



® ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



I bet you're expecting something along the lines of, "it's been a wonderful year full of exciting things..." right now. Well? It has, it's true. One heckuva year--because we filled it with experiments. Would monthly mini-fundraisers bring in operating funds? Would we survive after Vickie's retirement? Could we absorb her hours and save some staffing costs? Could we use volunteers at the front desk? Would guests leave free-will donations for a free-to-everyone gallery? Could committee meetings happen in the hour prior to a Board meeting each month and be effective?

The answers are sort-of, yes, mostly, yes, some, and yes. As with everything, we can't speak in absolutes and there are consequences that begat domino decisions at the History Center. Running a non-profit always presents a challenge; adapting to the fast-changing history world escalates those elements. We learned so much this year and I truly look forward to the future where we can implement those lessons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp'.

Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, ACHS Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Time moves by so quickly – it's good to look back, collect our thoughts, and highlight the great work from the past year. Here are a few of my favorite happenings from 2017:

- Moving things around: We have more collection items on display. Two of the best additions are restored stained glass panels displayed in the museum entryway.
- Events: From murder mysteries, a mock trial and a tea with historically relevant residents, ACHS brought history alive in a real way.
- Volunteers: They give so much and make so much possible – helping with museum operations, raising funds, advocating, participating in community festivals – volunteers extend our reach and advance the work of ACHS.

I am also proud that we have nearly doubled visits to our exhibit hall over the past two years. By removing the admission fee, we opened up Anoka County history to more people than ever before. That is the heart of what we do at ACHS – bringing history to life!

Thank you for valuing the important work of preserving the stories of Anoka County History.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orville Lindquist'.

Orville Lindquist, ACHS Board President

THE 2017 ACHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Pearson, *District #1 Representative*

Bill Nelson, *District #2 Representative*

Orville Lindquist, *District #3 Representative (President)*

Lotus Hubbard, *District #4 Representative*

Kate Morphew, *District #5 Representative*

Mary Capra, *District #6 Representative (Secretary)*

Bart Ward, *District #7 Representative*

Steve Florman *At-Large A*

Dennis Berg, *At-Large B (Vice-President)*

Mike Scott, *At-Large C*

Dick Lang, *At-Large D*

Buzz Netkow, *At-Large E*

Paul Pierce III, *At-Large F*

Shelly Peterson, *At-Large G (Treasurer)*

Harvey Greenberg, *At-Large H*

Bill Erhart, *Ex-Officio*

Jim Kordiak, *Anoka County Commissioner Liaison*

ACHS STAFF

Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, *Executive Director*

Audra Hilse, *Archivist & Administrator*

Sara Given, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Carol Dordan, *Desk Staff & Facilities Manager*

Don Johnson, *Desk Staff*

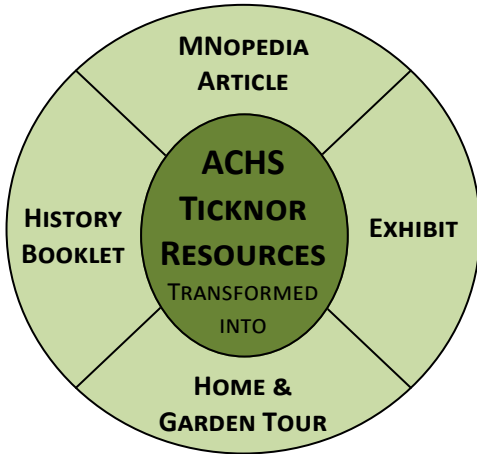
Gail Dahl, *Desk Staff*

**National Register
Property Series:
Ticknor Hill**

When we select a project at ACHS, we want to make sure it is, first and foremost, a great story. Without the story, we're just handing down facts, dates, and random names. This keeps history "musty-dusty" and that's no fun. In our second year of this project, we continued to use our resources wisely by centering

