



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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VOLUME 49 NO. 10

JUNE 2013

Season Wrap-Up: Dinner and Much More on the Menu for June 25 Annual Meeting; Registration Underway

The Sangamon County Historical Society draws its meeting season to a close on Tuesday, June 25 with an annual dinner in a historic setting coupled with a program laced with fun and reflection as the organization enters its 53rd year.

The dinner for which tickets are required, will held in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 535 Walnut Avenue, Springfield starting at 5:30 p.m. Reservations can be made by filling out the form on page 7 and returning it with your check by Monday June 17 or on line at www.sangamonhistory.org.

In addition to elections, awards, and a silent and live auction of historic artifacts, this year's event will include a special tribute to the late Doug Pokorski, a veteran

reporter for the **State Journal-Register**, who led the Society from 2002-2003. Traditionally, the Society invites the president of the organization from a decade earlier to give the keynote address. That honor would have gone to Pokorski who died from a heart attack in April, 2003, at age 53, two months short of the end of his presidential term.



Pokorski

Pokorski won a number of awards for his education coverage, including a first-place national award from the Education Writers Association for a five-part series on school finance credited with helping spur passage of a temporary tax increase for education.

But it was for reporting on Abraham Lincoln and other historical topics that Pokorski came to be recognized well beyond central Illinois. He also did much of the research about individuals buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery for the Society's cemetery walk.

At this year's dinner, six Society leaders who were close to Pokorski will share brief reminiscences of the popular president who was not only highly regarded by fellow members, but also by his journalistic colleagues around the country.

Speakers will include Kathryn Harris, Director of Library Services for the Abra-

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MEET THE NOMINEES: PAGE 4

Members to Vote on Officers, Board Members

In addition to dinner and a program, at the annual dinner on Tuesday, June 25, members of the Sangamon County Historical Society will be electing 213-2014 officers and board members.

Nominating Committee chair Brenda Holmes will preside over that portion of the meeting.

Proposed officers for 2013-2014 are: **Roger Whitaker**, president; **Ruth Slottag**, vice-president; **Elaine Hoff**, secretary; and **Richard Herndon**, treasurer.

Nominated for three year terms ending in June 2016 are **Rebecca Cisco**, **Kathy Dehen**, **Sue Massey**, **Cathy Mosley**, and **David Scott**.

Also nominated for a board seat is **Mary Alice Davis**, for a two-year term ending in 2015. She would succeed Ruth Slottag, the vice-presidential nominee who was elected to the three year term in 2012.

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BONNETS, BALL GOWNS
and so much more: Photographer Donna Catlin captures the historical ear and eye-ful.....page 4



Capping a Good Year with More to Come

Twelve months can go fast. At least it seems that way, particularly for those of us involved in the day-to-day operations of the Sangamon County Historical Society. All in all, it has been a good year for us. Membership is up, meetings turnouts are terrific, special events sell out quickly and enthusiasm bubbles all around us.

This has been an exceptional and enjoyable year from my perspective and the thanks go to a wonderful, hard-working board that has made that happen, not to mention the efforts of our coordinator, Dr. Sam Wheeler, who provides a level of professionalism and leadership that bodes well for the future of this organization.

We will be losing some board members this month when their terms expire, but we've already told them they won't be completely off the hook. My vice-president, Claire Eberle, has done a magnificent job overseeing membership in trying to tackle the issues that surround a mature but growing organization. I know she will continue to work in that area in the coming year. Ditto for attorney Bruce Beeman, who has played such an important role in guiding our organization through legal matters. He too, will continue to provide his excellent counsel as we head into another year. Logan McMinn worked hard not only as Finance Chair, but also as an astute advisor in the area of photography for our first historical sites photo competition that was held last fall at the Old State Capitol. And we will also miss Linda Bee, whose savvy insights into a range of subjects, kept us well-grounded.

We're delighted Elaine Hoff is willing to serve as board secretary and that our current secretary, Mary Alice Davis, wanted to retake a board seat which she gave up last year in order to hold that post. Ditto for Ruth Slottag, who is in line for the vice-presidency. Ruth, with a rich background in marketing and public relations, brings a level of professionalism in this area that most organizations only wish they could have. As we look ahead to the types of activities we expect to be engaged in, in the future, her experience will be invaluable to our organization.

Richard Herndon has done an excellent job as treasurer and we are pleased that he wants to continue in what is a time consuming, often difficult task.

