

Snake River Heritage Center

2023 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 Cook

Gina Applegate, Treasurer

Paul Young, Scheduler

Gaileen White, Secretary

Annual Report from Our President **Wes Higgins**

As we continue into the new year we are ever grateful for your continued support. If you haven't visited the museum recently, come see us. The volunteers are constantly improving and expanding the exhibits. With four floors of displays the SRHC is one of the largest and most diverse museums and cultural centers in the area.

I want to thank all our great volunteers and our board members for the hundreds of hours of work they do. And I want to thank you as members for your continued support and financial help. We exist not only as a museum, but as a meeting place and as a live cultural events center. The SRHC has a great auditorium for concerts and entertainment, there is room for social gatherings, meetings, weddings, dances and more. And don't forget to come by during the Bluegrass Festival and Fiddle Week.

Business and job pressures have made for changes in our board of directors. Denise Rasmussen and Scott Manser have stepped down. Their talents and willingness to serve will be missed. We welcome two new directors;

Gina Applegate as treasure and Paul Young as events scheduler.

The Snake River Heritage Center and Museum is for the whole family to use and enjoy. We are here for a glimpse into the past, for your present entertainment and education. And we plan on being here for your future and the future of the our community.

Come visit, you will not be disappointed.
Wesley Higgins, President

YEARLY REPORT

VOLUNTEERS: Without the help of our crew of volunteers, keeping house in a three-story mansion with both an attic and a basement would be a daunting task. However, every Wednesday morning at nine o'clock, armed with dust clothes, mops, vacuums, and elbow grease, a small army of volunteers shows up, and "voila!", a clean, dusted, and shiny museum emerges. They also repair broken things, create displays, file paper work, hang pictures, and create order in our store rooms. Thank you, D'Aune, Jessie, Verla, Jane, Karen, Brenda, Kathy, (our regulars) and those of you who show up for an hour or two when you can. Levi and Ricky, two members of Weiser High School's Proud Sound, used their community service requirement to dig out our old WHS band uniforms (of various vintages) and created a WHS Band display in the School room. Colorful!!

We are also blessed with volunteer Jeri Kleppin who, for many years has worked at filing, identifying,

and repairing the over 4000 photographs of local people, places, events, and happenings. Along with that she has now undertaken to save the degrading images on film, and negatives in our archives. Mrs. Walker comes in on Mondays to help Jeri. For a year Lisa McKnight has worked on scanning those 4000 photographs onto thumb drives to preserve them in case of fire or other catastrophe.

TOURS: Thanks to our new system of “You call – We come” we have been able to show people through our museum throughout the year. As a result we have entertained guests from out of town, people new to our community, curious passers-by, and occasionally groups who call ahead. Without exception they are amazed (stunned) by the quality and quantity of displays. Thank you, board, for all your hard work.

CABIN: With the matching grant we received from the Idaho Heritage Foundation we have been able to stabilize, repair, and paint the Harper Cabin. Doug Parker Construction did a wonderful job of analyzing the problems, and bringing the support structures up to code. We hope to have it furnished, and ready for visitations in the spring (thanks to those volunteers we mentioned).

DISPLAYS: With generous donations from our Nisei friends we have completed a display honoring the contributions of our Japanese Community. (Third floor, first door to the right) We have received a roll-top desk originally from the Washington Hotel, and it is being installed in our “Lawyer” room. In the basement the Court Street Cruisers have up-dated and modified their Garage Display, and added better lighting. Thanks to Plischke’s, our Rancher Room received donations from local rancher, Paul Striker – even the old military saddle his Daddy insisted he use when he was learning to ride (about age 3). Look for a big addition to our Native American Room. Not done yet, but will be shortly.

PLANS: We are hoping to create a research center so that visitors can utilize the thousands of records, family histories, photographs, historical books, etc. that we have available in our library.

**Board member, and happy little camper:
Dottie Emert**

Treasurer Report

Fiscal Year 2021 vs 2022

The fiscal year for the Snake River Heritage Center runs from October 1st to September 30th. The previous fiscal year mirrored some of the volatility existing in the current financial world overall. Revenue was down 41.22% while expenses increased 28.72%. Some of the more significant expense increases were seen in building maintenance and repairs as well as utilities. Much of the decrease in revenue was due to the fact that the previous year saw some grants awarded. We had a net positive for fiscal year 2021 with a net profit of \$21,916.48. Net profit for 2022 was \$1,779.68 which represents a negative 98%.

Fiscal YTD Review

For FYTD23 we are seeing donations similar to the previous FY; however, utilities continue to rise. We are currently seeing an increase in utilities of 30% as compared to the same period last year. Other than the increase in utilities, typical expenses have been kept in check. The restoration project on the cabin was complete using grant dollars received from the previous FY and represents much of the increase in expenses for FY 2022 compared to FY 2021.

Treasurer Commentary

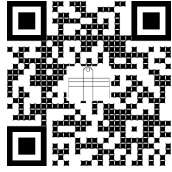
Scott Manser has been the treasurer for the last couple years and has recently resigned. We would like to thank Scott for his dedication to SRHC and for all his hard work on the board and as treasurer. Scott will be missed! I have agreed to serve on the board as treasurer and know I have big shoes to 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!

Gina Applegate, Treasurer

One of our greatest challenges is balancing the needs of maintaining a historic building and contents with the needs to stay modern and relevant. Over the last couple of years, you have already seen some definite non-historically-accurate improvements to one of our areas – the auditorium. We’ve integrated modern air conditioning, added quality stage-lighting, and installed professional sound equipment. Next in the hopper is a revamp of our website. You can

check it out while it's still under construction
here: <https://snakeriverheritagecenter.org/> (or
scan the QR code with your phone).
Stephen Cook



COMING SOON

- *Internet
- *Wi-Fi
- *Online digital archive
of our vast collection
of photographs
- *Online marketplace



Watch our Facebook page (and soon our
website) for progress reports!

*Our new Scheduler is Paul Young. If you
would like to schedule an event at the
Center, his phone number is:208-907-2893*

Snake River Heritage Center Election Ballot 2023

Please vote on the following officers/board members.

Officers serve a 2-year term. Board members serve a 3-year term.

_____ Wes Higgins, President

_____ Gina Applegate, Treasurer

_____ Gaileen White, Secretary

_____ Paul Young, Scheduler

_____ Dottie Emert, Board Member

Kindly return your ballot along with your dues no later than April 9th.

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Detach Here

#### *Snake River Heritage Center Membership Application*

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

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$300    BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$75**

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$25**

**SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER**

Home of the Intermountain Institute Museum  
2295 Paddock Avenue  
P.O. Box 307  
Weiser, Idaho 83672



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER**

*YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS WEISER'S MUSEUM*