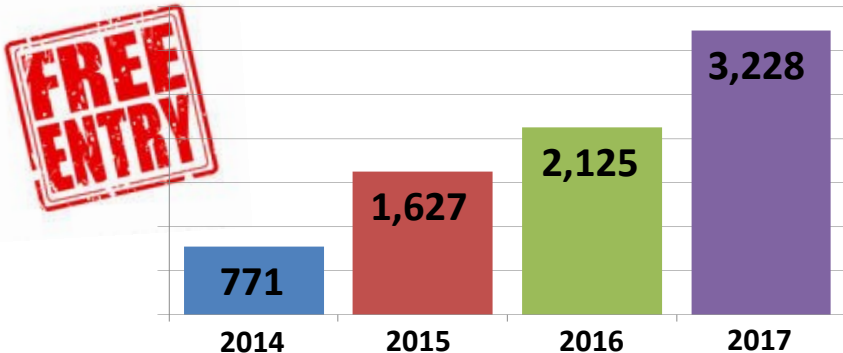


the Home and Garden Tour on the Ticknor Hill property, writing a booklet, displaying information in our gallery, creating a QCTV episode of *It's Your History*, and leveraging research time through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that created a MNopedia article for each National Register property.



Look for an exhibit changeover to the Kline Sanatorium in the summer of 2018!

Exhibit Hall Visitors





History 21 Gift Shop

Free admission to the exhibit gallery meant more eyeballs seeing some great stories--and wanting to take a piece of it home! How convenient to browse our booklets, find a piece of Jon Arfstrom art, specialty totes, and local publications while you're here. This project was made possible by a donation from LeOra Kroger.



2018 goals:

- ⇒ More interactive elements in the Exhibit Hall
- ⇒ Online shopping for both new and beloved gifts
- ⇒ Creation of three more history booklets
- ⇒ Walking tour of National Register Properties



Photography station created



In addition to the gift shop, the donation from LeOra Kroger also allowed us to build a dedicated area for photographing artifacts.

Digitizing items in our collection provides better access for patrons, as they can view the artifacts without further damage. Volunteers and staff have created high resolution files of new donations as they arrive at ACHS and will continue to update older artifacts in the collection.

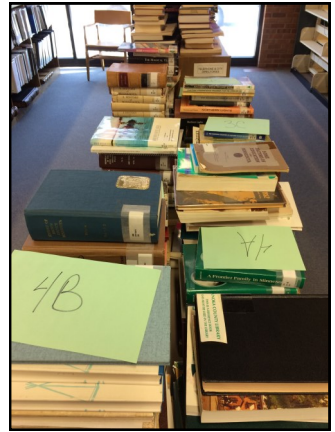
This area also provided a space for "Digital Dan" from Arch³, LLC to complete the digitizing process of the Jon Arfstrom diaries. ACHS received a Legacy fund grant in addition to Arfstrom family money to support the project, which includes the transcription of text that accompanied the daily images.



Look for a new exhibit in 2018!

Shifting Spaces

After evaluating the workflows at ACHS, staff created a plan to use our limited space more effectively. As the reading room and library area became more compacted, we shifted each bookshelf and filing cabinet to use less floor space and become more accessible for volunteers and researchers. The back office area shifted to a more open plan, which created one larger cubical space for the collections team to share and space for an additional work station.



Showcase items in the Collection

Part of caring for artifacts means maintaining their structure and keeping deterioration to a minimum. Thanks to a donation from LeOrla Kroger, we were able to rehabilitate two stained glass windows from the Methodist church in Anoka and hang them in the lobby for patrons to enjoy. But wait! They're not the only stained glass on display now. Also donated in 2017 were panels from the State Bank of Anoka sign, which now hang in the library.



**DEEDS OF GIFT
SENT**



**ITEMS PROCESSED
INTO COLLECTION**



While there is always more work to do, I am proud of the progress we have made for the ACHS collections over the past year. While making new donations accessible as quickly as possible, we are also continuously improving our knowledge and care of our existing collections.

Audra Hilse, Archivist & Administrator

MNOPEDIA

Ever have a burning desire to read a little bit about a whole lot of Minnesota history? Try out MNopedia, hosted by the Minnesota Historical Society. Funded by a Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, ACHS created one article on each National Register Property in the county. Partnering with resources such as this, allows our history to reach a wider audience no matter where they live or work.



What better way to spend an afternoon with the small people in your life than to visit the museum gallery? Now that a donation gets you in the door, kids of all ages can explore for as long as they're comfortable. Our scavenger hunt sheets work great for Scouting organizations, as well. Groups like Rise, Opportunity partners, and adult daycares used ACHS as a new location for an affordable outing. ***We're proud to have removed a barrier to the discovery of great stories.***

FIND YOUR HISTORY HERE:



Surprise! When you visit a museum and discover your 12 year old self on the wall.



