



the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society



MINUTES of the October 6, 2010 Membership Mtg

The October 6, 2010 meeting of the Ionia County Historical Society was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House by President Linda Ciangi. (Approximately 30 were in attendance.) She began by welcoming members and guests to the meeting, specifically Jim Finall, who brought with him several items from the estate of Kent McFadden, ICHS member who passed away recently. This included several framed artifacts pertaining to local railroads, as well as some books and photos. Thanks to Mr. Finall.

Being the eve of the Annual Meeting, the president shared her thanks to the many members and friends of the Society for the past year's activities, and attributed specific successes to chairpersons, officers, and elected officials of the organization.

Next on the agenda were the usual reports. Robert Nixon moved to accept the secretary's report as published, which was supported by Mike Gallagher and passed. Treasurer Hank Knoop delivered his report of September's financial activities, noting that it was a successful month, including the Duck Race at the Fall Festival (with thanks to Pearson's Orchard for apples) and a major influx of memberships paid. He also reported that the new roof for the carriage house actually came in under budget, with many thanks to all parties involved. It was moved by Bob Nixon and supported by Barb Ehlert to accept the treasurer's report, which passed.

Joan McCord was not present to deliver a report on the October 2 Upstairs Downtown Tours, but they were deemed a great success, in spite of threatening weather. About 70 people bought tickets and a few made additional contributions for a total of \$722 income. There are four new sites asking to be on the tour next year already! Beryl Bishop won the wreath of dollars (50), and she donated her prize back to the ICHS.

President Ciangi reported great progress being made in the sorting of artifacts (and junk) in the furnace/storage room, with thanks to the members who have been helping, and specifically to Barb Hogan for her expertise.

Thanks to Chuck Booth, who has helped with yard work and also stained the woodwork on the front porch of the Blanchard House. Also, thanks to the Garden Club for their continuing services, and for the bench in the back garden. Hank also reported that the rotting tree in front of the house actually fell into the street, and has been cleaned

Continues on page 2

New Board Members Elected at Annual Meeting



MINUTES of the October 6, 2010 Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting was called to order at the Blanchard House by President Linda Ciangi at approximately 8:00 p.m. on October 6 (immediately following the general membership meeting). Mike Gallagher moved to forego the first few items on the proscribed agenda for the annual meeting (as usual). This was supported by Kris Haskins and passed. The secretary noted that minutes of the meetings are available to any interested members in lieu of their being read.

The main item on the agenda was the election of two directors for the board. Outgoing directors Kathleen Larock and Barb Ehlert were duly thanked and applauded for their efforts and dedication over the past two years. The candidates for these two positions were then introduced and offered the floor for a few comments on their own behalf before the vote was taken. They were: Carol Gallagher, Jessica Roche, and Patty Simpson-Gokee. The secretary passed out the ballots, then

collected and counted the votes as the members took a break for refreshments.

The new directors were then announced with congratulations: Carol and Patty. Thanks were expressed to Jessica, who was encouraged to continue to serve the ICHS in other ways.

The board was invited to meet briefly later in the evening to elect their officers and address any immediate topics of note, and the Annual Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES of the October 6, 2010 Board Meeting

The new Board members attended their first (albeit brief) board meeting directly after the 2010 Annual Meeting at the Blanchard House. Present were all board members, Secretary David McCord, and outgoing director Barb Ehlert. The first order of business was the election of President. Carol Gallagher nominated Linda Ciangi, supported by Stephanie VanderMolen, and (there being no other nominations) she was elected unanimously.

Stephanie V. was nominated for Vice President by Kris Haskins, supported by Patty S. and elected unanimously. Hank Knoop was asked if he wanted to continue as Treasurer, and upon his positive response was duly elected. David McCord offered to continue as "recording secretary" and the board cast another unanimous ballot.

The Secretary noted that the Board mailing list would need updating on the Internet, and the directory of the board as well in the Chronicle with new phone numbers.

The new directors will need copies of the ByLaws (which are on file at the Blanchard House) and the disposition of keys to the house needs to be addressed, but was tabled for the time being.

The Board discussed the request from the Garden Club to have a party at the Blanchard House on December 3rd. The Board voted to waive the rental fee for them in recognition of their continued service. The Garden Club noted that they could change the date of their gathering if a "paying customer" wanted to rent the house that night.

The meeting was then adjourned.

NEXT MONTH: November 3 - "Markers in the Mitten"
A presentation about historical markers in the Lower Peninsula.

