

MISSION STATEMENT:

*"Historic Backus Community Center,
the heart of International Falls,
where all generations celebrate arts, culture,
recreation, wellness and life-long learning"*



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 08, 2024
6:00 p.m.
Backus Community Center



Lois Lundin, Executive Director
Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager
Lenard Bobst, Cook
Michelle Boelk, Event Coordinator
Brenda Bounds , Event Staff
Carly Carlson, Cook
Alyssa Crawford, Office Assistant
Joe Kenny, Janitor
Joe Martinez, Custodian
Darcy Sullivan, KCC-TV Program Coordinator
June Wilson, Event Staff

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
900 Fifth Street
International Falls MN 56649
Phone (218) 285-7225
Fax (218) 285-7118
www.backusab.org



A number of Backus projects have been supported through Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Activities made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



Annual Meeting Agenda

February 08, 2024

6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Board Members and CBAB Members
3. Approve minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting
4. Nomination and election of new Board Directors
5. Review/discussion of Director/Treasurer/Committee reports:
 - a. Executive Director
 - b. Finance/Treasurer
 - c. Operations Committee
 - d. Arts & Programming
 - e. Backus Programs
 - f. Membership
 - g. Contributions & Donations
 - h. Seat Sponsorships
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

Annual Meeting Minutes

Citizens For Backus/AB, Inc. Annual Meeting Minutes-February 09, 2023

Present-Board Members: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Tim Fairchild, Sherrie Lessard, Tracy Lunser, Jim Lyman, Gail Rognerud, Tom Smith, Mike Williams.

Present By Zoom: Donna Frederickson

Present-Staff: Alyssa Crawford, Lois Lundin, Hoa Sobczynski, and Darcy Sullivan

Present-Members: Joe Belanger, Carol Belanger, Allan Burchell, Marva Fairchild, Ann Holden, Carole Johnson, Ed & Connie Magnuson, Greg Lundin, Jeff & Amy McHarg, Barb Smith, and Jim Yount

1. Meeting called to order by President, Tracy Lunser at 6:00pm.
2. Tracy introduced Lois Lundin, Executive Director, who introduced Backus staff. Tracy introduced Board members. Members present introduced themselves.
3. Motion to Approve 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes by Sherrie Lessard, 2nd by Barb Smith, motion carried.
4. Nomination and election of Board members Tim Fairchild and Tom Smith (incumbents) and new member, Sue Nordquist for 3-year term (2023-2026). No nominations received from the floor. Motion to approve as presented by Julie Bartkowski, 2nd by Mike Williams, motion carried.
5. Review/discussion of Director/Treasurer/Committee reports:
 - a. **AB Project update** - Lois Lundin. AB Committee is expecting an early May closing. KCC-TV will regularly record and present progress updates of AB building construction changes. Allan Burchell questioned the safety of an open staircase. Also mentioned is AB will have an elevator. Backus newsletter next month will concentration the AB plans for apartments, common areas, green space and parking.
 - b. **Executive Director report** - Lois presented report with highlights by quarters of 2022. Veterans Service held an open house for their new lounge area for vets in Backus. Report reviewed as presented.
 - c. **Finance/Treasurer report** - Tom Smith reviewed 2022 highlights of income and grants received. City and County support is appreciated. Report reviewed as presented.
 - d. **Building Use by Numbers** - Reviewed building tenants, activities, events, and rentals for 2022. Backus is busy and full of activities.
 - e. **Backus Volunteers** - Backus is fortunate to have many committed volunteers (1,780) who help with events, maintenance, gardening, baking, office work, and many other projects.
 - f. **Endowment Fund** - Tim Fairchild reviewed how Backus Endowment Fund was organized by Gordy Ettestad several years ago and a campaign to promote the fund was spearheaded by Bob Marquardt and Ward Merrill. Several events hampered the kickoff campaign (COVID Rainy Lake flooding, staff shortage, and AB development). The purpose of the fund is to ensure that Backus is here for future generations and all contributions are welcome. Current balance is approximately \$150,000 with non-designated memorials added to the fund. A very generous local family contributed to get the fund started and committee members review safe investment possibilities.
 - g. **Operations Committee** - Patti Ballan reviewed report highlights as presented.
 - h. **Arts & Programming** - Gail Rognerud, Chair, reviewed report highlights as presented. Many thanks go to our sponsors for programming.
 - i. **Backus Programs - Borealis Bards** - Jim Yount reviewed past & future productions and the creation of Jr. Bards, which has been well received. Bards is reviewing space options in Backus with the possibilities of recreating the former Dungeon space.
 - j. **KCC-TV** - Darcy Sullivan reviewed the schedule and benefits of KCCT-V in the community. Broadcasts are on the local channel as well as U-Tube.

Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

- k. **Backus Music Program**-Joe Belanger presented update on RLCO, recently joined with Backus to become a Backus program with (8) performances in 2022. RLCO has fundraising and sponsorship which helps support the summer String Camp and new equipment. The Rainy Lake Chimes, handbell group, also participates in RLCO performances. RLCO has members from International Falls area and Canada.
 - l. **Ruby's Pantry** - Lois gave update on Backus food programs including Ruby's Pantry, Community Cafe, and Summer Food Program. Ruby's Pantry continues to serve the community monthly and the program has given more than \$35,000 to area charities and non-profits.
 - m. **Backus Community Cafe** is a free meal service on Tuesday and Thursdays. All meals are served "to go" with the help of many community volunteers. Community Cafe is supported by generous grants, gifts from local businesses and community members.
 - n. **Summer Food Program** provides free meals to area children during summer months when school is not in session. This is a MN Dept of Education regulated program and Backus staff is continuing to have discussions with representatives to better serve the children in our community since COVID restrictions changed the program requirements.
 - o. **Food Service** - Ruby's Pantry served 2,139 shares; Community Cafe served 18,294 meals; and Summer Food Program served 3,833 in 2022.
 - p. **Donations to Food Programs**- Contributions to "Feed Just One" campaign and Community Cafe reviewed as presented.
 - q. **Membership** - 2022 Backus membership reviewed as presented.
 - r. **Contributions & Donations** - Memorials, general operating, Boiler project, and non-cash donations reviewed as presented.
 - s. **Seat Sponsorship** - Lifetime seats, multiple year seats, annual seats sponsorship reviewed as presented.
6. **Old Business- AB Project** review presented by Lois Lundin.
7. **New Business** - Jim Yount questioned Backus lack of public response to a public meeting organized by a group of folks questioning Backus operations, board and staff. Board members attended that meeting to hear what concerns the group presented. Backus board reviewed comments and have made significant improvements such as; open time at all Board meetings for public comment, board email option on Backus website, strategic planning will continue as scheduled, and positive steps taken to be approachable with good growth. Representatives from disgruntled group have been invited to join Backus as members, board members, or committee members, to date, no one has attended any meetings or sent emails.
8. **Door Prizes:**
- Ann Holden-chocolates
 - Allan Burchell-plant
 - Carol Belanger-plant
9. **Adjourn** - Meeting adjourned @ 6:55 pm. Motion by Tim Fairchild, 2nd by Mike Williams, motion carried.

Submitted by Patti Ballan

Nominating Committee

2023 Board of Directors

Term Expires

Kay Arnold	Emeritus
Patti Ballan, Secretary	2025
Julie Bartkowski	2025
Steve Costley, Vice President	2026
Tim Fairchild	2026
Donna Frederickson	2024
Tracy Lunser, President	2024
Jim Lyman	2024
Sue Nordquist	2026
Gail Rognerud	2025
Tom Smith, Treasurer	2026
Mike Williams	2024

Board of Directors The following nominees are presented for election to the Citizens For Backus/AB Board of Directors for a three-year term

Donna Frederickson	(Term: 2024 - 2027)	Incumbent	
Jim Lyman	(Term: 2024 - 2027)	Incumbent	
Mike Williams	(Term: 2024 - 2027)	Incumbent	
Nomination from the floor	(Term: 2024 - 2027)		

Bylaws

Citizens for Backus/AB Bylaws Sections

Article IV, Section 4.1 **Board Role, Size and Compensation:**

The Board is responsible for overall policy and direction of Citizens for Backus/AB, Inc. The Board shall have up to 15 and not fewer than 11 members. No Director may receive compensation for his or her service as Director. However, nothing contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the corporation in any other capacity, or receiving reasonable compensation therefore.

Article IV, Section 4.3 **Board Elections:**

Election of new directors or re-election of current directors to a second or third term will occur as the first item of business at the annual meeting of the corporation. Directors will be nominated by a majority vote of the current Board of Directors. Directors may also be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

Article IV, Section 4.5 **Terms:**

All Board members shall serve three-year term, and are eligible for re-election. The initial Board of the corporation will have staggering numbers of terms to prevent an entire turnover of the board at one time.

