

**Pipestone County Historical Society  
2022 Annual Report**



The big shuffle for the new exhibits on 2nd floor.

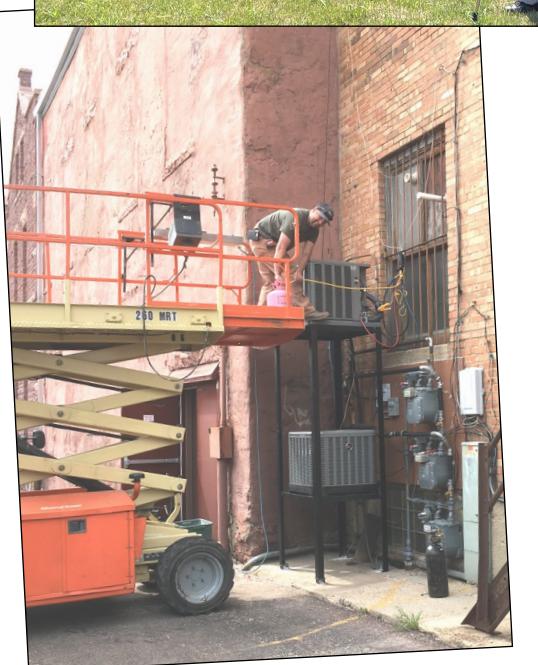


Maneuvering the Covered Wagon across the exhibit gallery for carpeting the floor.

Beautiful days at the popular Cemetery Tours.



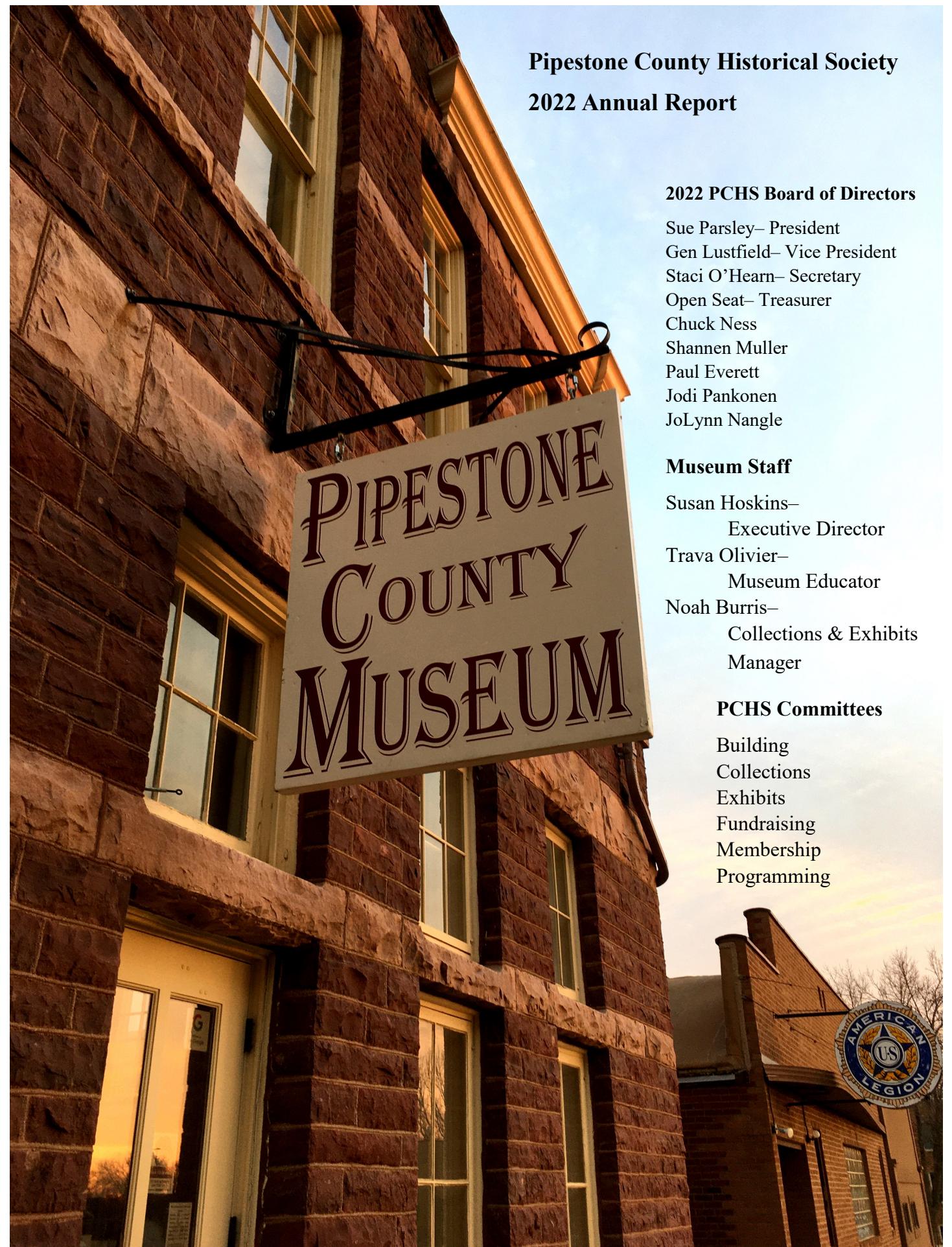
The much relied on Newsletter Crew hard at work to get your *Prairie Traveler* mailed out quarterly.