We also want to extend our thanks to David Scott, a former president, who this year volunteered to chair the Spe-

cial Projects Committee which starting this year, will be identifying local history efforts for which some financial support can make a difference. He has expressed a commitment to this project over the long term, bringing both experience and a sense of history to the Society's role in financially assisting historical projects throughout the County.

And while she's not leaving the post, Marion Leach, our Membership Relations chair, deserves special mention too, for the many tasks she takes on and handles with enthusiasm, poise, and dedication. She may have greeted you at a meeting, sold you one of the Society's booklets, offered you a slice of some of her legendary banana bread baked for one of our meetings or just otherwise made you feel welcome. She also makes sure you get your copy of *Historico* each month, dealing with the printer and post office in its final stages of distribution.

I could go on...and on about the wonderful qualities I see in every one of my fellow board members, but I would run out of space. Needless to say, they have made this year a pleasure and I thank them all.

We have had our down moments.

We were shocked by the loss of two former board members this year, Don Springer, whose passing was noted previously, and more recently Jim Beaumont who served on the board for many years.

Long-time board member Donna Catlin expressed it best in a personal tribute to Jim. "Jim loved being an active member and a board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society. He was a good friend to all and will be missed." That he will.

* * *

We're looking ahead to another great year. Planning for our fall programs and events is already underway, along with discussions on new avenues for the Society's growth. We hope you will take this opportunity to think about becoming more active in the organization. We expect to see our committee system grow over the next few years to widen and develop our leadership for the future. We hope you will join us in that effort.

Roger



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, sangamon-history.org or sancohis.org.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, Photographer

Society Member Seeking Help Identifying Springfield No. 15

“Take Me Out to the Ball Game” has a certain nostalgic ring to it for baseball fans here and everywhere, but for one of them, Society member Jack Rooney, it’s more than that....much more.

A while back, Rooney acquired an old baseball uniform (*at right*) and ever since, he’s been trying to find out if:

1. It came from Springfield, Illinois.
2. Was it used by a player in an Illinois team.
3. Anyone has old photos of someone wearing it or perhaps pictures of the entire team.

He’s hoping it won’t be three strikes and he’s out of luck identifying this piece of sports memorabilia. If you can identify the

player, team, or the uniform’s history or have photos that may help him provide documentation, contact Rooney at jack@cap-strategies.com.



Iles House Summer Visiting Artisan Series Offering Demonstrations of Period Skills

The Iles House Foundation has kicked off a Visiting Artisan Program in which craftsmen are demonstrating individual skills

that were used during 1800s at the restored historic resident at 628 S. Seventh Street, Springfield. The demonstrations, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., range from blacksmithing to shoemaking, will run through August.

On tap for Saturday, June 8, is Charles Buie, a cooper (or barrel maker) from Pleasant Plains, who will show how those who followed that trade turned tapered oaken staves (the



narrow strips of wood that form the sides of a barrel or similar product) into barrels and buckets used by the city’s earlier residents.

Presentations over the next few weeks are:

- **Surveying**, demonstrated by Duane Weiss, a member of the Surveyors Historical Society, June 15.
- **Shoemaking and Knitting**, demonstrated by Norman and Donna Walzer, respectively, June 22.
- **Chair Making**, demonstrated by Kirk Boyenga, June 29.
- **Blacksmithing**, with Allen Ortery, on July 6.

For a full summer schedule, check out www.iles.house.com. or call 492-5929.



OFFICERS

President.....Roger Whitaker
 Vice-President.....Claire Eberle
 Secretary.....Mary Alice Davis
 Treasurer.....Richard Herndon

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2013

Linda Bee
 Bruce Beeman
 Elaine Hoff
 Logan McMinn

Term Ending 2014

Patricia Davis
 Kathy Hoffmann
 Brenda Holmes
 Doug Polite
 Vicky Whitaker

Term Ending 2015

Donna Catlin
 Les Eastep
 David Grimm
 Ruth Slottag
 Francie Staggs

Presidential Appointees To Board

Marion Leach,
 Membership Relations Chair
 David Scott,
 Special Projects Chair

SCHS Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

JUNE MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes its newest members and gives special thanks to its donors:

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Jane Archer, Rebecca Cisco, Mike Kinzler, Holly Kent, Jane Ehrenhart