Executive Director's Report

2023 was a year of great growth and change at Backus Community Center. Highlights of the year include:

Staffing:

- Joe Martinez was hired as PT Custodian. Joe is available seasonally.
- Michelle Boelk was hired as PT Event Coordinator. Michelle is also involved as a music instructor and with the Borealis Bards productions.
- John Harris was hired as an independent boiler technician/support person.

Tenants:

- The Veterans Lodge opened for members in February, 2023.
- The Oberholtzer Foundation continues to move toward completion of its on-land library/preservation space .
- Northland Counseling relocated to their new building in March, 2023.
- The International Falls Police Department took possession of the third floor office suite effective April 1, 2023. Security updates were completed to the space and the IFPD began moving in during the month of April 2023.

Building updates and operations:

- Grant funding from Otto Bremer Trust was received and Backus paid Shannon's Inc. for the boiler and equipment received to date.
- Flooring replaced in room 101 and 104. Built-in's and doors revitalized.
- Parking lot was striped and signage installed on west end of the building. Traffic is now one-way.
- Rainy River Rugrats fenced in a play area in the east end green space for toddlers and pre-school.
- The Veterans Display Case was completed. The Koochiching County Historical Museum displays local veterans artifacts.
- Asbestos removal was completed in the lower level and the art room in preparation for the boiler installation.
- The lower level has seen significant clean-out and organization. The old hot water heater, tanks, and pipes were removed. Backus water/steam lines were insulated. The AB sanitary sewer lines were installed and connections completed, and connections established for city water and the fire lines for AB.
- The decommissioned cooler at the south end of the basement hallway was removed.

Programs and activities:

- The Rainy Lake Community Orchestra and Rainy Lake Chimes moved to room 301/302. Music instruction rooms were set up. Community Band and some music lessons are happening in 303. The Backus Music Suite now includes rooms 301, 302, and 303.
- Backus Community Center offered a Summer Lunch for Kids and Summer Arts. Both were successful.
- Backus is home to Junior High boys and girls basketball, Mustangs Wrestling, Co-ed adult volleyball and pickleball leagues, and three bridge clubs. A grief support group meets here regularly.
- The number of music students is growing. Backus has three instructors on staff.

AB:

- The sale of the AB building was official and complete on August 31, 2023.
- The boiler system and all contents of that space were removed.
- The electrical, fire protection, and natural gas services were separated from Backus.
- There is a very sound working relationship between the AB Partnership and their contractors and the leadership team from Backus Community Center.

Backus had a tremendously successful 2023. There was a lot of hard work involved to make it all happen but the changes and progress were very exciting. Our momentum is strong and we anticipate that 2024 will be better yet!

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

Operating Income/Expense

Income	\$658,204	88% Compared to Budget
Expense	<u>664,201</u>	95% Compared to Budget
Operating Net/(Loss)	\$ (5,997)	

Non Operating Income/Expense — Boiler Replacement and Room 104 floor replacement

Income	\$544,763
Expense	<u>558,462</u>
Non-Operating Net/(Loss)	\$ (13,699)

In 2023 Citizens for Backus/AB has Received:

Government Support:

\$32,000	City of International Falls for Arts & Culture
\$13,000	City of International Falls for Koochiching County Community Television
\$31,000	Koochiching County for General Operating and Food Programs
\$ 5,000	Koochiching County for Koochiching County Community Television
\$ 1,000	City of Ranier for Koochiching County Community Television

Grants

\$250,000	Otto Bremer Trust - Boiler Replacement Project
\$ 75,000	Otto Bremer Trust - General Operating
\$ 30,000	Northland Foundation - Summer Food and Community Café
\$ 6,000	United Way of Northeastern MN - Community Café
\$ 5,000	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Winnie the Pooh
\$ 5,000	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Jr. Bards
\$ 5,000	Arrowhead Regional Arts Council - RLCO String Camp
\$ 2,600	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Ruby's Pantry Trailer
\$ 2,500	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - RLCO String Camp

Tom Smith, Treasurer

Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$	409,484
Account Receivable		21,108
Defer Income		(21,948)
Petty Cash		87
Prepaid Bills		5,221
Inventory Asset		869
Endowment Fund		(159,245)
Endowment Fund - CD		154,500
RLCO CD		40,340
Other Current Assets		100
Total Current Assets	\$	450,516

Property and Equipment (at Cost)