The Museum's brand-new custom-built iron air-conditioner rack in the alley.



RTR 8th Grade local history exploratory class, posing with the Ruthon Telephone Switchboard during their visit to the new *What Number Please?* telephone exhibit.



**2022 PCHS Board of Directors**

Sue Parsley– President  
Gen Lustfield– Vice President  
Staci O’Hearn– Secretary  
Open Seat– Treasurer  
Chuck Ness  
Shannen Muller  
Paul Everett  
Jodi Pankonen  
JoLynn Nangle

**Museum Staff**

Susan Hoskins–  
Executive Director  
Trava Olivier–  
Museum Educator  
Noah Burris–  
Collections & Exhibits  
Manager

**PCHS Committees**

Building  
Collections  
Exhibits  
Fundraising  
Membership  
Programming



## Pipestone County Historical Society's Mission

The object of the Society is to foster an awareness of Pipestone County's history and its connection with the history of Minnesota, the region, and nation. The Society's mission reflects the belief that the study of the past can enrich people's perspectives on the present and provide them guidance for the future.

In order to carry out this mission, the Society, through the Pipestone County Museum, will:

- **Collect and Preserve Artifacts** connected with the County's history, and the broader histories to which it relates.
- **Construct and Maintain Exhibits**, on a rotating basis, which educate our visitors on local and personal histories.
- **Maintain an Archive and Research Library**; encourage and conduct research on local and personal histories.
- **Produce Publications** relating to Society activities and local history subjects.
- **Provide Museum tours and History-Related Educational Programs** to schools, community groups, and the public throughout the region.
- **Cooperate with Others in Protecting and Preserving Buildings and Monuments** which reflect our unique community heritage.



## Work Plan

- Grow our membership! By making PCHS memberships valuable with new offerings such as members-only website options; and members-only events
  - Expand programming in both existing areas and new and exciting areas particularly in digital offerings, such as live, on-line program attendance options; more exclusive programming; and working more closely with schools
  - Look for more ways to share the history of Pipestone County by taking exhibits on the road; or creating digital exhibits
- Expand access to the collection by creating digital offerings such as recorded presentations on collections objects; or establishing a digital collections catalog
  - Continue to actively maintain and preserve 5 historic buildings with active planning in areas of structure, use, finance
- Continue following the outlaid phases of the Ferris Grand rehabilitation in order to make that building an example to the community and to have it serve the community through the Pipestone County Historical Society



## 2023 Ferris Grand Rehabilitation Project

PCHS has received a \$200,000 Minnesota Historical & Cultural Grant funded through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to go ahead with the repair of the north façade of the Ferris Grand Block. This is the first phase of a multi-phase structural repair project. We were honored to have received the highest level in the granting program. Now is the time to show community desire, community approval and community support in the amount of a \$30,000 match.