Jennifer [Ward] Delgado donating Tom Ward letters, which are in the process of being digitized and transcribed.



E. Lou Morse and his daughter visited his WWII uniform. It will be on public display in 2018.

Adopt-an-Artifact

Preserving the items in our collection, from furniture and clothing to papers and photographs, does not happen without resources. It costs approximately \$40 in supplies, staff time, and building costs to keep an average archival box on the shelf for one year. This year, donors specifically supported the collections through directed gifts and our Adopt-an-Artifact program. This program connects people with a unique item in the collection, often one that illustrates a personal hobby or love.

2017 ADOPTIONS

- ⇒ Greenwald Quilt
- ⇒ C.M Heard Crazy Quilt
- ⇒ St. Francis Glass Plate Negatives
- ⇒ Edward B. Cutter Foot Locker
- ⇒ Centerville City Records
- ⇒ Anoka County Probate Records
- ⇒ Philco Company Radio
- ⇒ Anoka Masonic Lodge Collection
- ⇒ 1950's Halloween Costume
- ⇒ Halloween Skirt
- ⇒ Chase Collection

Artifacts on the Go: Taking History for a Ride



While the History Center boasts a 3,000 square foot Exhibit Hall to showcase our collection, we understand that not everyone can access our building. To remedy this, we created displays at the Rum River and Mississippi Branch libraries in October that featured WWII, Fridley, and Halloween history. Those who visited the Ramsey City Hall discovered informational panels on Archeological

history of the county. Even further a-field, we lent the Lake Superior Railroad Museum in Duluth a piece of President Lincoln's Funeral Car, which burned in a grass fire in Columbia Heights.

The Anoka County Historical society filled the Mississippi library lobby display cases. ACHS staff did a wonderful job of intertwining photos and stories of past Fridley Halloween celebrations along with sharing upcoming ACHS exhibits and events. The display was enjoyed by library customers and staff alike. We look forward to an ACHS display again next fall!

Shannon Melham, Mississippi Branch Manager



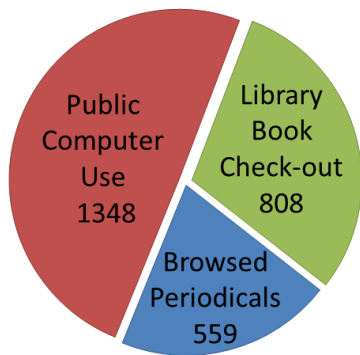
**ANOKA COUNTY
LIBRARY**

2017 PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners provide ACHS with new connections to the community and a wider audience reach as well as a fresh approach to storytelling.

Anoka County Library

We continue to prepare programs for the public through the library and the Legacy Funds. Innovative topics in 2017 included "Journeys", which highlighted the similar experiences of Father Joseph Goiffon, James Groat, and Randy Bauer as they explored their world and challenged themselves. Other educational presentations explained Anoka County's involvement in World War I, Medical History, and telling a family history through recipes.



14,156

HISTORY CENTER VISITORS

Equal to the populations of
St. Francis & Spring Lake
Park combined

Anoka County: Thank You

It is with deep gratitude that ACHS acknowledges the role played by the County in continuing to fund a large portion of the History Center operations: **the equivalent of 44 cents per resident.**

Without this core support, ACHS couldn't maintain the professional standards of research, preservation, and heritage we're known for. These funds help us create the outreach and educational opportunities in this report, as well a multitude of daily tasks too large to list.

As a result of this funding, your story is safe with us.

ACHS Programming Partners--Helping us tell the story!

- ◇ Anoka American Legion Post 102
- ◇ Anoka County Library
- ◇ Anoka County Fair Board
- ◇ Anoka County Genealogical Society
- ◇ Anoka-Hennepin School District 11
- ◇ Anoka HPC
- ◇ Anoka Lions Club
- ◇ Anoka *UnionHerald*
- ◇ Blaine Historical Society
- ◇ City of Andover
- ◇ City of Centerville
- ◇ City of Fridley
- ◇ City of Ramsey
- ◇ Coon Rapids HPC
- ◇ Coon Rapids Rotary
- ◇ CTN—Coon Rapids Community Television Network
- ◇ Fridley Historical Society
- ◇ Fridley School District
- ◇ Grand Casino
- ◇ Minitex
- ◇ Minnesota Digital Library
- ◇ Nowthen Historical Power Association
- ◇ Opportunity Partners
- ◇ Quad Cities Television
- ◇ Quad-Cities Press
- ◇ Rise
- ◇ RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)


Social Media

Of all the trending buzz-words in the non-profit world, *social media* feels the most prolific. Using this tool correctly for promotion of our events, collections, and activities presented dual challenges of staff time and instilling new habits to consistently create posts.

