



**LAHS ELECTION SLATE OF  
CANDIDATES PRESENTED ON  
SEPTEMBER 22 – GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7PM.**

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439  
630-257-2972 [lemontahs@gmail.com](mailto:lemontahs@gmail.com)  
[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER  
SEPT 19: LEMONT STREET FAIR –  
10AM-4PM.

SEPTEMBER 22: GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEET 7PM

OCTOBER 27: FRIGHT NITE  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM.

PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT 7PM.

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>: CHRISTMAS  
CHORAL & COOKIE FEST DOORS  
OPEN AT 1:30PM



## SEPTEMBER 19 LEMONT STREET FAIR

**We are asking for volunteers for this special major fundraiser. Two hour shifts Bakery items also needed. Vendors needed - \$25 non-refundable fee.**

I think most of us look forward to this special outdoor activity, which does happen rain or shine.

We will have all the favorites like a museum tour, delicious refreshments and bakery items for sale, our special clown to entertain the children young and old, games, entertainment, split the pot raffle. The Holy Cross HM Marimba Band Ensemble entertaining. Pumpkins and honey was sale. All wrapped up in one special, awesome day – now who could ask for more.



## FRIGHT NITE- OCTOBER 27 DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM – PERFORMANCES AT 7PM

**WRITE A SCARY GHOST STORY- (See Pres. Letter for more info)  
ADMISSION CHARGE**

**The ghouls, goblins and ghosts are really getting excited as they know their special haunting nite is fast approaching. What tricks do they have up their invisible sleeves? – Oh, I shudder to think what will happen when the lights go out and it is deadly quiet. Will Mr. Bill Mum whisk you away to ?**

**New Amendment Proposed by Life Member Gail August at the March 24, 2015 General Membership Meeting concerning required number of members needed for quorum at a LAHS General Membership Meeting. Will be voted on at September 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership Meeting**

March 24, 2015

To: Secretary, Lemont Area Historical Society

From: Gail August, Life Member

Proposed Amendment to LAHS By-laws; notice to be given to the membership at the March meeting and published in the May newsletter; to be voted on at the next general membership meeting.

Reason for amendment: To allow decisions which need to be voted upon by the membership to be completed. There have been too many meetings in the past few years where there was not a quorum of 10 and thus necessary decisions could not be completed and were postponed to the next general meeting and in some cases to even the following meeting. This amendment would allow timely decisions and ensures that meetings where the nominating committee selection and elections are scheduled for a vote by the general membership would be completed and not postponed because of the lack of a specific number of people present to create a quorum.

Proposed amendment - Article IV- Membership; Sect. 5-Meetings; Part D- Quorum

New Wording: “Any number of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum”

Current Wording: “10 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum”  
If passed this amendment would be effective at the start of the next general membership meeting after passage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail August

LEMONT STREET FAIR 2014



***President's Message .Best Regards, Sue***



Dear Members,

Hope all of you are doing well and enjoying what is left of our summer!

We are very grateful to the late Mrs. Ellen Kucera for remembering us with a bequest of \$10,000. Although we were given a heads up about the bequest we were not told the amount. I was hoping for a few hundred dollars, so it was quite a surprise to receive this large amount! With a new roof, boiler, interior and exterior painting in our future, it is very much appreciated and will be put to good use to preserve our beautiful piece of history.

I am sorry that more of you were not able to attend the Architectural Boat Tour in July. It was a perfect evening to be out in the middle of Chicago's beautiful skyline!