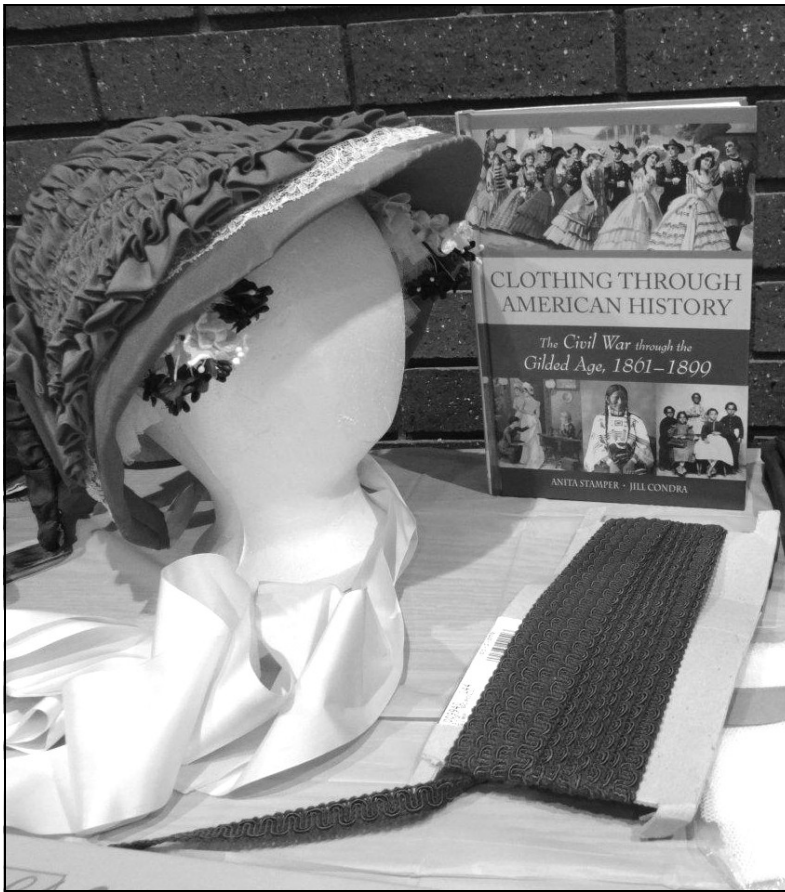
DONORS

Donna Catlin, to the Special Projects Fund in memory of Jim Beaumont.

Donna and Carl Catlin, to the Special Projects Fund

Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS
 Box 9744
 Springfield, Illinois,
 62791-9744



IN FASHION: Holly Kent (center, left) looks through some of the books and displays brought by co-speaker Jane Ehrenhart for the Society's May 21 meeting on "The Way We Wore," a look at how fashion shaped Sangamon County's daily life in the 1800s and early 1900s. Both women are experts in the subject, Kent an assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Springfield, specializing in the history of 19th century fashion and culture. Ehrenhart oversees the line-for-line copies of period fashion for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Their presentation, complete with power-point illustrations and clothing samples, touched on changing styles, colors, and social mores. The session drew a full house to the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library meeting site.
Donna Catlin photos

New Board, Officers to be Elected at June 25 Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Roger Whitaker is completing his first term as president and his fourth year on the board. A Life Member, he previously chaired the Finance Committee, served on the Program Committee and is technical advisor to the Society's committee creating an on-line county *wikipedia*.



An electronics engineer and native of Virginia, Illinois, Whitaker holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri. He was on the Illinois Foundation for Frontier Studies board and is a member of several history-related organizations including the Illinois State Historical Society, the Pleasant Plains Historical Society, the Old State Capitol Foundation and the Cass County Historical and Genealogical Society. He also serves as the Cass County, Illinois manager for genealogy-trails.com. Whitaker was an instructor in electronics technology at Lincoln Land Community College for six years before becoming chief engineer at Long Elevator, a regional elevator company that was acquired two years ago by Kone, a worldwide elevator and escalator company, where he is still employed.

A ham radio operator and a 56-year

member of the American Radio Relay League, he is involved in radio amateur civil emergency service, working with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to provide back-up communications to the state in the event of a major emergency. He is a past vice-president of the Sangamon Valley Radio Club. For the past seven years, he has designed and provided entertainment area sound services for Memorial Hospital's annual Festival of Trees. He is a partner in Whitaker Business Group, a multi-faceted company that includes web hosting and design services and related activities.



Vice-President nominee **Ruth Slottag** has more than 20 years experience in the public relations and communications industry. Employed by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Public Affairs Office, she previously she served as Public Relations Director at the Illinois Association of Park Districts and Community and Media Relations Manager at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Slottag is a past chair of the Springfield Commission on International Visitors and was on the board of directors of the Family

Service Center and the Springfield Area Arts Council for several years. She is a past president of the Central Illinois Public Relations Society of America and a member of Illinois Women in Leadership and Daughters of the American Revolution.