Meeting Minutes
continued from Page 1

up, so it is no longer a concern.

In our future are the following items:

The Michigan-1 Credit Union is hosting the Chamber's Business After Hours on November 10, and is inviting area non-profits to set up displays at their office that evening. Linda C. is working on display ideas for the ICHS and has chosen a "prime spot" for us. Any members interested in helping, please contact Linda.

October 28 will be the Chili Dog Challenge in town. The ICHS will not be participating with chili dogs this year, but may be able to sell water and apples instead. Barb Ehlert is chairing this activity, and interested parties should contact her.

The Blanchard House has been rented for November 13th to Chel Lea, who will be hosting a "Mind-Body-Soul Expo" at the house. This will include several vendors and exhibits. For more information, contact Stephanie VanderMolen.

On December 4 will be the annual Mrs. Claus Bazaar at the Middle School. Again, the ICHS will participate with literature to share and goods to sell. Doni Knoop has taken charge of the items to sell, and asks the members for small items - jewelry, ornaments, and the like - and gift bags to put them in. She and Barb E. are also making some items for the sale. If you would like to staff the table that day, please contact Doni.

Kris Haskins has organized a couple of Work Days for the groundskeeping at the Blanchard House. He will be here with rake in hand on October 16 and November 16, for members who would like to help. He is also getting some help through the county community service and Enrich volunteer channels. Remember: many hands make light work! Please come by between 1:00 and 4:00 on those days to help out.

President Ciangi then adjourned the general meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES of the October 20th, 2010 Business Meeting

The October 20 business meeting of the ICHS was commenced about 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House. Present were the members of the board plus Secretary David McCord, Doni Knoop and Barb Ehlert. President Linda C. welcomed new board members Carol Gallagher and Patty Simpson-Gokee to the meeting.

Several rental dates for the House were passed along to Stephanie V. to add to the web calendar.

It is still uncertain what we'll be doing for the Oct. 28 Chili Dog Challenge. Water and apples are the plan, but permission is still being clarified.

November 9th, the Ionia Community Foundation will be renting the House from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Linda will meet

Maureen Meade for a walk-thru on Nov. 1.

The November 10 "Business After Hours" event is coming along. Linda C. shared her plans for the display, which are going to require some careful set-up plans due to a tight schedule.

November 13th "Expo" plans are in place. Stephanie will host. The event starts at 11:00 a.m. - free admission to the public.

The Tri-River Group will be at the Blanchard House on November 16th. We expect 40 to 45 people for a "Victorian Tea" provided by Pat Stoakes. This gathering starts at 10:00 a.m.

Joe & Joan McCord have arranged for the Blanchard House to be a drop-off point for the WION Food Drive on Nov. 28th.

Decorating for Christmas by area merchants will be under way soon. Linda is making the arrangements. Kris will bring the trees down from the attic in time.

Framed photos need to be located to sell at the December 4 Bazaar at the Middle School. Doni and Barb are working on other items for sale as well.

The Blanchard House will be open for the holidays on December 5, 12, and 19. Hosts and hostesses are needed for these days. Barb Ehlert will be in charge

of volunteers.

Chel Lea's rental for the Spiritual Gallery on December 19th may take a certain amount of planning for seating the 40 to 50 expected attendants. The event is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 (after our open house).

October 21st, a film student from Ionia High School is scheduled to be at the Blanchard House at 10:30 a.m. Linda C. will meet him here. Also, Justin Mayle also wants to film in the yard as well. This is a professional crew from Kalamazoo; confirmation is pending.

Some discussed was had regarding charging for use of the house in films and photos, and it was generally felt that rent might be charged if the party in question was going to make money from the process. The board was reminded of earlier discussions about renting the yard only for outdoor events. No decision was reached.

Thursday evening work sessions are going very well. Barb Hogan noted that more time would be nice, so (when possible) the sessions will start at 1:00 p.m. In the near-term, this will include cleaning for the Christmas activities.

Programs for January and February have been confirmed. (Refer to earlier notes for details.)

Kris reports that the Christmas Concert is coming along well, and new promotional materials will be ready soon.

Kris also reported that the yard clean up is coming along, but that more help would be nice. Thanks to Chuck Booth for his help. Kris is talking with Penny Beeman about more volunteers, too.

Linda C. has donated a spot for the ICHS in an upcoming "Main Street Top 40" flier that the Chamber is putting together. This flier will promote Ionia's downtown in many ways.