Buildings	\$	118,496
Building Improvement		721,174
HVAC/Boilers		539,367
Trailer		9,500
Furniture & Equipment		82,167
Kitchen Equipment		219,816
Accumulated Depreciation		(616,214)
Total Property and Equipment (at Depreciation Cost)	\$	1,074,307

TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,524,822
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	32,269
Credit Cards		4,298
Grants/Restricted Funds		45,445
Other Current Liabilities		897
Long Term Liabilities		316,924
Total Liabilities	\$	399,833

Equity

Retained Earnings	\$	1,059,490
Net Income		65,500
Total Equity	\$	1,124,989

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$	1,524,822
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Operations Committee

Committee Members: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Steve Costley, Tim Fairchild, Lois Lundin, Jim Lyman, Tom Smith, Mike Williams, and Hoa Sobczynski

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



The work begins



1912 Low pressure steam boilers



Condensate and plumbing



Removing the housings



The first tank exposed



Disassembly



Tubes were in excellent condition



Extraordinary craftsmanship



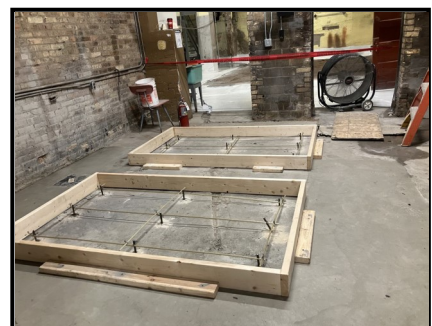
All clear



The old Backus water heater system



The old Backus condensate return



Foundations for new Backus boilers

Operations Committee , Continued



Digging and finishing the trench for the sanitary sewer line for the AB building. It runs north/south and was well done.



New Backus condensate system



New Backus steam boilers



Boiler Manufacturer



Stack for the new boiler system



Room 101 flooring



Room 104 flooring

Dreams and plans that endured a long season of waiting came to fruition for Backus with the closing of the sale of the Alexander Baker building in August of 2023. Life is being restored to AB, and Backus was finally positioned to seriously pursue necessary and significant operational and environmental improvements. We are all looking forward to the future for both historic buildings.

We witnessed the removal of the 1912 boiler system. We marveled at the quality of the craftsmanship and the engineering that was revealed during the disassembling process. We were truly amazed by the excellent condition of the materials after 111 years of use. The boilers served Alexander Baker and Backus well.

The installation of the new low-pressure steam boilers and all affiliated systems was complete before the onset of winter 2023. Contractors completed electrical, plumbing, asbestos removal, demolition, excavation, insulation, pipefitting, and concrete work. The final steps of the project are still pending, but we expect all to be complete as AB moves closer to completion. Backus continues to partner with AB for lower level building access needs for critical systems, etc.

Building and grounds updates were also completed. New flooring was installed in two rooms, woodwork and doors were reconditioned, the art room floor was painted, the gym floor was waxed, the new Veteran's Display Case was installed, and the parking lot on the west side of the building was striped and a one-way traffic plan implemented with the County.

These projects have reached completion within the timeframes expected and did not exceed budget expectations.

2022/2023 Performing Arts Season Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



**PACKAGING
CORPORATION
OF AMERICA**



LUCACHICK ARCHITECTURE, INC.

JIM LUCACHICK - ARCHITECT

218.759.2305 office
218.759.0407 fax
218.556.5944 cell

jim@lukearch.com
lukearch@paulbunyan.net
481 Mag Seven Court SW Suite 9
Bemidji, MN 56601

**Jim and Sherrie
Lessard**

Gold Sponsors



INTERNATIONAL FALLS
Coca-Cola
BOTTLING COMPANY

Northland
COUNSELING CENTER
International Falls



BREMER
BANK



Northern Reliable Insurance

Silver Sponsors



**Borderland Insurance
Agents**

Scott Gerlach
In Honor/Memory
of
Mary Jo Gerlach

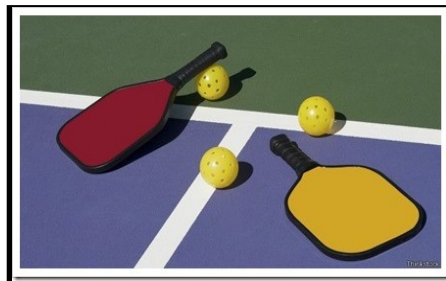
Backus Programs

Backus is proud to be home of the following programs :

