

La Crosse County Historical Society

Annual Report 2018



Photo by Phil S. Addis

*La Crosse County Historical Society discovers, collects, preserves, and shares the history of
La Crosse County, Wisconsin.*

A MESSAGE FROM LCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CURATOR, PEGGY DERRICK

LCHS programming tells the story of the Coulee Region. Our stories connect people to others who lived here before us; we bring their stories to life through reenactments, exhibitions, newspaper columns, presentations, and guided tours. We connect people today with our region's past.

At LCHS we are proud to say that our goal is to preserve everyone's history, from the original people of the region to the most recent immigrants. We are striving to fill gaps in the narrative and to make all residents of La Crosse County feel that *their* stories matter.

2017 has been a year in which we consolidated improvements to existing programs, such as Hixon House tours and Collections management.

We also added an important new element to Collections: our database of artifacts has gone online! Thanks to a major grant from the La Crosse Community Foundation we were able to hire Amy Vach as a Collections Manager to begin creating an online version. The expanding online database contains photographs, and relevant historic and biographic information that is readily available to students, researchers, and the public.

I am presently writing grants requesting funding for other exciting new programming. We have no lack of ideas, plans, and dreams for the future. That's why my biggest goal at present is capacity building, so that LCHS will be ready to successfully manage the destination museum that is ultimately envisioned and planned for by the New Museum Task Force.

2017—THE NUMBERS

284 Memberships

Over 4,000 Visitors to Historic Hixon House

Over 2,000 Visitors to Riverside Museum

6 Collections Interns

Over 3,500 Artifacts were Cataloged

Over 1,500 Visitors to Online Collections Database

More than 100 Volunteers throughout the year contributed over 1300 hours to LCHS programming

New Bridge + Downtown
LACROSSE WIS

A MESSAGE FROM LCHS BOARD PRESIDENT, CANDACE BROWN

Thank you again for supporting the La Crosse County Historical Society. It has been another eventful year in which we have continued to fulfill our mission to preserve and share the history of La Crosse County. We have some exciting projects in the works.

“Juxtapose” will feature women’s clothing from our artifact collection dating from the 1850s to the 1970s. These clothes will be fitted to mannequins and then photographed in the present day locations where their original owners lived or did business. In June of 2019 the project will culminate in an exhibition of the dresses and photographs. Jeff Stolz, professor of costume design at Viterbo University, is guest curator for this exhibit.

LCHS has hundreds of snapshots documenting the early years of Hmong resettlement in La Crosse, donated by the estate of Betty Weeth. This collection will be the basis for a project we are calling “Living Hmong Life in La Crosse.” The initial phase will be a community-curated website where people can see the photos and add any information they have about the people and events portrayed. All this research will then become the basis for an exhibition on the same subject.

Thanks to our staff, interns, and volunteers, you can now not only view thousands of items in our artifact collection on our website, but you can actually view some of them in 3D. We are especially grateful to the La Crosse Community Foundation for a grant funding the position of Collections Manager, with the explicit purpose of making it possible to explore our collections online.

These are just some of the new things going on. We have also been involved with the Mayor’s New Museum Task Force. I last gave an update before the committee had its initial meeting. We have now met a few times with the entire task force and also with the representatives from City Planning. The Task Force has toured the West Ave building in May and met at Riverside Museum in June. They are making good progress in developing a shared vision for a new La Crosse museum. This research process is scheduled to take two years. LCHS is dedicated to spending that time maintaining our current level of programming and working hard to grow our capacity so that we will be ready to assume the responsibility of a larger museum.

We are losing four hardworking board members as this term ends. These members have all served on the Executive Committee as well as countless other volunteer tasks. Collectively, they have given tours at Hixon House and Silent City, cooked hot dogs at the Ice Cream Social, worked in the Collections, prepared budgets, taken minutes, created policy, and physically helped move artifacts from one building to another, all in between countless meetings. I thank them all. We would not be here today without the help of these and other former board members. I hope they will all continue to participate in our programming and events and also help carry artifacts into another new museum someday soon. Thank you, Toni Asher, Donna Finn, Lynn Harlan, and Paul Beck.