Thanks to the pro-bono suggestions of e-merge Online Marketing, ACHS has seen some impactful results. With Facebook likes up 63% and a growing following on Twitter, reaching a new portion of the county has become easier.

We have found the most success in posting images from the 1970s, as people then vividly recount childhood memories or family traditions. Our next goal? To discover a way of preserving the thousands of comments and short stories in the comment section!



 **Anoka County Historical Society**
 Published by Audra Hilse (?) · June 9, 2017 · 🌐

Here is a photograph of Ted's Store, located at 13120 Crooked Lake Blvd. in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. The store was owned by Ted Buzzelli. This photograph was taken in June, 1992. (Object ID# 677.1.20) #tedsstore #coonrapids #store #1990s #anokacountyhistory



66,928 PEOPLE REACHED

670 Reactions

Shared **267** times

156 Comments

 [redacted] My boys loved going there! They got their first haircuts there. The barber was such a comedian!
 Like · Reply · Message · 37w

 [redacted] We visited this store many times. And Jim's Barber Shop was next door.
 Like · Reply · Message · 37w

↳ 1 Reply

 [redacted] Millie's! Used to walk there for giant freezies and snacks on the way to or from the park in the summer!!
 Like · Reply · Message · 37w

Mad Hatter Tea Room events: partnership that worked



Murder at Sea

Imagine the year 1915...the world on the cusp of a Great War, spies, intrigue, and now a captain murdered on his own ship! Sponsored by the Weaver family, this sold out event drew costumed people to enjoy an evening of role-playing to discover *whodunit*. Part of our monthly dinner series to

raise funds for ACHS, this event proved history can feel fun and be meaningful at the same time. We not only reached an entirely new audience with this event, but also created relationships that propelled similar events forward (Mock Trial on page 11).

Woodbury Tea Dinner Series

Memoirs by community members such as Mary Woodbury provide a valuable view into the past. This new event brought her words to life at dinners hosted in her historic home, the Woodbury House. The research to create the program allowed staff to publish a new booklet for sale in the gift shop.



NEW BOOKLET!
IN MARY'S OWN
WORDS.



It was a delight and a privilege to be able to entertain people while bringing an historical court case to life while supporting the mission of the Historical Society.

Andi Sherek, Mock Trial Actor

14th Annual Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

One of the largest fundraisers of the year for ACHS continues to draw crowds of new visitors from around the state. Staff added some fresh stories and spooky tales to spice things up, but stayed committed to the organization's mission. How large could we grow this program? ***Our goal is to add five new docents in 2018 and find out. Stay tuned (and consider volunteering)!***



TOURS



TICKETS SOLD



12,267 EARNED



7/11/2017

★★★★★ · October 25, 2017

Highly recommend their walking ghost tour - you get a wealth of local history along with some tales of unexplained encounters locals have had. Well worth going!

Home and Garden Tour

Also reaching its 14th anniversary, the Historic Heritage Home and Garden Tour celebrated the prestigious Third Avenue homes, among others, in 2017. Despite the challenges of construction, the tour showcased 13 sites in Anoka, including the KC Hall and (mysterious) Masonic Lodge. The event is a partnership with the Anoka Historic Preservation Commission.



Special attractions included a historic retrospective of tours, Jon Arfstrom art display, Jugornots concert, and seed give-a-way at the Harmony Community Garden. Volunteers gave 135 hours on the day of the tour, in addition to those logged by homeowners and friends prior to the event.



Each city in Anoka County tells a unique story. Check out the Fridley Home Tour in 2018!

More Murder? The notorious case of the Fridley family



Mock Trial

Telling a story without boring the audience presents a continual challenge for historians. Luckily, another county historical society suggested the idea of a Mock Trial and ACHS found a willing pool of participants.