KCC-TV

Backus Music

Rainy Lake Community Orchestra
Rainy Lake Chimes
Community Band
Junior Orchestra
Music Lessons



Borealis Bards, a Backus Community Theater

Backus Food Programs

Community Café
Summer Lunch for Kids



Backus is also the home to these recreational activities:

Bridge clubs
Co-ed Volleyball
Pickleball



KCC-TV Members

CREW

Tim & Marva Fairchild
Lynda Faith
Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
Ladd & Onida Kocinski

NEWS ANCHOR

Littlefork Baptist Church
LeeAnn Meer
Stuart & Sue Nordquist



CAMERAMAN

Ann & David Bzdok
Steve & Christy Earley
Jean I. Evens
Rick & Louanne Faulkner
Donna Frederickson
Int'l Falls Chamber of Commerce
Terry Randolph

DIRECTOR

Lucachick Architecture



KCC-TV provides media coverage to all people by way of access on local Cable Channel 7, YouTube, Social Media, and the Backus web site.

Coverage includes, but is not limited to, City and County council and commission meetings, School Board meetings, other public meetings, school and arts events, local happenings and a wide range of public interest activities.

Donations to Rainy Lake Community Orchestra

In Honor of Tom Barthell's Birthday

Peggy Kelly
Michael & Linda Orsted

Donation

Joe Belanger
Mary Jo & Bruce Falk
Mike & Linda Orsted

Sponsorship

Lynn & Carol Belanger
Tom & Jane Barthell
Alan & Elaine Johnson
Rainy Lake Medical Center

Donations to Borealis Bards

In Honor of Jim Yount from Bob and Pat Crossley

Donations to Community Cafe

Susan Anderson
Larry & Sonja Arch
Patsyann Barthell
Sally & Harry Batdorf
Joe Belanger
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Richard & Pat Bjorum
Amy Brenengen
Bill Brinda
Tracy Brokering
Aaron & Gloria Carew
Catholic Daughters of America
Peggy Christianson
Thomas & Juliana Clements
Holly Decardenas
Faith United Church of Christ
Jojean Hodel
Pat Indahl

Scott & Rosemary Johnson
Kabetogama United Methodist Church
Marit Lee Kucera
Charles Lindahl
Donna McClellan
Stuart & Sue Nordquist
John & Judy Olson
Jane Pierce
Rita Rindfleisch
Ann Sigsby
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
Eric & Valerie Solovjovs
Brenda Sullivan
Sheila Tatone
Betsy Warrington
Zion Lutheran Church
Zion Lutheran Church Women

Donations to Community Cafe in Memory of:

Olympia Costley from Gail Costley

Byrne Johnson from Steve & Christy Early, Lee & Carol Grim, Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski, and Andrew & Georgeann Wright

Darlene Johnson from Brad & Shelly King

Dick Molyneux from Susan Savard

Judy Potter from Ron & Wanda Pelland

Robert Rousseau from Donna Frederickson

2023 Membership

AFFILIATE

Edward & Delphine Bernath
Pat & Richard Bjorum
Bob & Barb Byman
Terry Carew
Dorothy Carey
Jermi & Alyssa Crawford
David Olson & Jenell Feller
Bill & Becky Flynn
Andrea Gohl
Clara Hardy

Jean Houska
Roger & Betty Jackson
May Ann Kalar
Mary Ann & Wayne Kasich
Marvin & Barbara Kruskopf
Barbara Leinum
Janet Madson
Norman Manselle
Jeff & Amy McHarg
Craig & Mary Moe

Helen Patterson
Wade & Carol Pavleck
Mary B. Pelowski
James & Mary Rolando
Carolyn Sundquist
Dee Dee Thompson
Larry & Betsey Warrington
Mary Wilson

ASSOCIATE

Carol Bass
Eddie Blaha
Marilyn (Weir) Borell
Jerome Brekke
Mary & Charles Casanova
Dr. George Crow
Roger Geddes
Leah B. Gilbert
Bob Hilke
Barb & Mike Johnson
Duayne & Nancy Johnson
Einar & Julie Johnson
Etta Johnson-Millard

Phyllis Karsnia
Ladd & Onida Kocinski
Valerie Larsen
Dean Lindstrom
Tracy & Derek Lunser
Melissa Marcotte
Robert Marquardt
Linda & Dennis Martin
Diane Maxey
Arden McKnight
Clari Miller
Marilyn Pelowski
Renee Radford

