

Friends of Michigan History, Inc
PRESIDENTS' ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2007/2008
JUNE 9, 2008

The fiscal year 2007/2008 was a rewarding year for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations was successfully implemented because of the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, who are all non-paid volunteers, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the board members of the Michigan Historical Foundation.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History , Inc. was organized is to “receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent, archives and archaeology programs conducted by the Michigan Historical Center.” Therefore, I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the aforementioned goals:

- * Allocated \$4,000 for the Historical Center’s A Hunting We Will Go exhibit.
- * \$5,000 is earmarked for the 2009 Michigan Roadside Attractions exhibit.
- * Contributed \$1,000 in support of the Statehood Day Celebration.
- * Sponsored the annual Veterans Day Program which featured Donald Burgett, who is a veteran of World War II and author of four books about the war in Europe
- * Donated \$5,000 to the Michigan Archives Leavenworth Project through the generosity of our treasurer, Dr. Richard Johnson.
- Donated \$1,000 to the Michigan State Archives for document conservation.
- Allocated \$500 for refreshments for the opening of the Leavenworth Exhibit.
- Contributed up to \$2,000 in support of the Museum’s second Winter Fest.
- Donated over \$700 for Honoraria in support of Archaeology Day.
- Contributed \$450 for 2007 Michigan History Day Awards.
- Allocated \$450 for 2008 Michigan History Day Awards.
- Donated \$500 in support of the annual Michigan Oral History Association program.

- Contributed \$250 to Historic Fort Wayne Coalition to support restoration activities at the fort.
- Donated \$825 in support of the Jackson Civil War Reenactment program.
- Allocated \$500 for the opening of the Archives exhibit fund raiser.
- The friends have directly contributed and/or allocated nearly \$22,000 for museum and historical operations during 2007/2008.

Our Fayette Historic Town site affiliate is raising money to restore Building #4 to house "archaeology finding related to Native Americans of the Fayette area". The goal is to raise and contribute \$12,000 to complete the project over the next two to three years.

The Friends of Michigan History affiliate at Walker Tavern is working in support of the Hewitt House renovation helping to raise \$35,055 needed in addition to \$22,945 in matching funds that have been raised to date.

Our affiliates have over \$15,000 collectively in their treasuries. This money will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

It is important to report that the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation have signed an agreement for another year continuing to work together for the benefit of the Historical Center. This working relationship helps attract new Friends members and added over \$4,000 in revenue for the Foundation this fiscal year. I believe our association with the Foundation will help us accomplish many great things in the future.

Major challenges for 2008/2009 include the need to increase our total membership which now totals over 600 members. A number of exciting fundraising and membership building activities will be unveiled over the next few months. We still must complete the application for IRS Group Exemption for our affiliates. It is my hope that will be completed within the next two months.

In view of the State of Michigan's budget constraints, our contributions to museum programs are becoming increasingly more important. Your contributions in time and money have helped the Michigan Historical Center continue offering high quality programs.

I extend my personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola
President, Friends of Michigan History Inc.