Work to be done:

- \* The stone masonry on the north side (front) will be repointed at 100%. It is possible that at the upper portions of the wall, above the second-floor windows, the stones may need to be entirely removed and reset because of the severe deterioration of the mortar.
- \* The parapet cap will be rebuilt with sheet metal coping and through wall flashing, and the existing roof membrane will be tucked under the new sheet metal flashings until we can get to the roof replacement phase in a few years.
- \* The AF&AM stone plaque (installed when the Masons moved into the building) will be patched to restore the integrity of the lettering.
- \* All the masonry will be cleaned upon completion.

PCHS is the community's caretaker for 5 historic buildings in the City of Pipestone. 4 of which are built of Sioux Quartzite. All five buildings date back to the late 1800s- over 120 years old.

PCHS Mission includes: cooperating with others in protecting and preserving buildings and monuments which reflect our unique community heritage.

It is a daunting task to pick up this responsibility. But when we go about this the right way: taking time to make long-term plans, and breaking overwhelming projects into smaller manageable pieces- where we can see our progress: With the community support it becomes manageable.

PCHS recently held a Dinner Fundraiser in the Ferris Grand's Masonic Lodge Room. All proceeds are going directly to the rehabilitation of this building.

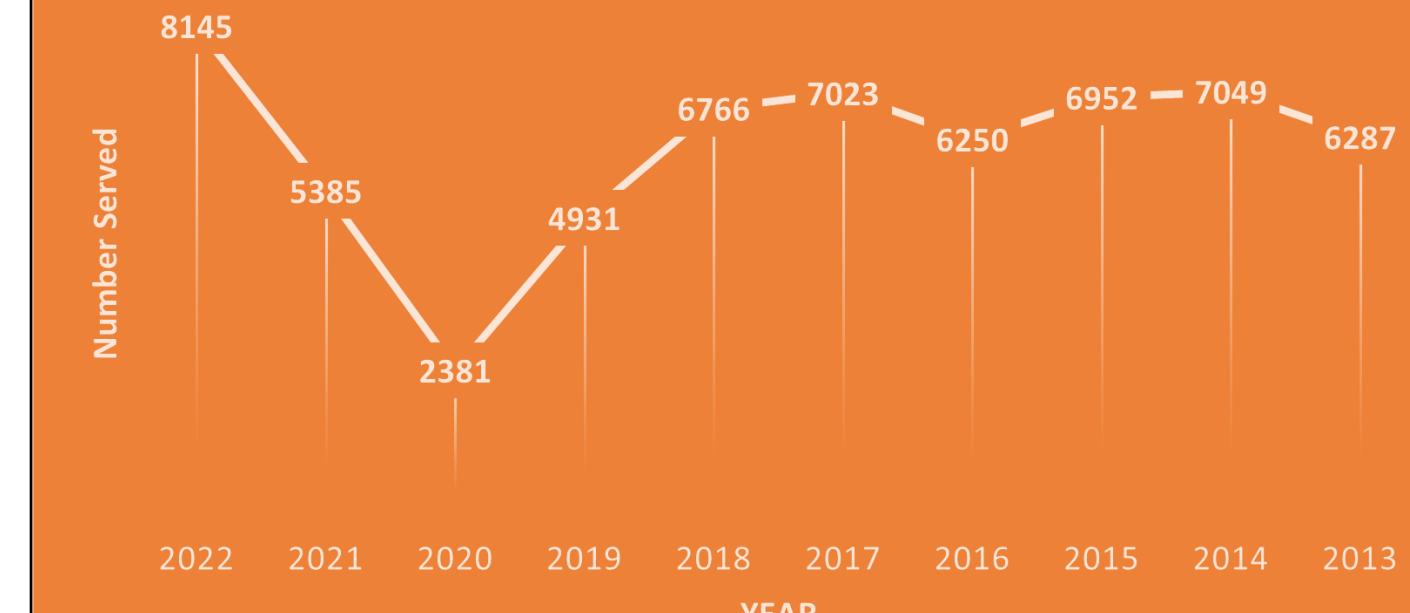
This spring PCHS plans to launch a capital campaign to support the rehabilitation work of the Ferris Grand, to help match the \$30,000 required by the \$200,000 grant. You can also look to the website this spring for more information on the project and for ways you can show your support.



