

GERMANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
General Membership Meeting January 4, 2026
10:00am at the Longbranch Saloon, Germania, WI

Minutes:

21 members in attendance.

Board members present :President Kim Ross, Vice President Bob Pickart, Treasurer Missy Heller, Secretary Ronda Goldsmith.

Members/Attendees: Jill Cain, Neal Cain, John Serio, Tom Gaulke, Don Heller, Marian Heller, Sue Schatzke, Jerry Ross, Mike Vosen, Diane Vosen, Nate Chambers, Miles Chambers, Kevin DeCramer, Brad Syverson, Edith Wargula, Tom Wargula, Scott Emerson.

Call to order and welcome: 10:03 a.m. President Kim Ross welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the new year.

Approve the Agenda: motion made by Jill Cain seconded by John Serio.

Missy Heller presented the treasurer's report

Beginning balance: \$47,332.56 + \$50,000 CD

Deposits: \$265.85

Deductions: \$5339.42

Checks were written for the mini split, ACEC bill for electric for the church and the school

Deposit made for the November pizza sale 2025

DeCramer's donated the interest made on the property sale

The Kuhn's made a donation to the club

Motion by Marian Heller/Jill Cain, unanimously carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Committee reports:

Raffles-Don Heller says the gun continues to raise funds at the Longbranch, he may add an ice auger to the items available to bring more attention .

November pizza sale- \$2,489.00

\$1,000 was for supplies making our total profit \$1,489.00. 250 + pizzas were made.

School projects:

Remove the updates to the outhouse and playground as they are completed.

School building updates will resume in the spring when weather allows changes to be made.

Bob Pickart will price double doors for the church entry way. Don Heller said the option of a possible donation of doors did not work out due to an incorrect size.

The club agrees that a replacement is necessary. Motion by Tom Gaulke/Sue Schatzke to replace the entry doors at whatever the cost will be. Motion carried.

Ongoing Projects- ACEC grant has been submitted for the cost of the school's mini split, more financial information was needed and provided to them prior to the January meeting.

Membership update: another member of the Dahlke family has joined

Tech/social media-nothing new to report after the pizza sale. Kim will be getting Vicky's help to update the club website.

Kevin DeCramer gave a report of history from a Princeton newspaper from 12/11/1924 regarding the mill race ditch in Germania. In 1878 A. Polander lost his team of horses in the river to drowning. 1928 a new bell was installed at the church tower which is our current bell. A prominent dentist from Ripon with ties to Germania faked his own death by drowning in Green Lake. He was later determined to be alive and well on the east coast.

- A church ceiling fan will be purchased -Bob Pickart
- Jon Syverson submitted a roof repair bid from an Amish contractor for a total cost of \$15,941. It was agreed that price seemed reasonable but more details are needed regarding this quote from Skyline construction of Coloma.
- Restroom placement at the school building was discussed.
- It was agreed that there will be no public access allowed, unless by appointment, to the big house site.

Old Business- Jill Cain brought a copy of William Tagatz obituary so that we may use the photo and information in a memorial to Bill.

Kim Ross presented a flyer with information on a memorial bench.

Missy Heller suggested a picnic area with a picnic table or bench with a plaque. This area would have a gravel base for the picnic table or bench. Edith Wargula suggested folks could go look at her parent's memorial bench which is in the Germania cemetery.

New Business: A beer/wine walk to be held in 2026 will need to have the permits applied for in July. The flower basket sale will not be held this year as 20 baskets had been donated by an outside source for the 2025 parade and affected sales.

Edith Wargula donated photo albums from her parents estate to the club.

Kevin DeCramer has names that have been found inside of school books,he submitted a list for folks to check and let him know if they are familiar. Please send any pertinent information to him.

The next meeting will be held Sunday February 1, 2026 10 am at The Longbranch saloon. Motion made by John Serio/Marian Heller to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.