LCHS PROTECTS FAMILY LEGACY



Photo by Phil S. Addis

The War Eagle collection at Riverside Museum is a great example of LCHS’s ability to “bring history to life.” My father, Dennis Brandt, was one of the main divers who brought up objects from the wreck of the War Eagle at the bottom of the Black River. Over the course of 10 years, he dedicated 300 hours to retrieving these 650+ items. Growing up, I was able to see the collection on a daily basis, as it was displayed in our basement. When the opportunity presented itself he lent his collection to LCHS for display at Riverside Museum: he knew the importance of sharing these pieces of our local history with the community. Prior to his passing in 2012, my father donated the collection to the Historical Society so that these treasures could forever remain under the close watch and care of people that appreciated the value of the history as much as he did. LCHS shares his dedication in making sure these treasures are no longer buried. I am proud to be able to honor his memory by serving on the LCHS Board of Directors and help preserve and share the La Crosse history he cared so much about.

Angela Erdenberger-LCHS Board of Directors-Treasurer

WHY I SUPPORT LCHS

My family is deeply rooted in La Crosse, going back to the arrival in 1856 of Gideon Cooley Hixon and his wife, Sarah Crosby Hixon. When one seeks their path in life, one reaches to the legacy of where they came from. For me, that goes back to my great-grandfather, Frank P. Hixon, Gideon's oldest son.

While I did not grow up in La Crosse, I had the great fortune of coming to La Crosse on many different occasions with my great-grandmother, who still owned the Hixon House. There I learned about Gideon, Ellen (Gideon's second wife and mother of their five sons), Frank and his four brothers and their families. Each in their own way made a mark on La Crosse that continues to this day. I feel that it is important for me to ensure that their legacy continues and is remembered by the community that they all embraced and loved.

Even though I have never lived in La Crosse, this is where I feel I am from and it is where my roots are. It is an honor to be part of the Board at LCHS, and it is important for me to be connected here. The La Crosse County Historical Society provides that opportunity for me, whether it be with the Hixon House or other aspects of life in La Crosse at the Oak Grove Cemetery, Granddads Bluff, or many other places. I will always support the LCHS as it is important to maintain the institution and all that it does for La Crosse that keeps the history of this great community as strong as possible.

Fred Hixon Glore-LCHS Board of Directors



LCHS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Tim Kabat– Mayor of La Crosse

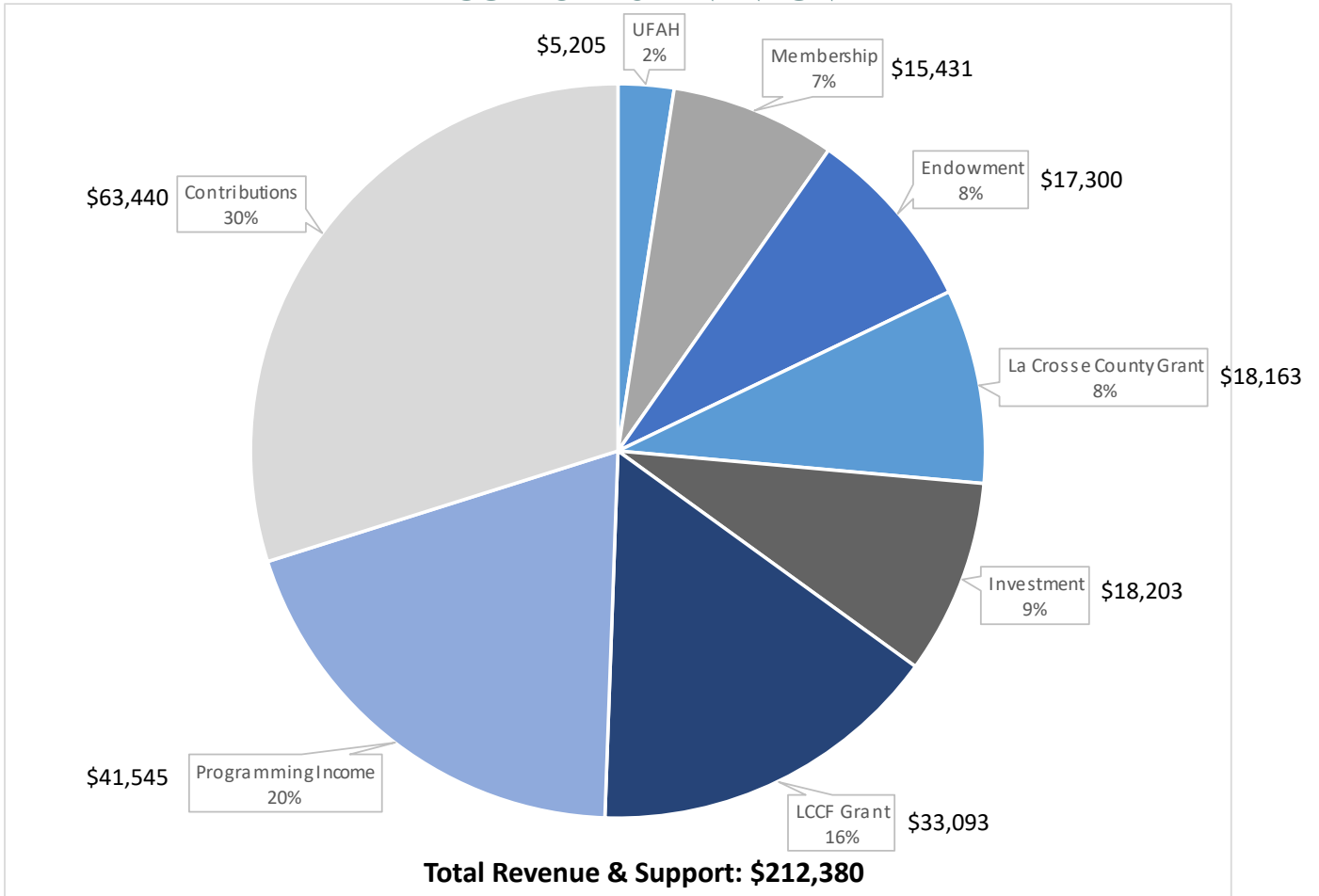
La Crosse enjoys an abundant and fascinating history, from our native people's original labors and love of our beautiful natural resources, to the founding of our city on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River and our current residents. We have worked to honor this legacy and to dedicate our community's revitalization with our history as the foundation. The La Crosse County Historical Society has helped lead this effort, with enriching and educational collections and museum pieces, thought-provoking programs and services, and a collaborative spirit that seeks to include everyone's voice in our community's traditions.