### Additional Upcoming Expenses:

- **Sewer Collapse under the Ferris Grand:** At the end of January, 2023 two old toilets in the Masonic Lodge were replaced in order to save water in the flushing. It sounded like an easy, fairly inexpensive project. However there is always the unexpected. The first thing that happened was that one of the restroom sinks leaked. It was a corroded pipe, also fairly easily fixed. The second thing was that the sewer pipe was (thought to be) clogged and upon inspection it was determined that it was not clogged but actually collapsed. It was also found through camera work that several areas of the cast iron pipe were probably totally eroded. The cost to fix this, probably with a pipe liner, has not yet been determined. PCHS will apply to take part in the City of Pipestone's Sewer Assessment Program in which the City will front the cost for three years with no interest.
- **Roof Leaks on Old City Hall/Museum:** In December of 2022, during one of the many thaw/freeze/thaw cycles of a Minnesota winter, a water leak appeared in exhibit gallery III. This is under the flat roof, which is over 20 years old.. With the roof at the end of its lifespan, the board has contracted a new roof be installed. Of course that is not done with snow on the roof, so buckets and plastic have been deployed throughout the area of the leak to protect the new exhibits, new carpet, new ceiling tiles, etc. until winter releases its hold and the roofers can get here. The cost of the new roof will be \$22,900. PCHS will apply to take part in the City's Historic Property Improvement Program in which PCHS will a receive 35% grant and a 35% loan to help manage the cost.

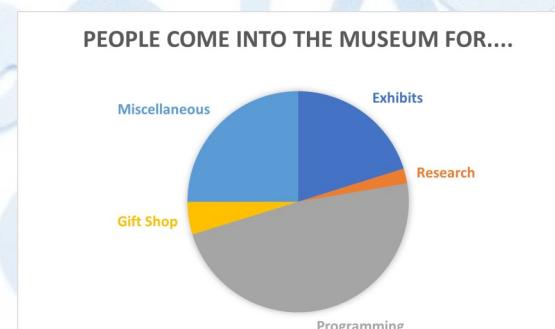
## 10 YEAR SERVICE COMPARISON



# By The Numbers

3  
New Exhibits  
opened in 2022!

People from 49 different  
countries visited the  
website!



504 Objects were offered to the  
Museum Collection.  
38% of those were accepted.

PCHS has  
**353**  
Members!

### Museum Visitor Top Five States

- Minnesota
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Nebraska

## Note from PCHS Board President Sue Parsley

Pipestone County is blessed with a wonderful gem of a Museum. I came to this conclusion as a Museum board member; I learned about museum properties, became aware of the educational opportunities available; and got to work with the board and staff. These are the areas that drew me in:

The Museum owns several historic buildings. They are the most visible part of the Museum and they are what bring many people in the door. With the ownership of historic properties comes the responsibility of maintenance. I serve on the Building Committee which works on keeping things fixed, working with contractors, looking at what we can afford to do, and thinking outside the box.

There are impressive educational opportunities offered by our Museum. Stopping by the main building is well worth the trip to see interesting artifacts and exhibits, hands-on activities, and the gift shop. There are a lot of neat offerings outside the Museum walls. This past year they included rural cemetery tours, presentations at senior housing and schools, and activities at the historic schoolhouse. A Commercial Historic District Tour is obtainable using the Pocket Sights App on a cell phone. History in a Box kits are available to be checked out and used at home.

Serving on the Museum Board and Building Committee has been well worth my time, and a lot of fun. I do appreciate what we have in Pipestone County, and the Pipestone County Museum is an important part of that.