Barb asked the board if she could retain her key to the house, or be issued a key, due to her frequent need to get into the House for the various tasks she performs regularly, as well as helping with special events and such. It was moved by Carol G. that her own key be assigned to Barb, at least for the time being. The motion was supported by Kris and passed. It was also noted that Patty S. now has key #10, which had been Kathleen L.'s key during her term of service. Patty will be instructed in the use of the alarm system.

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Thursday Evening Workshops at the Blanchard House. 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.

“Markers in the Mitten”

A presentation on Michigan’s Historical Markers.
at the Blanchard House.

Saturday, November 6 is Clean-Up Day
on the Blanchard House grounds!

Anyone willing to grab a rake and help, please
contact Kris Haskins.

Wednesday, Nov 10, 6:00 p.m.

The ICHS Participating in the Chamber
“After Hours” at the M1 Credit Union on Steele St.

Saturday, November 13

“Mind, Body, Soul Expo” at the Blanchard House
Presented by Chel Lea and Friends

Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Business Meeting - *Open to All*
at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Special Program
at the Blanchard House!

December 4 is the Mrs. Claus Bazaar
at the Middle School. The ICHS will have a
table, and volunteers are welcomed to help.

HOLIDAY SUNDAYS: December 5, 12, & 19
the Blanchard House will be open for guests
to see our Christmas Decorations. If you’d like
to help host our guests, please contact
a member of the Board to sign up!

Thursday, December 16th

Christmas Concert by Local Talent at the
Ionia Theatre - Benefits Local Food Pantries
The music is free, but donations will be accepted!

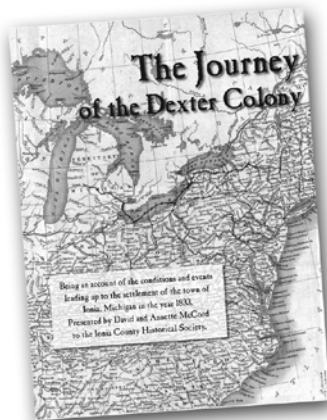
**BE SURE TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF
Thursday Morning Travelogs at the
Historic Ionia Theatre!**

— and —

For other upcoming events - visit the ICHS
website at ioniahistory.org.

THE BOOK that documents the presentation given to the ICHS in May of 2010, IS READY!

David & Annette McCord
have now published this
carefully researched story
of the settling of Ionia,
lavishly illustrated with
historic photos, maps, and
engravings. It includes
details from many historic
documents, books and
artifacts, and now CAN
BE IN YOUR LIBRARY!



**FOR ONLY
\$12.00 EACH**

*and a portion of each sale
will benefit the Historical
Society. GET YOURS NOW!*

**“The Journey of the Dexter Colony”
makes a great Christmas gift!**



the www.ioniahistory.org **CHRONICLE**

The Chronicle is the official publication of the Ionia County Historical Society. It is written, edited, and published by David McCord, Secretary. Any comments, corrections (of course), or contributions should be directed to the editor c/o the ICHS at P.O. Box 1776, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via www.ioniahistory.org.

Ionia County Historical Society
P.O. Box 176
Ionia, MI 48846



JOIN TODAY!

If you'd like to help us preserve the area's heritage, please fill in the form below and send it, with check or money order, to the ICHS Treasurer, care of Box 176, Ionia, MI 48846.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Check Your Membership Type:

- Regular = \$20
- Sustaining = \$35
- Business Buddy = \$40
- Corporate = \$250
- Life = \$1000
- Free to Students under 18
- Gift = \$ _____

Please Share a Little Information:

- Renewing Member
- New Member

If you're a new member, how did you hear about us?

Thanks!

Join Us at the Ionia Theatre at 9:30 a.m. every Thursday for **FREE ICHS Travelogues!**

November 4 — Iceland

November 11 — National Geographic Specials

November 18 — Thanksgiving Special

[No Travelogue on Thanksgiving Day]

December 2, 9, and 16 the movies

will be Christmas Specials. *Happy Holidays!*

Ionia County Historical Society 2009-10 Board of Directors & Officers

Linda Ciangi, President — 527-4945
 Stephanie VanderMolen, Vice Pres. — 616-755-0731
 Kris Haskins, Director — 989-855-3685
 Patty Simpson-Gokee, Director — _____?
 Carol Gallagher, Director — 527-0961
 David McCord, Secretary — 527-3784
 Hank Knoop, Treasurer — 527-3130