Bernice Reynolds
Rita Savard Rindfleisch
Darlyss Samuelson
Andrea Bond & Charles Skrief
Cheryl Stemm
Rick & Marilyn Toninato
Kathy Weir Tornes
Doris Trask
Lorne & Marlys Tveit
Donna Walls

SUPPORTER

Karen Aklestad
Beth & Allan Anderson
David Austin
Lloyd & Donna Barg
Ed & Joan Baron
James & Louise Bartkowski
Will Marvel & Joyce Bartkowski
Jack & Mary Bartlett
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Bill & Cheryl Berg
Allan & Susie Braaten
Les & Molly Bragg
Alan & Mariam Burchell
Peg Christianson
Carolyn Davison
Julie & Terry Ehrman
Jean I Evens
Lynda Faith
Falls Chiropractic Clinic

Donn & Susan Fuller
Gary & Judy Germain
James & Vicki Giauque
Keith Goulet
Marty & Lindsey Goulet
Mark Meester & Sheila Hart
Jerry & Marsha Hauke
Charles & Kristen Helleloid
Betty Jeanne Henrickson
Ronald & Marlan Herivel
Randy & Robin Hilfer
Mike & Trish Hogan
Richard & Anne Holen
Arthur & Linda Holt
Alan & Elaine Johnson
Byrne & Carole Johnson
Guy & Peggy Johnson
Jean E. Kelly
Virgil Kluge

Ingeborg Kofstad
Marit Lee Kucera
Beverly & Chuck Leistico
Jim & Jill Malone
Larry & Alyce Mannausau
Jim & Kathy McDaniel
Nelmarie Melville
Mike & Jill Katrin
Sue & Stuart Nordquist
Anne Nordstrom
Judith & Soren Olesen
Clarence & Darlene Olsen
Jeff & Susan Palm
Robert & Andrea Pastor
Bob & Pam Peterson
Richard & Sheryl Peterson
Wes & Lynn Peterson
Gene & Judy Pierce
Anne & Art Przybilla

2023 Membership (continued)

SUPPORTER (continued)

Doris Pullar
Terry Randolph
Mary Roche
George Schlieff
Paul & Carol Schulz
Harold & Julie Schumacher
Kyrsten Skogstad
Judy Spencer

Laura Stoiber
Brenda Sullivan
Brian Toder
Dennis Vohler
Dennis & Wendy Wagner
Kalan & Kyrie Wagner
Daryl & Teresa Waller
Mike & Betsy Ward

Malcolm Watson
Jim & Kathy West
Mike & Mary Williams
Karen & John Wilson
Tom & Dixie Worth
Andy & Georgeann Wright
Samantha Crossley & Jim Yount
Brian & Cindy Youso

SPONSOR

Harry & Sally Batdorf
Joe Belanger
Les & Joanne Bjorkquist
Border Bank
Bremer Bank
Steve & Christy Earley
Rick & Lou Anne Faulkner
First Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Dennis & Sharon Frank

Kirk Skallman & Georgia
Growette
Mike & Ann Holden
Tom & Phyllis Holm
Rebecca Larsen-Griffin
Jessie Laurion
Jim & Lori Lyman
Adam & Natalie McIntyre
Duane & Mary Nelson
Jim & Gail Rognerud

Terry Schultz
Al & Linda Shannon
Helen Smerika
Dave & Alison Stewart
Frank & Doreen Swendsen
Brad & Terri Trickel
Betty Villalta
Wagner Construction, Inc.
Tom & Randi Wherley

BENEFACTOR

Gary & Terri Anderson
Todd & Gretchen Coulombe
Howard & Gretchen Davis
Tim & Marva Fairchild

Lee & Carol Grim
Patti Indahl
Jeff & Diane Lindvall
Carol Mannausau

Pam & Gary Saunders
Janet Schulz
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
Teresa & Anthony Stone

PATRON

Anonymous
Tom & Jane Barthell
Jay & Julie Bartkowski
Dale & Mary Boyum
Lindhahl Charles
Pat Ettestad

Joan Heinle
Gerald Hilfer
Gene & Pat Kjellgren
Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Greg & Lois Lundin
Ward Merrill

Tina Ham-Peterson & Rick
Peterson
Tom & Barb Smith
St. Paul Lutheran Church

PRESIDENT

Steven Costley
Jim & Joann Dornhecker

Donna Frederickson
Lucachick Archecture

Ivan & Marcia Stewart

We apologize for misspelled names and any omissions. Please contact the
Backus Office at (218) 285-7225 for corrections.