One of the monthly fundraising events, the Mock Trial dinner featured the 100-year-old story of Mary Fridley Price and her (not so) dearly beloved husband, Fred. Accused of pushing Mary down a steep embankment by the Mississippi River, Fred coerced his friend, Charles Etchison, to lie for him.

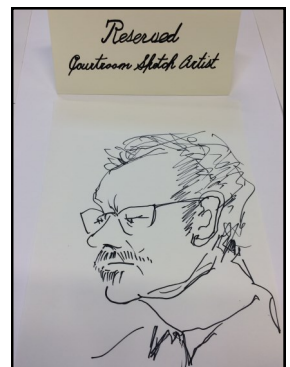
Eventually overcome by guilt, Charles told the police the entire story. Lawyers called their respective witnesses to the stand, eliciting both shock and mirth from the ACHS audience. The ghost of Mary could hardly contain herself, especially during the testimony of Fred's mistress.



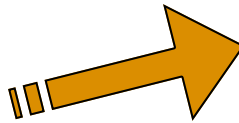
CAST LIST

Presiding Judge
Defense Lawyer
Prosecution Lawyer
Bailiff
Mary Fridley Price, deceased
Doctor
Park Board Expert
Grace Swartz, second wife
Private Investigator
David Fridley, father
Charles Etchison, accomplice
Carrie Olson, mistress
Fred Price, the accused
Court Sketch Artist

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney
John Huberty
Terri Melcher
Buzz Netkow
Sara Given
Andi Sherek
Wally Wysopal
Robyn Thanghe
Andi Sherek
Scott Lund, Mayor of Fridley
Steve Florman
Cristina Loechler
Nick Severson
Catherine Vesley

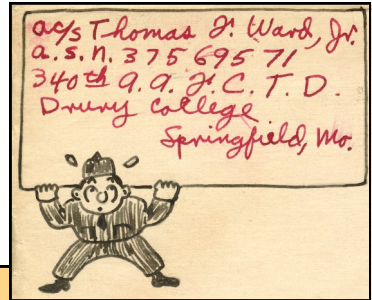


Volunteers Gave:



EQUIVALENT OF
\$71,840
 PAID STAFF TIME

* Based on reported volunteer hours.



During the time I have been transcribing the Tom Ward letter collection, I have become increasingly familiar with the Ward family ... each letter brought me closer to events of that earlier time..., until it seemed as if I was receiving a letter from "my" family, and hearing about "my" town, "my" school, and "my" class of 1944. Working with the letters has been a truly memorable experience. Are there any more? I'd love to hear what happened next!

Dave VenHuizen, Volunteer



With the history of 21 cities in our care, volunteers serve an essential role within the historical society. They help us extend our reach both within the History Center walls and out in the community. This year, volunteers responded to calls for help in our new Volunteer Venture newsletter. This email connects people with specific opportunities to help ACHS, and fosters a greater sense of community as we highlight what others are working on or have accomplished.



Our volunteers prove every day that history is more than names in a book. It is a community of people, laughing and sharing with each other in the effort to keep the stories of the past alive.

Sara Given, Volunteer Coordinator





Oh, the places we went to find you:

- ◇ Anoka County Fair farmhouse
- ◇ Blaine Festival
- ◇ Centerville Festival
- ◇ Nowthen Threshing Show
- ◇ Nowthen Heritage Festival
- ◇ East Bethel Booster Days
- ◇ Philolectian New Member Tea and regular meetings
- ◇ Linwood Family Fun Day
- ◇ PEO society meeting
- ◇ MetroNorth *Working with Women, Ambassadors, Wine & Hops Event Committee*
- ◇ Multiple Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis groups
- ◇ Sandhill Festival
- ◇ Wargo Nature Center
Voyageur Lab
- ◇ Minitex ILL Ignite session
- ◇ Minnesota Digital Library Annual Meeting session
- ◇ MNHS Northern Lights Academy session
- ◇ Plaque dedications
- ◇ Anoka Chamber of Commerce
- ◇ Social, retirement, and church groups
- ◇ School open houses

Memberships

Membership is not just a financial donation, it's a declaration that local history plays a vital role in the community.

We thank our members who continue their commitment to the operation of the History Center and fulfillment of its mission!



