

Snake River Heritage Center

2022 Newsletter

The mission of the Snake River Heritage Center is to bring together and preserve the heritage of the region, to promote the enjoyment of cultural, educational, and historical events.

Museum Board Members

Wes Higgins, President

Dottie Emert

Kaitlyn Higgins

Lynn Isaacson, Vice-President

Stephen M. Cook

Tori Arriero

Scott Manser, Treasurer

Denise Rasmussen, Scheduler

Gaileen White, Secretary

Annual Report from Our President

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of the Snake River Heritage Center. We are open because of your support. If you have not had the opportunity to visit us lately, please do, you will see new and interesting things. There are now displays and displays in progress through out all four floors, making the SRHC one of the largest and most diverse museums in the area.

New exhibits that are complete or still in progress include: the Oregon trail exhibit, the Japanese/American display, the Bridal Gown display. These and others are opening on the third floor. There is an expansion of the Native American display in the planning stages. Work is also being done on the Harper's Cabin to stabilize it with an eye to making a more interesting and complete exhibit. What the SRHC is doing as a museum in preserving the past for this and future generations to see and understand is very important and worthwhile.

But as a heritage center we are more than a museum, we provide and promote a place for cultural events, entertainment, weddings, social gatherings, dances and meetings of all kinds. Fiddle Week is an especially active time with workshops, performances, dances and museum tours.

I want to acknowledge our board members and all the work the do to keep the SRHC

moving forward. The Board accepted the resignation of Chris Hagans, Treasurer, with gratitude and sadness, as he is battling on going health problems. Our prayers and thoughts go with Chris.

We welcome our newest board member, coming on as Treasurer, Scott Manser.

A special thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who give of their time and service. Also welcome two new volunteers, Brooke and Denise Arkush.

The Snake River Heritage Center and Museum is here for the whole family to use and enjoy. We are here for the memories, for your entertainment, for your education. We look forward to seeing you.

Wesley Higgins, President

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year 2020 vs 2021

The fiscal year for the Snake River Heritage Center runs from October 1st to September 30th. Fiscal year 2021 experienced a return to more normal levels of donations and fiddle week income with a total income increase of 117%. We did not have any significant building repairs in 2021 and therefore overall expenses were down 59%.

However, utilities were up 46%, and with the current inflationary environment, we will need to monitor our utilities and act as needed to keep our utility expenses under control. We had a net loss for fiscal year 2020 of \$28, 179.45 and returned to the

positive for fiscal year 2021 with a net profit of \$21,916.48 which represents an improvement of 177%.

Fiscal YTD Review

For FYTD22 we are seeing an overall decrease in donations of 4.5% as compared to the same period last year and utilities continue to rise. We are currently seeing an increase in utilities of 17% as compared to the same period last year. Other than the increase in utilities, expenses have been kept in check. In 2022, we will be conducting a restoration project on the cabin and therefore expect our overall expenses to increase in FY 2022 as compared to FY 2021.

Treasurer Commentary

Chris Hagans has been the treasurer for the last several years and has recently resigned.

We would like to thank Chris for his dedication to SRHC and for all his hard work on the board and as treasurer. Chris will be missed! I have agreed to serve on the board as treasurer and know I have big shoes to fill and look forward to serving. The board would also like to thank all those who support SRHC, we couldn't function without you! Your time and financial support are critical to our success! Thank you!

Scott Manser, Treasurer

Happenings Around the Museum

It's been a busy time in the museum this year. We have had a lot of volunteer help with cleaning, moving artifacts for storage, rearranging some of our displays, and creating new attractions. Thanks to Kare, D'aun, Verla, Kathy, who have showed up faithfully every Wednesday, and to others who have showed up for cleaning days. For the last month two high school Juniors have come in on Saturday mornings to modify and develop the high school display in the school room. Levi and Rick came in to complete their "volunteer" school requirements and got so interested that they kept coming in! They are doing some very creative and "fun" things with our school artifacts

We have been able to keep our doors open from 9:00-5:00, Monday through Saturday by posting a phone number on the door.

Patrons call, and we go up and open up for them to come in. We are told by almost all guests how amazed they are at not only the size of our collections, but at the quality of the displays. They are captivated by the campus of this old school, and ask many questions about its origin and its preservation. Many visitors are from out of town, and also take advantage of our eating establishments and other businesses while they are in town.

As you know, our library has many boxes of paper files of businesses, local stores, family files, and other memorabilia of our local area. We have therefore been able to help several people find information on their family histories. A descendant of the Harper family was so excited about our collection on his family that he donated \$5000.00 to the museum. \$1000.00 to be used for general work in the museum and \$4000.00 to be used to help restore the Harper cabin. Through this generous donation we were able to leverage another \$4000.00 in grant monies from the Archeological Preservation Committee. We are getting started on the restoration by having the roof structure stabilized so we can begin working on bringing the interior back to its original style and furnishings.

Our Japanese Heritage room is very near completion with only a few finishing touches needed. This has been a very rewarding and satisfying project for all of us who have worked on it. Many thanks to the families who have shared their heirlooms and memories with us.

The third floor is almost completely restored from the effects of the fire of twenty-some years ago. The last room to be restored is ready for the light fixtures to go in and a

paint job on the walls. We still have all of our desk collection in there (about twenty-five of them), and we need to figure out a different place to store them when we are ready to put a display in the room. The hall and walls of the hall are ready for displays. The Oregon Trail display is up, but other than that - plenty of room for imagination and inspiration.

With the launching of the “Weiser Museum” page on Facebook we have been able to bring in more historical pictures, family stories, and artifacts. For this we have Lisa McKnight to thank. She is also digitizing and storing all the over-4000 historical photo we have collected over the years. She is working alongside our long-time photo archivist, Jeri Kleppin, who is assisted by helper, Luann Walker.

Denise and Tori have brought considerable foot traffic to the museum through their music programs. Their reports will warm your heart and surprise you with all the use we are getting out of the Old Tute. It has been a satisfying and pleasant year.

Dottie Emert, Volunteer

The auditorium has seen a lot of use this year with private studio and senior recitals. Concerts have been performed by the Weiser Youth Orchestra and the newly formed Idaho Heritage Symphony. Folks from Eastern Idaho came to put on a fiddle contest just last month. We have hosted movies complete with popcorn. The auditorium has also seen many meet-the-candidate nights and other public meetings. All these events have increased our tours of the museum floors as people are drawn into what the Snake River Heritage Center has to offer.

Improvements to the hall have been a sound equipment cabinet to the backstage and the professional tuning of our on-stage piano. With a generous donation from a long time Weiser citizen, we were also able to finish up our lighting project with 8 new lights to illuminate the front of the stage. We are so very grateful for the many people who have come together to improve the aesthetics and the functionality of our wonderful auditorium!

This year, we look forward to hosting even more events, including all those during Fiddle Festival. We will also be looking for ways to improve this wonderful space including more cabinets for backstage, refinishing the stage floor and eventually, new stage curtains.

To donate to the ongoing improvement of the auditorium or to schedule your event at the Snake River Heritage Center, please contact Denise Rasmussen at [208-550-0028](tel:208-550-0028).

Snake River Heritage Center
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We greatly appreciate all assistance that members are able to contribute. Contact us for other ways you can help SRHC in its growth and maintenance.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$300

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$25

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$75

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please mail your membership dues to
Snake River Heritage Center
P.O. Box 307
Weiser, ID. 83672
Thank you!