Contributions and Donations

Contributions in Memory of:

Carol Benike from
John & Karen Wilson

Paul Bergstrom from
George & Carol Smith

Ed & Evelyn Bernath from
Ed & Delphine Bernath

Karen Boyum from
Jay & Julie Bartkowski
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Brad & Shelly King
Ron & Wanda Pelland
Corky & Sharalyn Schaak
Elaine Story

John Cullen from
John & Karen Wilson

Hans & Jennie Dohlberg from
Ed & Delphine Bernath

Amanda Corsby Farron from
Ron & Wanda Pelland

Roger Griffin from
Rebecca Griffin

Daniel Guerard from
Byrne & Carole Johnson

Brian Hall from
Ed & Delphine Bernath

Joe Hase to Music Program
from Susan Savard

Jean Hilfer from
Ron & Wanda Pelland
Susan Savard

Bob Hilke from
Pat Ettestad

Richard Hopfner from
Ed & Delphine Bernath

Oral (Shorty) Howland from
Pat Ettestad

Frank Jerry from
Betty Hvidsten
Janet Oliverson

Bruce Kelly to String Camp from
Miami County Community Foundation

Margarette Kostuik from
Donna Frederickson
Ward Merrill

Mariellen Kuske from
Susan Savard

Jeanine Nelson from
Ed & Delphine Bernath
Donna Frederickson

Patrick Sather from
Ron & Wanda Pelland

Aline Schuschke from
John & Karen Wilson

Bonita Swenson from
Gail Costley
Emmi Lattu

Donations to General Operating

Lynn & Carol Belanger
Rebecca Otto
Ranier Recreation Club
Rotary Club Int'l Falls
James & Tammy Sullivan
Ward Merrill (Thrivent Choice Dollars)

Donations to Boiler Replacement Project

Pat Ettestad
Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Jim Luchachick
Stuart & Sue Nordquist
Virginia Sweatt
North Star Electric Cooperative

Non-Cash Donations

AEOA - 720 frozen meals for Community Café
Cantilever - Has h brown potatoes, roast beef gravy, chicken soup base, country gravy mix, turkey gravy mix, beef
gravy mix, roasted chicken gravy mix
Lucachick Architecture - Pro Bono architect consulting service for Backus building
Greg & Lois Lundin - Fresh fruits for summer lunch
Nancy McBride - Décor for Radio Dinner Theatre
Robert & Andrea Pastor - Black light tubes for decorating
Friend's Garbage Service - Remove recycle cardboards from monthly Ruby's Pantry distributions

Seat Sponsorships

Life-time Seat

E.L. & Gary Anderson - with Thanks to City Drug

Kay Arnold - Sterling & Marie Hougum Memorial

Millie Ballan - Dan Ballan Memorial

Marilyn Berlin - Dr. James A. Berlin Memorial

Corrine Brindos - Max Brindos Memorial and In Honor of Corrine "Corky" Brindos

Alan & Miriam Burchell - Honor of Alan & Miriam Burchell

Jan Dunlap - Virginia Keyes Pavek Memorial

Joan Evanoff - Sam Evanoff Memorial and In Honor of Joan Evanoff

Lynda Faith - Dorothy W. and George Liebe Memorials

Sue Foran, John & Cathy Schroeder - In Honor of Beverly Molstre 1948 FHS - Homecoming Queen

Donna Frederickson - Rev. Leo H Buechler, Alma N. Buechler, Franklyn T. Frederickson, Margaret G.

Frederickson, Robert Frederickson Memorials, in Honor of Donna Frederickson, Happy Anniversary

Bob & Donna Frederickson, Ted Frederickson, Mary Frederickson, Frank Frederickson

Donna Frederickson - David Buechler and John Frederickson Memorials

Scott Gerlach - In Loving Memory of my Wife Mary Jo Gerlach

Beth George - Einar Sundin Memorial

Georgia Growette - Evelyn Growette Memorial

Mark Hauke - Lisa Ann Hauke "SP" Memorial

Bob Hilke - Fritz & Dorothy Hilke Memorials

Edith Holmstrom - Celebrating my parents A. Holmstrom & E. Holmstrom

Dianne Smalley, Patriot Properties - Karen Turnquist Johnson Memorial

Russ & Violet Johnson - John Kalstad, William Morris, Russell Johnson Memorials

Tom & Edna Karsnia - Gertie Coran Memorial

Gene & Pat Kjellgren - In Honor of Eugene & Patricia Kjellgren

Ron & Jessie Laurion - Paul Shaw Memorial

Chuck & Carol Lepper—Clem Lepper Memorial

Helen Loudon—Effie Hanover Memorial

Jeffrey & Laurie Lightfoot, Carol Mannausau, Ward & Linda Merrill, Richard & Robin Tilander,

