

# **The Port Norris Historical Society**

## **Monthly Meeting February 10, 2026**

**Members Present:** E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, D. Cunninham, J. Elwell, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, T. Hollinger, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. Maddox, J. Massey, D. Pettit, P. Smith.

**Guests:** E. Berry

Tom Hollinger introduced his guest, former Port Norris resident, Ed Berry. Ed is the nephew of Faye Hickman and pastor of the Greenwich Baptist Church.

**February Meeting:** The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held Tuesday, February 10, 2026, commencing at 6:37 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair, and the Secretary being present.

**Review of Minutes:** The January 2026 minutes and the agenda for the February 2026 meeting were emailed to members on February 10, 2026. A motion to approve the January 2026 minutes was made by Gloria Guidera, seconded by John Lore, and unanimously approved by members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** The January 2026 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS board members on February 10, 2026. A motion was made by Joyce Massey, seconded by Gloria Guidera and approved by board members present, representing a quorum of officers and trustees. The report will be filed for audit.

**Monetary Donations:** Faye Hickman reported receipt of \$659.00 in cash donations in the month of January, including the Soup dinner and additional monies paid with membership dues.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Virginia Campbell, chairperson, reported total membership for 2026 is fifty-one (51) members.

### **Correspondence:**

Gloria Guidera sent a thank you note to Nancy Carter for her donation. A card was mailed to Helga Ricci wishing her a speedy recovery from her injury. Rachel Cobb noted that member Jim Robbins is not well and will soon be released from the hospital where she visited him recently.

**Collections:** (a) Joyce Lore presented insignia pins from the Port Norris Grammar School dated 1953.

- (b) Donna Pettit donated a photograph of local women from the Port Norris United Methodist Church attending a dinner at Captain Starn's. The photo was passed around, with most ladies recognized by members.
- (c) Dean Berry donated an old cookbook.
- (d) Bill Rhubart donated a pin of the United Oystermen's Union-Bivalve.
- (e) Judy Donohue donated pamphlets, "National Table Affairs" noting Dr. Sharp's name appeared in the publication
- (f) Rachel Cobb donated two books she purchased from Liz Hoffman's sale: Both albums belonged to Mrs. Nelson Laning, wife of the former funeral director. One is titled "Lady's Book" (photographs of unnamed persons) and the other "Floral Album"
- (g) Book title "Under Sail - The Dredge Boats of the Delaware Bay" was donated by The historical society has original prints of some schooners in the book.

**Seed Swap**- Another successful event for the PNHS! Despite the ice, snow, and frigid temperatures, it is estimated that one hundred (100) visitors came to this annual free event. The displays in the rooms upstairs generated a lot of interest with the guests. We sold \$53.00 in merchandise and received \$50.00 in cash donations. Many positive comments were received. Recommendations and suggestions for a better method of distributing seeds for next year will be discussed at a later meeting.

**Soup Sale**: Faye Hickman presented details of the Soup Dinner held on January 24, 2026. There were 141 tickets sold, including 67 take-out dinners. Thirty-four (34) free tickets were distributed to sponsors, with ten tickets redeemed. A profit of \$4,280.00 was reported after expenses for frames, plaques, etc. were disbursed. Collections in the tip jars amounted to \$133.00, with an additional \$67.00 contributed by the PNHS. The monies were distributed among the four youth workers who were each given \$50.00 for their day's service. The money raised at the soup dinner covers the cost of insurance for the building (\$3,200 per year). Certificates were made and distributed to Reenie Rhubart, Dean Berry and Faye Hickman in appreciation for all their extra time and efforts. Faye H. was presented with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for chairing the soup dinner. Discussions to follow up to find better ways to delegate the jobs at the dinner.

**Legends 2026**: Rachel Cobb displayed the invitation photo selected for this year's invitation cover. The cost of an individual ticket will remain the same as last year (\$40.00). A total of eight or nine PNHS tote bags will be used for the raffle baskets, each filled with themed based items. Commitments for additional baskets will be Donated by the PN Fire Company, A.J. Meerwald, Amy Robbins soaps, and Donna Pettit lottery tickets. The small PNHS lunch totes will be used to hold individual gift cards. It was decided to use the \$250.00 Thrivent gift card donated by Gayle Penven to purchase items for the raffle baskets. Members will be asked to contribute any items needed to fill the themed baskets. Virginia Campbell and Faye Hickman will meet with Gayle to make the purchases. Tulips for the table centerpieces will be

purchased from Van Dyk's in Millville. Mary Linda Lacotte announced guest addresses are beginning to come in. If needed, a zoom meeting will be scheduled for the committee before the next meeting.

**President's Report:**

**Building Name Sign:** Rachel Cobb will contact Patrick O'Brien, a local metal fabricator, for a design with the PNHS logo on a metal sign to be placed outside the building. Bivalve Packing requested their monetary donation be designated towards a sign for the outside of the building. Rachel C. will email the logo design to the O'Briens.

**Security Alarm System:**

Rachel C. stated she corresponded with the Everon Security System stating we would not be able to accept their proposal for upgrades to the system. The cost is beyond the financial resources of the historical society. The building is still using the existing Everon system. If decided to accept the contract with Mike Pugsley of Security Solutions, he will not be installing smoke detectors connected to a central notification control office. Rachel C. stated that RING has partnered with Kidde for smoke detectors which can be battery operated or hard wired. Using the designated APP, the smoke detectors can be linked to three or four separate cell phones. It was decided to purchase one unit as a trial. The RING camera can be combined with the smoke detector.

**Comments/Suggestions/Announcements:**

Pat Smith stated the road clean-up dates will be scheduled when the weather is warmer, with two weeks' notice to the township.

Oyster and Ham dinner - Volunteers are needed to help bread oysters at the Fire Hall on the first three Wednesdays in March beginning at 5:00 pm. Pizza is provided to volunteers after oysters are breaded. The dinner is scheduled for Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Rachel Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

The next meeting of the PNHS will be held on March 9, 2026, at 6:30p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,  
Recording Secretary