## Note from Executive Director Susan Hoskins



We have great momentum going into 2023! Much thanks to the PCHS Board for their vision and action. By organizing several working Committees, we have been able to focus our efforts and get things done. The renovation of the Museum's second floor exhibit gallery in 2022 was one such vision the board and the membership could get behind and the results were beyond expectations. The addition to the project of upgrading all the Museum's lighting to LED was a great move that will save on electrical expenses in the future.

In 2023 we continue that vision with a renovation of the Museum's first floor exhibit galleries. A milestone is passed as we embark on the construction phase of the Ferris Grand rehabilitation. It is only with the backing of the membership and the community's support that these projects will be realized.

# Facilities



District #3 Country School at Moore Park: Built 1880



Moore Block: Downtown Pipestone: Built 1889



Ferris Grand Block/ Masonic Hall: Downtown Pipestone, Built 1899



Old City Hall– Headquarters Pipestone County Museum: Downtown Pipestone: Built 1896

PCHS maintains five historic buildings, all located within the City of Pipestone. Maintenance is ongoing and something that is planned for financially. Many capital improvements were realized in 2022.

In 2022 the exterior trim of Old City Hall was painted. It cost \$11,974, but we were able to take advantage of the City's Historic Property Improvement Program, which paid for 30%. The lighting was upgraded to LED at a cost of \$10,732. One of four AC units was replaced and an iron shelf built to stack the units in the alley was built, at a cost of \$4,191.

In 2022 the main entrance doors to the PPAC Lobby in the "L" building were replaced. The cost was split between PCHS and the Pipestone Performing Arts Center.

In the Ferris Grand, a long-time leak was finally identified as a crack in a cast iron pipe draining the HVAC system, and was repaired.

In 2022 PCHS awarded \$200,000 in a Legacy Grant to begin the construction phase on the Ferris Grand Project. This work will take place in 2023, the first phase being the repointing of the north elevation, and possible rebuild of the wall above the second floor windows.

Recently, during replacement of toilets in the Ferris Grand, it was discovered that there had been a sewer pipe collapse underneath the building. Options are to remove/replace cement flooring across the building to replace the cast iron pipe with PVC, or to have the piping lined. Either option is expensive but necessary.

# Exhibits



*What Number, Please?* in Gallery III, opened April 2022



*Appeal of the Appliance* in Gallery III, opened June 2022

2022 was a busy year for exhibits at the Museum. Three new exhibits were opened in the newly renovated gallery space on the second floor. *"What Number Please?"* sponsored by Woodstock Communications, expanded the previous small telephone exhibit and opened in April. *"The Appeal of Appliances,"* sponsored by Hank's Foods, includes numerous appliances from vacuum cleaners and stoves to irons from the Museum's collection. *"Homesteading,"* sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions, New Horizon Farms, and O'Neill, O'Neill, & Barduson Attorneys at Law, includes the replica wagon and claim shanty and focuses on the land aspect of homesteading. Both of these exhibits opened in June.

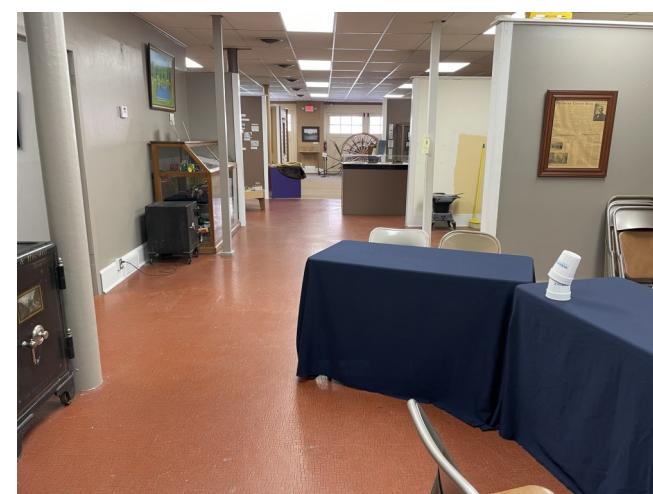
Pursuing sponsors for the exhibits allowed us to enhance the way we create the exhibits. First, we were able to have panels designed and printed by an outside company. This allowed us to be more creative with the looks of the exhibit text and have more durable panels as well. A new focus for exhibits is to include interactive features that allow people to experience and learn history in different ways including hands-on and through sound. The three new exhibits all have at least one interactive feature and that will be continued with future exhibits.