We are calling all artists, antique and collectible dealers, crafters and anyone else that might be interested to participate in our Street Fair on Saturday, September 19th from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you know anyone that is interested please have them contact Susan at the Museum at 630-257-2972,

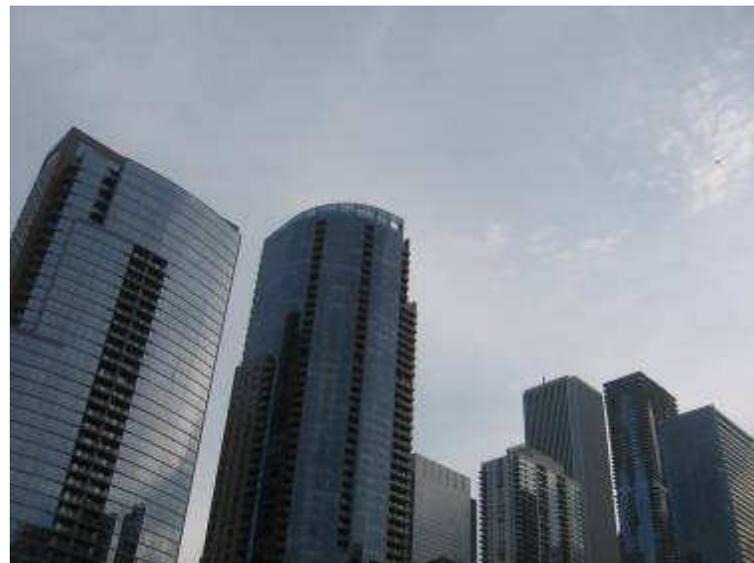
or they contact me at [smokeyrow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smokeyrow@sbcglobal.net) or 630-888-5259. Last minute vendors are welcome! We hope that you and your families will be able to come out and enjoy the festivities. It is always a very pleasant event.

Fright Night at the Old Stone Church will also be upon us before we know it. Again, we will be sponsoring our Scariest Story Ever Contest. We are inviting you to sharpen your pencils and write a scary story centered on some aspect of Lemont History. We have an adult category and a student category. The first place winners will receive a \$25 cash prize and the opportunity to scare the wits out of you by reading their scary story at Fright Night. The deadline for stories will be October 15.

The Board and I wish you all a great autumn and hope to see you at the Street Fair!

Best regards, Sue

**Architectural Boat Cruise**





## ***Genealogy & The “New Deal” part II by Barb Bannon***

The back-to-work movement of the 1930's, initiated by President Herbert Hoover's efforts to meet the needs of the unemployed helped very few people. When Franklin Roosevelt became president the government instituted programs to put the unemployed to work. Projects like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work in state and national parks were the first to impact unemployment. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), which provided work constructing roads and buildings, was next to be initiated.

The WPA was not without criticism for being lazy. My Aunt remembers it being said that the organization's initials stood for “We Putter Around” or “We Poke Along”. This was a sarcastic reference to projects being slowed down intentionally because foremen had an incentive to keep going and not finish a project. A separate division was then formed to investigate complaints. Federally funded art projects were also part of the government program to help the unemployed. George Biddle, one of Roosevelt's former classmates felt that artists needed work also and suggested that art should be placed where people would see it who had little chance to visit museums and galleries.

Many federal buildings, primarily post offices, that were built during the Depression were awarded art projects. The Lemont post office, constructed in 1937 with federal Treasury Department funds, is home to the mural by Charles Turzak completed in 1938. We are lucky in Illinois that the art in seventy of these buildings still exists and is available for viewing. Others in the area a Downers Grove, Elmhurst & Naperville. Most of the WPA art was done

in large cities, so places like Lemont were fortunate to receive art awards. The majority of the art was oil on canvas, so that even murals were usually done in a studio and transported to the site by the artist for installation.

While the WPA employed millions of people from 1935 to 1943 for building roads, bridges fairgrounds and airports, humanities projects were also part of the WPA, hiring photographers, artists, and writers. Workers compiled what became known as the Works Project Administration Historical Records Survey; this project for genealogists is especially important. It created many inventories and records which have benefited the entire family history research community. The most useful information for research includes cemetery burial listings, indexes of naturalization records & newspapers and development of the sound-ex code for the Federal census. Also inventories of county courthouse records, church records and historical narratives of slaves, immigrants and native Americans as part of the American Folklore Project.