She holds a master's degree in communications from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Western Illinois University.

Born, raised and receiving her education in Michigan, secretary nominee **Elaine Hoff** taught special education in Michigan and northern Illinois before moving to Springfield in 1967. For most of her professional life she worked in the field of disability rights, most recently as a Policy Advisor for the Illinois Attorney General, retiring in 2003.



Hoff has been affiliated with a number of disability rights and community organizations, founding a local group addressing needs of "kids at risk" and an organization that advocated gifted children programs. She supports efforts to preserve and promote the rich history of Sangamon County.

(Continued on page 5)

SCHS Members to Elect New Board, Officers on June 25

(Continued from page 4)

Richard Herndon, nominee for a second term as treasurer, has historical connections in Springfield dating back to the European settlement in the area notably Washington Iles (brother of Elijah Iles) and Sarah Hanley Keyes (the first casualty of the Donner and Reed expedition).



He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Lawrence University, Wisconsin and a masters in business administration from Washington University, St. Louis. Herndon worked for SIU School of Medicine for 30 years. A member of the board of the Iles House Foundation, he enjoys local history architecture and photography.

Board nominee **Rebecca Cisco** of



Rochester is a 2012 graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. She is a Fellow in the Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs, serving as a liaison between the office and various state agencies. She is a volunteer in St. John's Hospital's Good Samaritan Program and at Contact Ministries.

Board nominee and Springfield native **Cathy S. Mosley** is a professional story teller, with a passion for folklore from around the world, particularly Irish, Scottish, and Welsh. She has performed at the St. Andrew Society's Highland Games, and chairs its Heritage

Area. She has been part of the Lincoln Memorial Garden's Indian Summer Festival and Nature In Legend and Story, an organization that focuses on an interdisciplinary approach to nature education. She is currently working on an SCHS project identifying history-based groups across Sangamon County.



Board Nominee **Kathy Dehen** graduated from Springfield College in Illinois and the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana with a bachelor of science in Ele-

mentary Ed and a minor in social studies. She holds a masters from the University of Illinois plus 60 hours and a Certificate in Management from Lincoln Land Community College.

The Springfield native was an elementary teacher for 20 years and until her retirement, worked in the Payroll and Financial Aid offices at University of Illinois for 16 years. Former president of the Junior League of Springfield, she held several other positions on its board and has been a volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, the Illinois State Museum, Contact Ministries, Festival of Trees, and with Reading is Fundamental. She is a founding member of First Book and Good as Gold. She also served on the board of Friends of Sangamon Auditorium (now the Sangamon Auditorium Advisory Board) where she was vice-chairman. Treasurer of the Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club, she recently became a member of the Springfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Her other interests include traveling at home and abroad.



Board Nominee **Sue Massie** is president and senior landscape architect of Massie Massie and Associates, a Springfield-based land planning and landscape architecture firm.



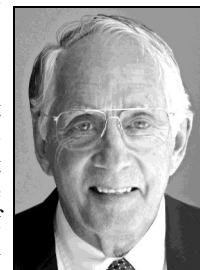
A 1974 graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana in, she did graduate study in human and plant geography and for several years, directed Illinois' abandoned mine reclamation department. She is the current president of the Iles House Foundation. She is also on the program committee of the Illinois Native Plant Society's Central Chapter and a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Board Nominee **David Scott** is a past president and vice-president of the Sangamon County Historical Society. To continue his work on Special Projects, he was re-appointed chair of that committee last year by President Whitaker. He also served as chair of the Society's Long Range Planning Committee.

A native of Evanston, Illinois and the

great-grandson of the president of Ohio State University, Dr. Scott has had a lifelong interest in history and historic preservation. After receiving a degree in history from Denison University, Ohio, he went on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

Dr. Scott taught courses in state and local government at Northern Illinois University before moving to Springfield in 1974 to join the staff of the then newly-formed Illinois State Board of Education. As a senior professional, he mainly concentrated his efforts in its Department of Planning and Research but also spent some time with the ISBE's Department of Finance. He retired in 1999.



In the mid-1980s, he became an active in the Historic Preservation Association of Springfield, around the same time, joining the Sangamon County Historical Society of which he is a Life Member. He served as president of the Historic Preservation Association of Springfield, a post that led to his appointment to the Mayor's Historic Sites Commission. He is a past president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Board Nominee **Mary Alice Davis** holds a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University, Ohio and taught for four years before becoming the co-owner of a children's clothing store for 10 years. She has also co-owned a chain of fast food stores for 35 years.