Rusty Cunningham- Executive Editor, La Crosse Tribune

It's so important that our community values its rich heritage, and the La Crosse County Historical Society helps us find so many things to celebrate. That's why the La Crosse Tribune enjoys sharing the Historical Society's contributions of "Things That Matter" with our readers each Saturday. This feature looks back at all sorts of things that tell the story of our history – the serious, the quirky and the everyday things. The Historical Society enriches our community and brings our heritage to life.

2017-FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENSES

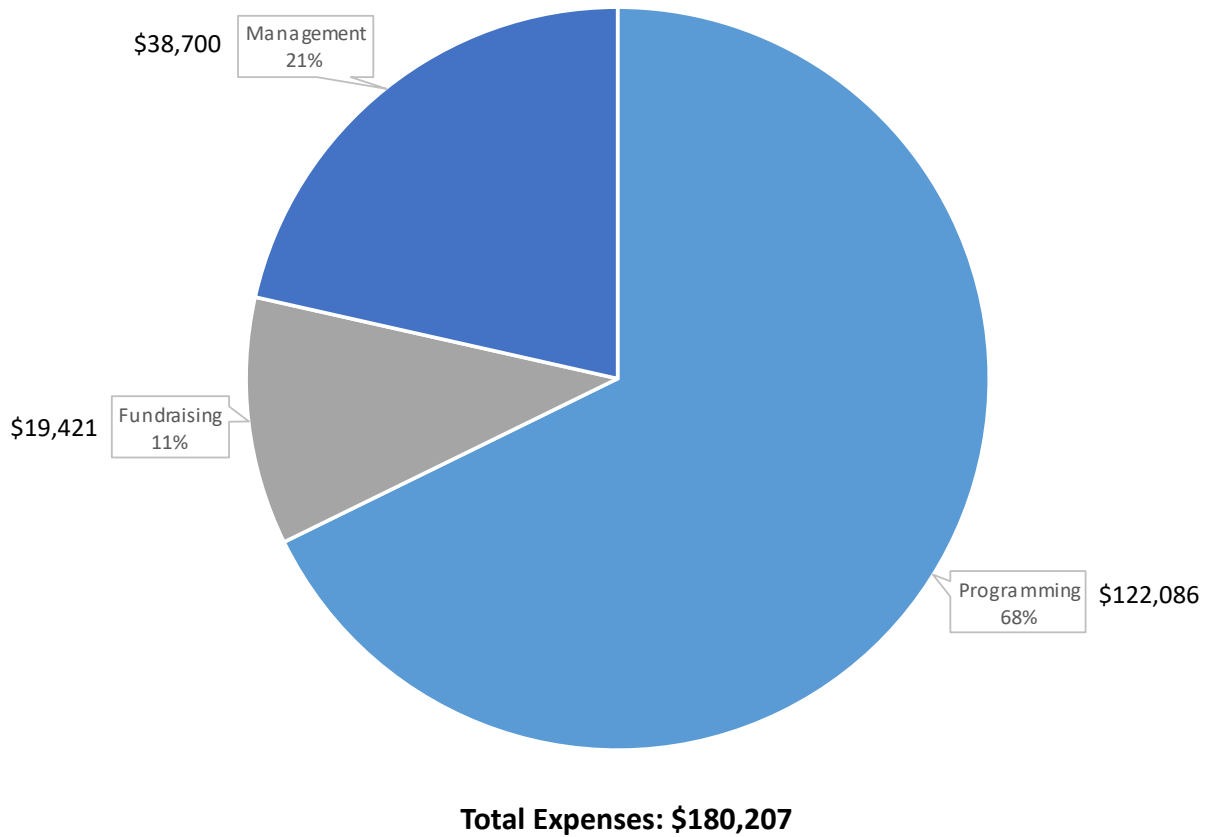




Image by Phil S. Addis & La Crosse County Historical Society

2018 Annual Meeting Agenda

June 14, 2018—Freighthouse Restaurant

1. Call to order
2. Count of voting members present.
3. Approval of 2017 minutes
4. Approval of board member appointments:
 - Renewals: Candace Brown
 - New: Billy Bergeron, Marissa Dickinson, Jean Lund
5. Approval of Bylaw changes
6. New Business
 - Recognition of Volunteers
 - Recognition of Departing Board Members
7. Adjournment

2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2017 - Freighthouse Restaurant

- Meeting was called to order by President Candace Brown
- Estimated count of 30 people in attendance
- Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting: Motion by Joe Theisen to approve minutes, Seconded by Paul Beck. MSP
- Board Member Renewals: Fred Hixon Glore, Sheri Ross, and Angela Erdenberger. Motion by Carole Mullen to approve. MSP
- Terry Visger and Kathy Casberg requested to not renew their Board positions.

New Business:

- Peggy noted that through a grant funding has been received to hire a full time Collections Specialist, Amy Vach. She has been entering LCHS collections to an on-line data base for everyone to be able to view them.
- Joe Theisen brought up two areas that are in need of repair: The Hixon House needs painting on the outside. The paint is peeling. He suggested painting one side of the house for the next four years beginning with the 7th Street side. The second problem is the need for the leak in the Turkish Nook and the mullions in the dining room be repaired. Candace let it be known that any donation to these two projects will be appreciated.