Persons researching their family history, without knowing it, have probably used records saved by this records survey. The WPA work in this area produced a legacy of information that would have otherwise been neglected or lost forever.



### **Connecting Branches**

The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following family names being researched:

**David Wasela – researching the Wasela family**

**Connecting Branches (contin)**

**Joan Engelhardt – researching Kromryk & Wojtecki families**

If you are doing research and would like to contact these or other genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to [lemontahs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lemontahs@sbcglobal.net)

**Clarification of information in our last newsletter:**

The records of the three CCC camps here were identified as Lamont and used our Postal address and RR Depot.

Agency ID: County Parks-11, Company #1673, established 2/7/1938, mostly veterans, 5 mi S West of town.

Agency ID: State Parks-55, Company #1675, established 2/7/1938, mostly veterans, 5 mi S West of town.

Agency ID: Dept of State Parks-11, Company #2611, established 8/22/1934.

The following camp has often been identified as Lamont in some records:

Agency ID: State Parks=2, Company#631, established 6/19/1933, Using Romao Postal Address and Lockport RR Depot.

**PAPERWORK:**



**WPA DOCUMENTS**

**ARCHITECTURAL BOAT CRUISE**





*By Susan Donahue*

**WELCOME:**

We wish to welcome new members David & Joyce Walesa and Audrey Romo to our membership list. We are always happy when people become new members or renew as Mary Boza/Oberhart did.

**TOURS:**

We are pleased to announce that we have had several tours come into the museum recently including children from Learning Experience and Lemont Champions, who did both the museum and downtown walking tour.

Community Christian Church members thanks to Rick Homerding, Board Member, decided to see what the LAHS and the museum are all about and we were pleased that they wished to know more about their community as did the Police Citizens Academy members. Many are new comers, but some just had thought to come in but never got around to it and finally there was this opportunity.

Know there is no one happier than our Tour Coordinator, Gail August, so if you see an extra wide grin on her face you now know what might be causing it.

**OLD SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL**

I know several people have asked me about the status of Old Saint Patrick School. We are still trying very hard to come up with a solution to save old St. Patrick School from the wrecking ball.

If you have any ideas or contacts that you feel might be able to help us we would be very grateful. This time out is only temporary and we need to find a positive solution that will save the old school building and also made it a productive and useful structure for the community.

**ARCHITECTURAL BOAT CRUISE**



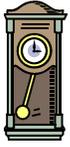
**TOURS MUSEUM/DOWNTOWN**



**LEMONT POLICE CITIZEN ACAD. MEMBERS**



## COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH MEMBERS



### STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

#### **KEEPTAW DAYS -2015**

It might have been that you totally missed the parade on September 6<sup>th</sup> this year, but we who grew up with it as a mainstay are very grateful that a group of concerned citizens led by the Lemont Fire Dept came up with enough money to again have a parade. **Project Lemont** was successful! We at the LAHS – thanks to Gary White who drove his 1931 Model A – got to again feel the thrill of riding in the parade. The people lining the street seemed genuinely pleased to be there. A tradition brought back by popular demand.

#### **Gary White & Car**



**Now a step back to the Joliet Herald article of 8/23/1972 – Do any of you remember this?**

#### **Carnival to be Downtown Lemont:**

By “mutual agreement” by Lemont Village Board and the Lemont Jaycees, the Keepataw Days Carnival will be held on Main Street again this year instead of a proposed new site adjoining the canal on Stephen St.

The Jaycees agreed to drop their plans for using the new site at a special meeting Wednesday when Village Board members objected “that there are too many unanswered questions” about the canal site. Trustee Eugene Latz suggested that the Jaycees back away from the move this year

and form a committee with the Village Board to look for new sites for next years Keepataw Days.”

“The problem is we have is that this change in location was decided July 30 without any prior discussion with members of the Village Board,” Latz said. “It gives us too short a time to make a decision. There are problems of liability, of transporting people by car or foot across the bridge. There are too many things we feel might be dangerous about the new site.”

