

The Port Norris Historical Society

Monthly Meeting

March 11, 2025

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, J. Donohue, J. Elwell, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, B. Hall, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. Massey, D. Pettit, S. Ricci, P. Smith, R. Smith, M. Tortorici

Zoom: L. Hoffman

March Meeting: The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, commencing at 6:36 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present.

Review of Minutes: The February 2025 minutes and the agenda of the March 2025 meeting were emailed to members on March 10, 2025. Correction to February minutes: First page, line 26 Collections: Change black stein to black sign. A motion to approve the corrected February 2025 minutes was made by Joyce Massey, seconded by Gloria Guidera, and unanimously approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report: The February 2025 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS Board members on March 9, 2025. A question regarding last month's electric bill in the amount of \$400.00 prompted a discussion of how to monitor the heat and electric in the building. The mini-split units are now set at 50 degrees when the building is unoccupied. Gloria Guidera motioned to accept the report, seconded by Mary Linda Lacotte. The motion was approved by Board members present. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Virginia Campbell, chairperson, stated there are fifty-five (55) members, which includes lifetime memberships.

Correspondence: Gloria Guidera stated she received a thank you note from Faye Hickman for the plant and goody bag sent by the PNHS on the passing of her husband, John Hickman. The Bayshore Center sent a thank you note for the basket of PNHS items donated for their Third Annual Oyster Festival.

Collections: Pat Smith reported Liz Hoffman donated a personal doll of hers which she had from two years of age. Also, a 1902 composition book belonging to Mary Peterson, which reads like a diary. Joyce Massey presented two teddy bears which she received from at the age of four.

Rachel suggested making a dedicated place on the second floor as a nursery nook to display the cradle, Mac Lean quilt, Liz Hoffman's doll and Joyce Massey's teddy bears. She would like to add a child's dresser, preferably one with a connection to Port Norris.

Displays: Rachel presented the idea of using QR codes to scan for information relating to items on display. She can create the QR codes which will be placed near the item. The QR codes will also be included in a notebook with a page for each individual, such as the doctors, whose items are on display in the building. Visitors will sign in with the Wi-Fi passcode to use while touring the building.

Rachel purchased two (2) units for hanging clothing items (uniforms). She ordered waterproof notebooks for display purposes. In addition, four (4) notebook stands and a shadow box (\$2.00) were purchased.

Donations: The PNHS received donations of \$625.00 in memory of John Hickman and \$329.97 in memory of Bill Bernhardt. Additional donations received were: Seed Swap \$48.00, dues \$5.00, and \$442.00 in monetary donations. A donation of \$51.99 was received through PayPal from Teresa Amell on July 15, 2024; however, the transaction was not received in our PayPal account records until recently.

Solar Meeting: Rachel C. announced there is presentation meeting at the Commercial Township Municipal building on Thursday, March 13, 2025, beginning at 12:00pm by a solar company. The company will install solar panels at the township dump. Individual residents can purchase a subscription which will allow for a discount on their electric bills. This program is sanctioned by Commercial Township. The PNHS would like additional information if any member is able to attend the meeting. Lunch will be provided.

Rutgers Interviews: Iris Burt, Haskin Shellfish Research Lab, Rutgers, in Bivalve, contacted Rachel C. informing her of a project by Rutgers University students who are filming for a documentary production. They will be conducting interviews of people from the Port Norris area on March 30th and 31st. Individuals interested in participating should contact Rachel C. or Iris Burt.

Building Maintenance: Flooring for the back room was purchased from Lowe's; Sam Ricci volunteered to pick up the flooring materials. There are twenty-one boxes in his pick-up which will need to be unloaded after the meeting. Donald Franklin will install the flooring within the next month.

Legends 2025 – Mary Linda Lacotte reported the deadline for response cards was Monday, March 10th. To date, there are approximately 100 responses. Members of the committee met with the Motorsports Park on March 5th with the newly hired banquet manager. Rachel will take the tv to the luncheon for a presentation. Faye and Roseanne went to VanDyk's Florals to inquire about purchasing tulips for the centerpieces; the cost for 200 tulips (twenty bunches of 10 flowers each) would cost \$80.00. Mary Linda L. announced the three grandchildren of A.J. Kelberg have been located and will attend the luncheon with family members. Dick Smith will meet them at the building the morning of the luncheon. They will tour the building and Dick will take them on a tour of Port Norris.

Virginia Campbell discussed the raffle bags: Bring donations to Virginia C. or Belinda Hall. Ten bags will be packed for the raffle. Two gift cards have been received: Sam

Ricci, and \$100.00 from Walmart. Volunteers Donna Pettit, Eileen Bernhardt and Mary Torortici will sell raffle tickets. Virginia C. will send an email message for a work session to fill the bags. Suggested dates are Thurs., March 27th, Friday. March 28th, Saturday, March 29th and Monday, March 31st.

Rache C. donated metal sea-related items to be sold at the luncheon. These items are crafted by Haitians from old oil drums.

Rachel C. would like to record Hattie Lewis and a few of her friends having a round table discussion, in an effort to keep the stories of Port Norris on record.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55p.m. The next meeting of the PNHS will be held on April 8, 2025, at 6:30p.m

Mary Linda Lacotte,
Recording Secretary