- Peggy noted that the Wisconsin Historical Society will have their annual meeting in La Crosse in October 2017. This is a great opportunity for the LCHS and we hope our members will participate.
- A copy of the LCHS Annual Report was available for everyone to take home.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Donna Finn

Current Memberships

Individual

Barb Albrechtson	Lynda Flaherty	Nancy Kotnour	James Sill
Nancy Arentz	Sophie Freehoff	Eldora Larson	Laurel Silberschmidt
Constance Arzigian	Kathy Fuss	Mary Larson	Mary Smalley
Toni Asher	Alice Engelhard Gassere	Monica Lazere	Linda Smith
Sally Hixon Aubrey	Verda Goetzman	Arden Markos	Matt Snebold
Paul Beck	Larry Green	Father Bernard McGarty	George Snodgrass
Lois Bigelow	Sister MaryAnn Gschwind	Lynne Mcllvaine	Mary Stolder
Barb Bissen	Ronald Gustafson	Sarah Moe	Jeff Stolz
Jeanine Ipsen Black	Mike Hanson	Mary Monsoor	Mary Swingle
Brenda Brandt	Terry Harpstreith	Rebecca Mormann-Krieger	Robert Taunt
Charles Brendel	Ronald Harris	Julie Muellenberg	Marcia Thompson
Candace Brown	David Helgeson	Patricia Muller	Lauren Tiffany
Bill Burke	Joseph & Renate Hixon III	David Novak	Frank Van Lin
Grant Casto	Randy Hoelzen	Florence Overgard	Peg Warner
Mike Ceason	Janice Hoeschler	Elsie Patterson	Ariel Watson
Alice Cepek	Janice Hogue	Jolene Quinn	Russell Wedeking
Frances B. Chapman	Maria Holley	Dorene Reis	Richard Weisbecker
Denise Christy-Moss	Julie Hundt	Bessie Richardson	Joan Welda
Marjorie Collins	Paul Hundt	Dennis Ross	Rosemary Werner
Robert Daley Sr.	Yvonne Hyde	Sheryl Ross	Ray Wrobel
Mary Ellen Davies	Rick Jacobson	Don Rudolph	Hugh Young
Robert Deml	Tim Kabat	Carol Schilling	Suzanne Young
Peggy Derrick	Michael Kakuska	Marian Schnell	Alpine Inn
Marissa Dickinson	Patricia Kimball	Signe Schroeder	Murphy Library
Mark Doolittle	Judy Kirkpatrick	Marti Schwem	
Adam Driscoll	Ruth-Ann Knapp	Sandra Seelow	
Marsha Erickson	Caroline Koelsch	Peter Seielstad	

