

## Greetings from the Nowata County Historical Society

Here we are, starting a new year, ready for new experiences. I hope many of you made a new year's resolution to come explore our Museum. If you have visited before, we hope you come again; there is always something new going on. Each and every one of you is greatly appreciated for your financial support as well as your commitment to the Historical Society to preserve the fascinating history of our County. Your dues and donations help keep the museum open to the public at no charge. As it is membership renewal time, I feel it is appropriate to share with you how your financial support is used.

Currently we have a total membership of 198 businesses and individuals. Of this group, 63 are Lifetime (we no longer offer this option), 18 Sustaining (Lifetime members that make yearly donations) and 135 that pay yearly dues. The total income from dues is \$4,475 for the 2024 year. I asked our Treasurer, to give you some numbers related to our operating expenses and she has provided the following:

### **For 2024**

Utilities	\$11,443.10
Insurance	10,167.57
Supplies	4,321.44
Grounds	<u>426.31</u>
	\$26,358.42

We are an 'All Volunteer Organization' – we have no paid staff and our Board Members pay their dues just like everyone else. All contributions stay in-house – we do not funnel YOUR support to any outside Events or Causes. As you can tell, membership dues do not cover it all but they do help. The rest is covered by donations at the door, donations from our Lifetime Sustaining members, from Memorial Donations and Honorariums, and from grants that we apply for as well as generous donations that many of our membership and friends make ... just because.

We encourage you to ask family and friends to join the Historical Society and remember us as a recipient for any special donations or memorials you might consider. Membership is also a great gift to give someone. A perk of membership is our Newsletter. Our editors are always seeking information to share with readers and enjoy sharing articles written by our membership.

Besides financial support we are always needing docents and individuals to help us preserve our history. Many of you have family information and information about events, buildings, and people that have made an impact on our county. Feel free to share with us; we can make copies of documents so you do not need to part with treasured originals.

Our Board members work hard acting as docents, doing work around the Museum either maintenance stuff or cataloguing and working with our artifacts and setting up new exhibits. As president of the Board I am happy to say that all of us get along and support each other and the aims of the Historical Society. We have worked very hard to develop a quality museum and feel we have one of the best, if not the best in the region. It is not uncommon for us to receive requests from other sites for help setting up or to just give advice. That is an honor for us, it validates our hard work.

I ask each of you to remember that you are a vital part of history, what you do each day does make a difference. Be kind to those you encounter, take care of your friends and family, extend a helping hand when you see a need and enjoy the opportunities that are waiting for you in this coming year.

Hope to see many of you soon!

Carroll Craun  
Nowata County Historical Society: President