

Forest County Historical Society

End of Year Report for 2023

President: Mary Alyce Knauff

VP: Rodney Daum

Other board members:

Bernadette Holzer, Carol Burnett

Mike Thomson, and



Treasurer: Toni Vrboncić

Secretary: Ron Heasley

**Ray McKee, Barb Litton,
Jackie Kuhn, Becky Pillsbury,
Leonard Nicklas**

A Letter from the President of the Forest County Historical Society

Another year behind us, to now become a permanent part of our history.

The winter months are always a little dormant for the museum. We are closed on the outside but continued to meet and to work on plans for the year 2024.

I would like to thank all of the FCHS Board. Your tireless work is what makes our organization run so smoothly.

We continue to appreciate the help of SCI Forest to our museum. They have served to help clean the attic and carry archival boxes to our new shelves in the office, and to work on landscaping outside all summer long.

Our Tuesday Talks went well this year with a variety of speakers and subjects.

Amiee Haslett contacted us in May and wanted to know if she could help while awaiting a job in her field of Speech Therapy. She went right to work and completed recording and cataloging all of our maps. Although we had to dispose of some maps due to damage, we still offer a large number of maps, and we can find them if you should decide you want to see any particular maps of a time period. Amiee also scanned and filed thousands of our photos so we can keep them digitally preserved. Aimee has also taken on researching historical Forest County information for those who would like to use her services. We owe a great debt of thanks to Aimee for all she has done to improve our History Center.



Board members and friends getting ready for the trick or treaters.

The summer began before we opened with the finishing of our paint job. Experienced Painters painted the entire house, and we were very happy with their work. Other people, with and under the direction of Ray McKee finished up the grounds by painting the garage and the toll Booth. We look good for a few years now other than replacing the roof on the toll booth. That job is on our schedule for this coming spring. During Indian Festival we hosted the annual cookie barn on the grounds and thanked all the wonderful people who donated cookies or took time to sell them. In October, we held our annual Fall Banquet. This year we had a delightful presentation from Lucas Passauer on the Hickory School which is scheduled to be taken down in the very near future. Later in the month, once again for the sixth year, we handed out candy to many trick or treaters as historical reflections of Forest County characters.

We ended the year by helping to celebrate “Tionesta Lights Up” with a decorated museum and a chili dinner free to the public.

I personally believe the best organizations change leadership roles regularly and so allow me to introduce our new slate of officers for 2024 – Ron Heasley, President, Rodney Daum, Vice President, Mary Alyce Knauff, Secretary, and Toni Vrbonic, Treasurer

We keep trying to reach our mission to preserve and interpret the history of Forest County for future generations. We do this by collecting and caring for artifacts and documents, exhibiting the collections at the History Center, and offering informative events for all ages. Please join or renew your membership. We want to do the best possible job and for that we need each of you.

Mary Alyce (Jake) Knauff, President, FCHS

New President's goals for the next several years:

1. Continue to improve our educational efforts:
 - a. develop hands on activities for children,
 - b. send End of Year Report and newsletters to Forest Area teachers,
 - c. put museum tour information on iPads that can be used when visitors are taking the self-tour. It should be accessible to 5th grade children.
2. Form relationships with other local museums:
eg. Titusville, Oil City, Franklin, Tidioute
3. Attempt to develop a relationship with the Seneca Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca.
4. Continue to organize our reference collection and review the books, maps and files with all board members.



Membership application for 2023

Forest County Historical Society
PO Box 546
Tionesta, PA 16353

**Many thanks to those that have already
paid their membership dues for 2024.**

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Email _____

Number of members at \$15.00 each _____

Membership(s) \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**Your membership gives you free access to
the Forest County History Museum
for a year.
We want you to be part of our success.**

**You may pay your membership online
<https://forestcountypahistory.org/join-donate/> press the
[Donate] button or send a check. Please return this paper
membership application.**

Please make check payable to FCHS and mail to the address above. We appreciate your support.