Look for Institutional Memberships in 2018, which will provide for packaged program pricing and group opportunities.

455 MEMBERSHIPS
TRANSLATES TO
639 MEMBERS

32

NEW
MEMBERSHIPS

New Member Benefits:

Free Group Tour - All members are entitled to bring up to 15 friends for a guided Museum tour of your choice once per year (\$30 value). Tour choices include 1) Guided Gallery Tour of current exhibits; 2) Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the ACHS Collections; or 3) Kids' Scavenger Hunt Tour. Tour must be scheduled in advance.

Significant Donations

ACHS treasures each and every donation that arrives in support of local history. Collectively, every dollar adds up and makes an enormous difference. Larger gifts, however, make a special impact for us. Thank you so very much to everyone who gives according to their ability.

Gifts of \$500 or more

- American Legion Auxiliary Edward Cutter Post #102
- Lyle Bradley
- Orville Lindquist
- Quad Cities Television

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

- Anoka County
- Federal Premium Ammunition
- Legacy Fund Grants

- Medtronic Foundation
- ML Corporate Ventures
- Mike Scott
- Pierce Motel
- Tim and Rose Talbot
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Weaver Brothers Company



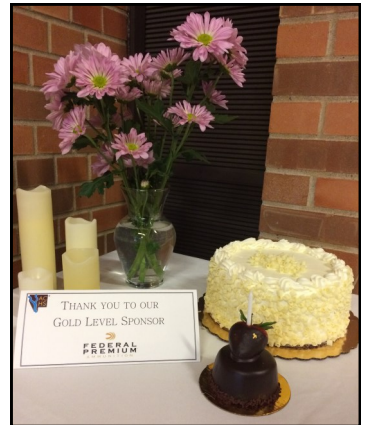


Contributions to ACHS don't always come in the way of cash to defray operating costs. The City of Anoka continues to support local history efforts by providing our building as an in-kind donation. As a result of this sizeable gift, ACHS can maintain the public computers and library space, preserve the story of the County, and recount the fascinating tales in our collection. We extend sincere thanks to the City of Anoka for their continued support!

Fundraising Program Series

We recognize programming must speak to hobbies and interests of those we serve, so we literally served you in 2017! ACHS embarked on the ambitious goal of hosting a fundraising dinner for 20 close friends each month, catered by Lisa's Catering of Ramsey. We selected a theme for each dinner and featured preservation projects like the artist Jon Arfstrom or educational options like our museum boxes, as well as purely fun events such as the murder mystery, or storytelling options like the mock trial.

This programming experiment taught us that evening meals are fun and engaging to supporters during the fall months and people connected most with topics like Halloween, murder mysteries, and mock trials. We're excited to have discovered yet another way to bring history to life and tell the tales of Anoka County in this more intimate setting.



- Business History unpacked
- Schools out! Exploring Museum Boxes
- Unwrap the Past
- Artist Jon Arfstrom
- Halloween Unlocked!
- Murder at Sea Murder Mystery
- Mary Fridley Murdered? Mock Trial