Household

Richard & Mary Abraham	Bill & Anita Doering	Thomas & Juna Krajewski	Rev. Jonathan & Faith Rimmert
Stephen & Connie Albrechtson	Beth Dolder-Zieke & Steve Zieke	Kelly Krieg-Sigman	Cameron & Carlene Roberts
Dave & Ruth Amundson	Dr. George & Margaret Ellenz	David & Karen Lange	Brian & Karen Rude
Cheryl Amsrud & Jim Wittenberg	Chad & Angela Erdenberger	Robert & Susan Levendoski	Miike & Evelyn Rudolph
David & Mary Arneson	Felix & Marilyn Fernandes	Alden & Helen Lien	David & Nancy Russell
Kent & Julie Bacon	Jim & Donna Finn	Dr. Paul & Pat Lyga	John & Beth Satory
Dennis & Linda Baehr	Richard Frost & Teri Wachuta	Allen & Betty Macha	Michael & Karen Schultz
Terry & Diane Baier	James & Janice Gallagher	Bob & Diane Marcou	Bill & Maureen Schwartz
Mike & Bethany Bakalars	Doug & Karee Galster	Donald Markos	Glenn & Lila Seager
Billy Bergeron & Brandon Rigger	Bill & Sheri Gingerich	Richard Markos	Daniel & Kathleen Skiles
David Beutler & Peggy Clews	David & Nancy Goode	Vicki Markussen	Martin & Karol Smith
William & Judith Blank	Roger & Charlotte Grant	Thomas & Gladys McLenahan	George & Marita Smith
Tom & Carol Bramschreiber	David & Audrey Growt	Marie Metz	Patrick & Joanne Stephens
Peter & Pamela Brose	Dr. A. Erik Gundersen	William Meyer	Marc & Beth Storch
Guyal & Joan Buckley	Dr. Sig & Jean Gundersen	John Monson	Susan Swingen
Deborah Buffton	Cheryl Hansen	Robert & Carole Mullen	Joe & Carol Theisen
Chuck & Carla Callies	Joe & Pat Heim	David & Ann Nelson	Kevin & Amy Vach
Bill & Sue Carskadon	Edwin & Nancy Hill	Carol Nelson-Britten & Chuck Britten	Keith & Lynne Valiquette
Ken & Kathy Casberg	William & Julia Hixon Jr.	Ronald & Claudia Niemeyer	Don & Norma Vinger
Diane Cermak	Dave & Pat Hofer	Ron & Frieda Nowland	Ken & Terry Visger
Gwen Chadwick	Harold & Barbara Hoffman II	Russel & Peggy Opland	Monica Wiebke
Keith & Sandra Cowen	George & Linda Italiano	Peter Peterslie	James Wiffler
Kenneth & Shirley Cvikota	Glen Jenkins	Rick & Ruth Przywojski	Patrick & Bobbie Wilson
Jack & Pat Darling	Chris Kerbaugh	Ronald & Jane Rada	
Michael Davy	Peter & Carol Klitzke	Marc & Elizabeth Ranger	

Century

Arthur & Carolee Beutler
John Beekman
Barry Blomquist & Dr. Eva Dahl
Chris & Vicki Born
Roy & Laurie Campbell
John Dudkiewicz
Mark & Dr. Margaret Glendenning
Susan Hessel
Douglas Howard
Mike & Karen Keil