A Life Member of the Society, she was elected to the board in 2010 and is completing a term as secretary. She is vice-president of the board of the Old State Capitol Foundation and is president of the Illinois State Museum Society Board. Davis is also a past vice-president of the Land of Lincoln Girl Scout Council board.



Davis is co-chair of the Society's Special Events committee that included the *Sangamon County History Through the Arts II* this past fall, the Society's Holiday Party in December, the first jointly sponsored *History Trivia Night* at the Old State Capitol this past April and this evening's Annual Dinner.

Society's Annual Dinner Site: Rich Historical Past

(Continued from page 1)
ham Lincoln Presidential Library who succeeded Pokorski as president, **State Journal Register** night metro editor Mike Kinzler, historian Dave Brady, Springfield City historian and past president Curtis Mann, head of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, and past presidents Dr. Virgilio Pilapil and Richard Hart.

Dr. Barringer's Research

The setting for this year's dinner has a rich history. The church was founded on May 26, 1835 when 30 people started the Sangamo Presbyte-

win. As Easterners began to move West to settle the frontier, Congregationalist and Presbyterian church leaders were concerned about families moving into a wilderness lacking churches, ministers and schools. In 1802, the two denominations joined in a "Plan of Union," facilitating a concerted effort to send missionaries to the frontier under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society," wrote Dr. Barringer.

"The autonomous Congregational churches were less able to establish churches on the frontier. As a result, New Eng-

Lloyd Wright-designed flower stand. The funds for the chancel stalls were a gift from Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln. Members of Westminster made the needlepoint cushions in the chancel. The iron bell in the tower has been calling people to worship since the 1840s.

In 1988, the West Narthex, Parish Hall, music room and tunnel under the nave were added to the original 1906 building and the 1955 education al wing.

In 2003 Westminster dedicated a \$2 million renovation of its building and organ, updating classroom spaces and offices, extending the chancel, and im-



FAMED architect Frank Lloyd Wright (left) and Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son (right) added to the history of Westminster, Wright designing its flower stands, Lincoln underwriting the chancel stalls. Westminster is at center.

rian Church, later to become the Second Presbyterian Church and then renamed Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In 1985, the late Dr. Floyd S. Barringer, a past Sangamon County Historical Society president and an Elder of the church, researched and wrote about its history in a booklet produced for Westminster's 150th anniversary. The church, he noted, was born at a revival meeting in Springfield in 1834.

"The leading spirits of that revival were two Congregationalist missionaries from New England: Reverend Albert Hale and Reverend Theron Bald-

landers moving west frequently became Presbyterian. Such was the case in the organization of the Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois."

Robert Todd Lincoln's Gift

Construction began at Westminster's present site in 1906 and the building was dedicated in 1908. The church was designed in the style of rural "early English Gothic" of the 13th century by the renowned Boston architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

Of special interest are the carved oak stalls in the chancel and the Frank

proving safety and security for the historic building

Rainbow Colors

Its stained glass windows are from the Boston firms of Charles J. Connick and the studio of Reynolds, Francis and Ronstock. Harry Goodhue designed the chancel's Transfiguration window, an adaptation of a Bellini painting seen by Ralph Adams Cram in Naples, Italy. The color scheme of the background is based upon the prismatic colors of the rainbow. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were completed over a period of about 60 years, from 1902 to 1965.

Reservation Form

Sangamon County Historical Society
Annual Meeting and Dinner

An elegant buffet by Carol Jean Frasse will be served.
Tickets are \$30 per person.

Enclosed is my check for _____ for ____ tickets to the Society's Tuesday, June 25th Annual Meeting and Dinner at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Please mail this form with your check to: SCHS, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Your reservation must be received no later than Monday, June 17. You may also register and pay on-line at www.sangamonhistory.org.

Your Name: _____

Guests: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

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SELECTING WHAT TO DISPLAY AT YOUR MUSEUM OR SITE

This workshop will introduce you to the basics of exhibit planning from assessing your collection to selecting artifacts for display. If you have photographs or an inventory of your collection you would like to use as an example, please bring it with you to class. *Offered by E. Claire Jerry, curator for the Paul Findley Congressional Office Museum and Archives at Illinois College.*

Date: Thurs., July 18 **Time:** 6:30-9 p.m.
Location: Menard Hall, room 1177
Fee: \$29 **Course Code:** CEW 112-52B

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Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to sangamonhistory.org.



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Status

___ New Member

___ Renewal

___ Gift of Membership from:

Phone _____

Membership Levels

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700