The Village owns a 99 year lease from the Metropolitan Sanitary Dist. On the land in question, between the two Stephen St. bridges and west of the street itself. In order for the Jaycees to hold the carnival there, the Village would have to appeal to the Metropolitan Sanitary Dist. Board in their name.

“This is where I am concerned, said Trustee George Brackin, “The Village has to give it’s consent to this because we hold the lease.”

Brackin pointed out “that the bridge over the canal is so narrow that it takes maximum alertness for motorists to cross it by daylight let alone at night with a lot of extra cars and pedestrian traffic. You have to admit you’ve got a very bad situation there for masses of people and cars.”

Ron Walters, Jaycee Member, said, The Jaycees felt they had to move the carnival off Main Street because of pressures from businessmen, citizens, the Village Board and the Fire Dept.”

Mayor John Weber said, “As a long time Village Board member he had suggested taking the carnival out of town, but I never suggested holding it on the canal.”

Trustee Latz offered his assistance to the Jaycees in planning this year’s and future Keepataw Days. The Jaycees had been running the event for five years.

At a request from the Jaycees, the Village Board agreed to prohibit parking on Main St. after 9pm. on Friday, Sept 1, to allow the Jaycees to set up the carnival. The carnival will be held for only 3 days now, instead of four, at the following times: Sat, Sept 2, 6-

11pm; Sun, Sept 3, and Mon, Sept 4, from  
1-11pm.

**Lemont Area Historical Society**

*In the Old Stone Church at*  
306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439  
630-257-2972  
www.lemonthistorical.org

**Museum Hours**

10 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Friday  
10 am to 1 pm Saturday  
1 to 4 pm Sunday

**Library Committee**

Wednesday: Visits by appointment only.

**The main floor of the museum is  
available for weddings, meetings,  
and events.**

**Board of Directors**

President Susan Roy  
1st Vice President Rose Yates  
2nd Vice President Richard Lee  
Secretary Susan Donahue  
Treasurer Gary Roy

**Board Members**

Barbara Bannon ,Toni Blaeser, Patricia Camalliere,  
Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman,  
John Quinn,Wm. Uznanski

**Committees:**

**Strategic Planning:** Gary Roy, Susan Roy

**Resource Center:** Carol Garibay  
Collections, Library, Genealogy,  
Oral Histories, Photographs

**Community Outreach:** Rose Yates  
Publicity, Historic Sites

**Human & Financial Resources**

Fund Raising- Richard Homerding, Grant Writing

**Exhibits:** Richard Lee

**Program:** Gary Roy, Susan Roy

**Tours:** Gail August

**Membership:** Susan Donahue

**Wedding Committee:** Carol Garibay, Susan  
Donahue

**Building & Maintenance:** Bill Uznanski, Richard  
Lee, Richard Homerding

**Web Master:** Paul Froehle

**Society members are encouraged to  
participate in Committees and Subcommittees**

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS  
VILLAGE OF LEMONT  
LEMONT TOWNSHIP  
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

**Lemont Area Historical Society Membership**

**Student: \$10.00** \_\_\_\_  
**Senior Citizen:\$15.00** -----  
**Individual: \$20.00** -----  
**Family: \$30.00** -----  
**Corporate:\$50.00** -----  
**Life Member:\$200**-----  
**Old Quarry Club:\$250.00** -----  
**Friends of Keepataw:500.00** -----  
**Athens Marble Club:\$1,000.00** ----  
**Additional Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: LAHS 306 Lemont Street  
Lemont, IL 60439**

The Cornerstone newsletter of the Lemont Area Historical Society, a not for profit organization as set forth by the provisions of the State of Illinois. *Cornerstone* is published six times a year with a circulation of 200 issues. Offices for Cornerstone are located at 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439. The editor may be contacted by writing to the Lemont Area Historical Society, 306 Lemont St, Lemont, IL 60439, or leaving a message at the museum at 630-257-2972. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style and/or refuse if not in the interests of our organization. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials see the membership application.