The plans for 2023 include the renovation of the first-floor exhibit space which included moving archive and storage areas to create more public space. First-floor exhibits will be redesigned, and new exhibits will be installed. The exhibit galleries will then have a more unified look and better flow. Plans have also been made to use the television in the programming space to offer videos of second-floor exhibits and slide-shows, along with other content.

*The first-floor public space will be completely reimagined. A functional-sized programming space will be created, along with reimagined exhibits around the fire department and railroad. Additional exhibit space will also be developed.*



*Homesteading* exhibit in Gallery III, opened June 2022



## Members & Memberships

The Pipestone County Historical Society [PCHS] has been a membership organization since 1880 when it was organized as 'the Old Settlers' Society.' That name was dropped sometime in the 20th Century, when the membership opted for the more inclusive place name. Currently, members of PCHS receive the benefits of a quarterly newsletter; free admission to the Museum for themselves and guests; discounts on research, copies, photo reprints & some programming events. As of now, PCHS serves 353 members: 218 annual members, 41 business members, and 94 life members.



Membership income as a line-item in the budget, supported the Pipestone County Museum with \$18,132 in 2022, which is about 13% of the total budget.

PCHS works for its members. The organization exists for its members— present and future. The objects the Society holds, are in trust for its members— present and future. The research done by staff and volunteers, the exhibits built, the programs presented, all done for the membership.

The membership dues were last updated in 2012, when

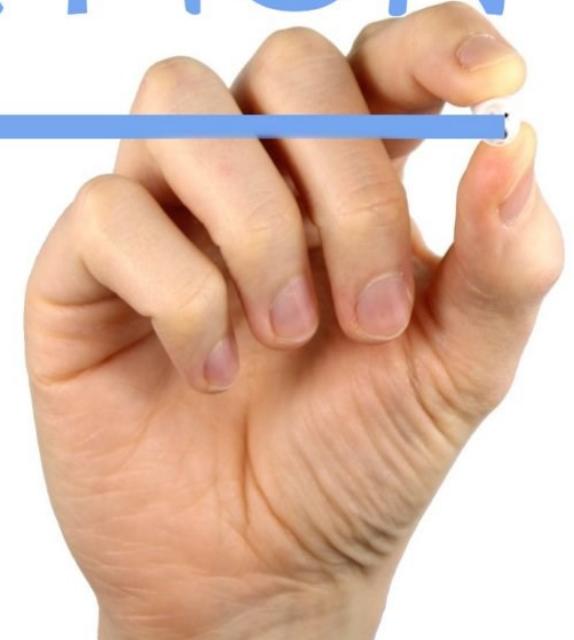
life memberships were eliminated (although still honored), and the current sliding scale was established. The sliding scale of membership categories was established to allow members to support PCHS at a level they were comfortable with. Membership support is important and allows PCHS to meet its mission in many areas. Whether one can join at the Friend level or the Century level, or higher— your support is meaningful to PCHS.

52.3% of PCHS members reside in Pipestone County, 17.7% reside in greater Minnesota and 30% live out of state. It is recognized that a great number of members are not able to physically support the Society at events or programs, or with museum visits. But they are interested and invested and deserve to be served as well.

