suggested that this be changed to reach as many of us as possible to provide a better response to inquiries. Stephanie V. noted that, when responding to these eMails, it's best to click the "Reply All" so that the other recipients know that a response was sent.

It was also considered, because we get a lot of Genealogy questions via eMail, that Pam Swiler might want to be on the list as well. Secretary David M. will contact her to ask.

The meeting was adjourned by President Kris Haskins.