Alison Kittle
Joseph & Barbara Kruse
John Layton
Ellen Martell
David Morrison
Dr. Kermit & Barbara Newcomer
John & Cathy Pederson
Lindon Saline
Linda Sherwood
Robert Skemp

Dr. Fred & Jean Skemp Jr.
John & Nancy Solberg
Fred & Deb Wakeen
Stephen & Katherine Webster
William Welch
Coulee Bank
Governmental Employees Credit Union
People's Food Cooperative Inc.
Wehrs Chevrolet

Sustaining

Devon Geiger Nielsen
Sabina Bosshard & George Parke III
Dr. Asaph & Mary Elston
Daniel & Roberta Gelatt
Joel & Jacquie Greiner
Charles & Shirley Haas
Lynn Harlan & John Tonnis
Bill & Karen Hoel

Jean Lund
Warren & Denise Loveland
Mark & Wendy Mattison
Dr. Dennis & Sharon Ryan
Financial Investment Group
Merchants Bank
Northern Battery

History Guardian

Dick Record
Riley Reinhart
Dennis & Cyndy Schaper
Financial & Investment Group

Heritage Circle

Anthony & Barbara Binsfeld
Cleary-Kumm Foundation

Life

Wheelock Whitney III
George Hixon
Ambassador Benson & Mary Whitney
Fred & Constance Hixon Glore
Robert & Diane Reinhart
Ann Barney

Adelaide Hixon
Harry Dahl
Andrew Hixon
Steve Mathy
Barbara Hunter Foster
Maude Glore

David & Barbara Skogen
Donald & Roxanne Weber
Leath Mathy
Tye & Sandy Schwalbe
Richard Walz
Robert Hixon Glore

Marc Fortney
John & Donna Hansen
Bruce & Alexandra Ballard
Dylan & Molly Hixon
Todd & Shanti Carter
Trust Point Inc.

2017 Donors

\$100-\$250

Coulee Bank
Vinje Dahl
Michael Davy
Dr. Asaph Elston
Altra Credit Union
Devon Geiger Nielsen
Roger Grant
Dr. A. Erik Gundersen
Dr. Sigurd Gundersen Jr.

Charles Haas
Gary Harter
Joe Heim
Joseph Kruse
Tiffany Lawrence
Jane Lord
Glenn Lussky
Betsy Morgan
Robert & Carole Mullen

Brenda Brandt
George & Marita Smith
Keith Stubbendick
Kenneth Cvikota
Sheri Gingerich
Gary Wiegel
Paul Beck
Lynn Harlan
Edwin Hill

Robert Skemp
Sandy Cleary
Ardu Cleveland
William Hixon Jr.
Warren Loveland
Marti Schwem & Bob Robinson

\$300-\$500

Billy Bergeron & Brandon Rigger
Cyndy Schaper
Milo & Beverly Mach Family Fund
Peggy Derrick
Mary Swingle
Xcel Energy
Wal-Mart
Cleary-Kumm Foundation
Jim & Donna Finn
Richard Thomas Record Living Trust
Joseph Whitney

\$1,000 +

Marjorie Collins
Sue Anne Gelatt Foundation
Grace Schroeder
Russel L. Smith and Vera M. Smith Foundation
Wheelock Whitney III
Gundersen Health System
John & Kathy Reinhart Foundation
Hixon Properties Inc.

\$5,000 +

Andrew R. Hixon
Bill & Sue Carskadon
Fred Hixon Glore
Gretchen Guernsey Leigh Fund
Mark Hansen Foundation
Dahl Motors

\$9,000 +

Robert Skemp Sr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors:

President

Candace Brown

Vice President

Billy Bergeron

Secretary

Donna Finn

Treasurer

Angela Erdenberger

Directors

Toni Asher

Paul Beck

Marissa Dickinson

Fred Hixon Glore

Lynn Harlan

Jon Rimmert

Staff:

Executive Director &

Curator

Peggy Derrick

Collections Manager

Amy Vach

Office Assistant

Therese Waltz

La Crosse County Historical Society Presents:

Historic Pub Crawl

Saturday, June 23, 2018

The La Crosse County Historical Society Historic Pub Crawl will immerse you in local brewery and tavern history as you enjoy a guided walking tour of downtown La Crosse.



Discover the Silent City WWI Comes to La Crosse:

1918 in La Crosse

Saturday September 15, 2018

Oak Grove Cemetery, La Crosse



A Special Thanks to



LA CROSSE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Thank you to previous
board members that ended
their service in 2017:

Kathy Casberg

Terry Visger