Kay Wentto—In Memory of Ardath ""Punk"" Wentto Class of 1945

Al & Wanda Linder—1903 Linder Century Farm

Dean Lindstrom —Pearl and Gunnar Lindstrom Memorials

Jim & Kathy McDaniel—In Honor of Jim & Kathy McDaniel (2019)

David McKee & Lynn Naeckel—In Honor of David McKee & Lynn Naeckel

Ward & Linda Merrill - Jim & Deloris Merrill Memorial

Stuart & Cynde Milette - In Memory of Margaret Price Sathrum, John Charles Sathrum, Class of 1946 Howard W Milette, Class of 1946 Virginia Sathrum Milette

Duane & Marilyn Mitchell - Kevin Mitchell Memorial

Anne Nordstrom - Robert (Bob) Nordstrom Memorial

George Schlieff - Edith (Edie) Schlieff Memorial

Roman & Janet Schultheis - Clarence & Louise Larson Memorial, in Honor of My Granddaughter

Seat Sponsorships

Valentine Michaela Louise Shickell

Roman Schultheis - Merry Christmas Janet Schultheis, in Honor of Red & Janet Schultheis

Darcie Schulz - Ciera ReNee Schulz, Kyle Olestad, Lester Nordlum, Lillian Nordlum, Richard Mandery Memorials

Karen Shickell & Mike Busch - Louise & Clarence Larson Memorial

Barb & Brian Smith - Marcia Bringedahl and Richard Bringedahl Memorials

Frank & Doreen Swendsen - Joe Swendsen Memorial

VFW Peter Graham Post 2948

Seats sponsored by Citizens for Backus/AB in Honor and Memory of: Marcia Bringedahl, Daniel Dilworth, Bob Jacobsen, Marie Karsnia, Otto Bremer Foundation, Minnesota Power, Red & Janet Schultheis, Thanks to Border Boxes, Jessie Laurion, Edie Schlieff, Kay Arnold, Corky Brindos, Jay Hokenson, Randi Whereley, In Memory of Catherine Townes (Sweatt) Mueller 1956-2019

Multiple Year Seat

Citizens for Backus/AB - In Honor of Ron Laurion

Joan Barkovic - Robert Barkovic Memorial

Tom & Jane Barthell - In Honor of Tom & Jane Barthell

Jim & Joann Dornhecker - In Honor of Jim & Joann Dornhecker

Martha Enzmann - In Memory of Ralph & Arleen Enzmann

Andrew Faith - John Faith, Sr. & Genevieve Faith Memorials

Phyllis Karsnia - Donald St. Pierre Memorial

Al Shannon - Eva Shannon Memorial

Frank & Doreen Swendsen - Joe Swendsen Memorial

Peggy Thomas - Lee Thomas Memorial

Betty Villalta - Donald Villalta Memorial

2023 Annual Seat

Judith Baratta - Vic & Opal Mannila Memorial

Mary Graves Budak - Mike Budak Memorial

Andrew & Dru Ann Faith - John & Gen Faith Memorial

Thomas & Jarlyn Hodel - Bob Hodel, Bud Hokenson, Donna Hodel, and Jennie Hokenson Memorial

Kim C. Manley - Jean Manley Memorial

Arden McKnight - Birket Anderson, Bob Anderson, Cheryl Anderson, Craig McKnight, and Lee Anderson Memorial

Roger & Mary Weum - James R. Liebe and Judith Anna Leolich Memorial

We apologize for misspelled names and any omissions. Please contact the Backus Office at (218) 285-7225 for corrections.

Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 08, 2024
6:00 p.m.
Backus Community Center



900 Fifth Street
International Falls, Minnesota 56649
Phone: (218) 285-7225
Fax: (218) 285-7118
www.backusab.org | Facebook: BackusAB

For your safety, Backus is handicapped
accessible and equipped with
AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator)
located on the first and third floors.

MISSION STATEMENT:

*"Historic Backus Community Center,
the heart of International Falls,
where all generations celebrate arts, culture,
recreation, wellness and life-long learning"*