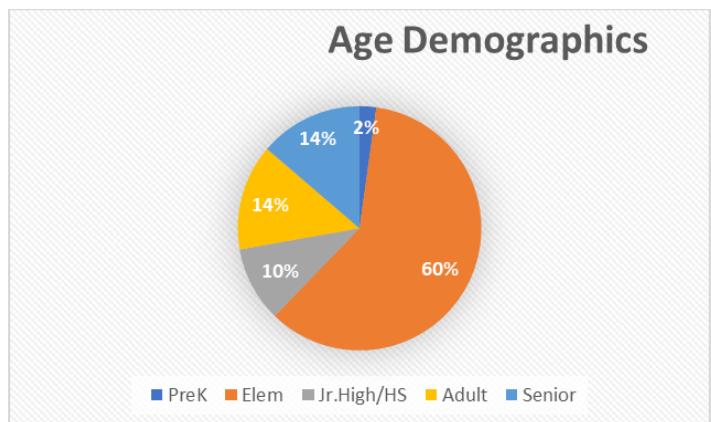
Staff, board and volunteers recognize the value of serving the 48% of PCHS membership that does not live in the community. One answer to this dilemma was a new YouTube channel, in which speaker presentations are posted digitally for a wider audience. Social media presence has been grown and the website expanded. Also in the works are short digital presentations on artifacts and research tidbits.



# EDUCATION



During 2022, the Education Department provided in-person services to 4,032 individuals. These services encompassed five different age groups as represented in the pie chart.



The largest number of services provided for youth included school tours and summer programming at the District #3 Schoolhouse. School tours allowed staff to

provide multiple educational experiences to many children in a short amount of time. When schools bring their students to the museum, the students are divided into small groups and rotated between two or three learning stations. Other ways we served youth included visits to classrooms.

Adult programming included walking tours such as

staff-led cemetery tours, downtown historical district walking tours, and guided tours of our facilities. In addition to tours, we also offered hands-on workshops. One example would be the series of Family History Workshops we offered at three different times in three different locations in 2022. The final form of programming provided for adults included speaker presentations.

In addition to the in-person services our digital presence continued to grow. There were 3,956 visits to our website, just seventy-six visits less than the total number of patrons we served in person. Of those visits to the website, 2,429 viewed at least one educational slide show or research article posted on the site. In August of 2021 we launched a YouTube channel for the Pipestone County Museum. At the end of December 2022 there were 17 videos posted to the channel that had received 1,041 total views.

Goals for the education department in 2023 include hosting a greater number of guest speakers that cover topics we believe will appeal to our varied audiences and finding ways to increase our outreach to middle and high school aged learners. We will also continue to seek ways to provide historical education opportunities throughout the entire county.



Volunteers helped to move the Textile Collection from the 2nd floor Museum to the 3rd floor Ferris Grand.



Volunteers helped to move the secured Archives from the 1st floor Museum to the 2nd floor Museum.



Volunteers helped to move the Bound Newspaper Collection from the 1st floor Museum to the 2nd floor Museum.

The 2022 Collections Committee pictured: Mary Schroer, Mary Schwebach, Chuck Ness. Not pictured Rosemarie Loose, Deb Brockberg and Lorraine Draper.

*Lorraine Draper will be deeply missed. All memorials PCHS received in her name purchased archival appropriate shelving to house the Society's bound newspaper collection.*

# Collections

The Collections Committee held its six regular meetings to decide whether to accept items into the collection. There were 64 donors this year. The committee reviewed 504 items this past year. They accepted 190 items into the collection. Some notable items accepted were a program from the 1960 state basketball program and a 1961 state basketball pennant, both years Edgerton High School competed in the state tournament, local Boy Scout clothing and patches, and a Pipestone County Dairy Princess dress.

The Collections Committee now also meets every month of the year. There are the same six meetings every other month to review items for the collection. In the other months, the committee meets and discusses collections procedures, policy, storage, etc. This has been beneficial to talk about all aspects of the collections process from reviewing items to proper storage and conservation.

Storage areas were moved and rearranged. The textile storage located in the second floor office was moved to the Ferris Grand Attic. The archive storage on the first floor of the Museum was moved to the second floor office. We had great help from multiple different volunteers moving the large number of boxes and items. The move of the archive also led to getting new appropriate shelving to house the bound newspaper collection. Work will continue organizing, researching, and cataloging the collection. We are also working towards upgrading more of the storage shelves and purchasing lockers for proper clothing storage.

Ongoing projects include researching to find out more about items already in the collection and improving our digital records. The research has included looking for information about the history of the item itself or the company that produced it, as well as information about the original owner of the item. We continue to work towards having 100 percent of the collection entered into our database software PastPerfect.