2017 FINANCIAL GROWTH

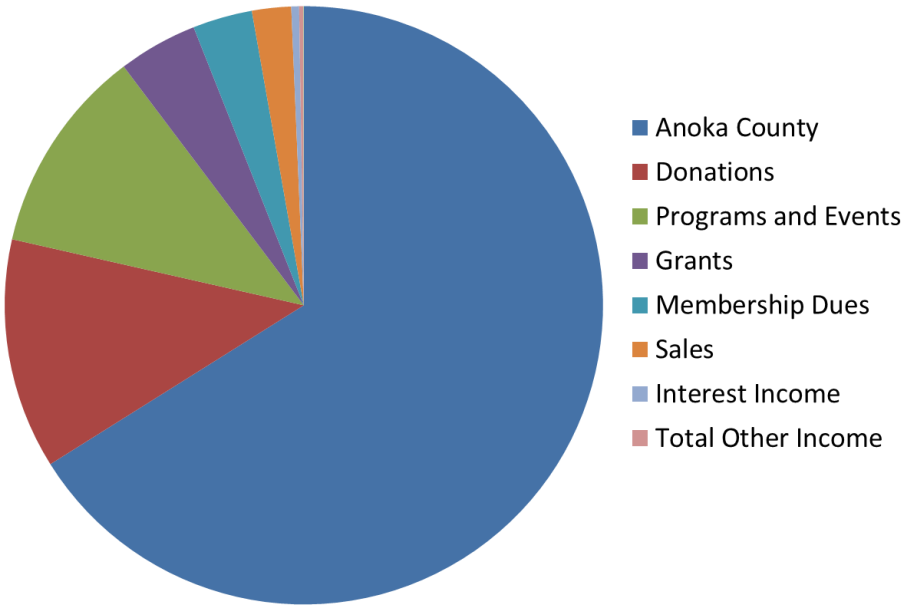
Anoka County Historical Society

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY_2017 - FY17 P&L

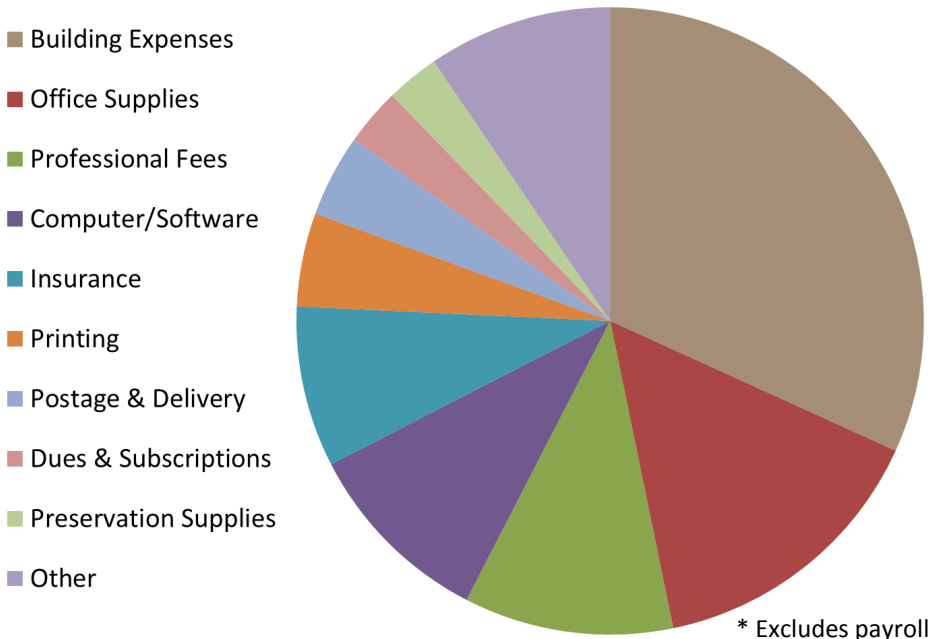
January - December 2017

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue			
TOTAL SUPPORT		21.37	
Admissions	75.00	1,532.00	4.90 %
Anoka County	152,623.00	152,623.00	100.00 %
Donations	31,660.94	33,573.73	94.30 %
Grants	9,883.19	2,451.00	403.23 %
Interest Income	972.21	856.27	113.54 %
Membership Dues	7,437.00	8,400.00	88.54 %
Other Income	531.31	1,059.07	50.17 %
Programs and Events	26,670.72	31,713.09	84.10 %
Sales	4,936.91	6,828.57	72.30 %
Total TOTAL SUPPORT	234,790.28	239,058.10	98.21 %
Total Revenue	\$234,790.28	\$239,058.10	98.21 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$234,790.28	\$239,058.10	98.21 %
Expenditures			
Advertising	910.82	1,080.00	84.34 %
Bank Service Charges	910.60	701.47	129.81 %
Building Expenses	22,499.84	31,456.20	71.53 %
Computer/Software Expense	5,592.98	3,600.00	155.36 %
Dues and Subscriptions	1,671.47	1,731.50	96.53 %
Food	872.45	600.00	145.41 %
Furniture & Other Equipment	411.68	581.64	70.78 %
Gifts	115.46	322.54	35.80 %
Human Resources Expense	171.91	1,280.00	13.43 %
Insurance	5,984.99	4,560.00	131.25 %
LeOra fund expenses	8,616.39		
Museum Exhibit Expense	127.20	3,600.00	3.53 %
Networking	308.60		
Office Supplies	8,344.19	11,532.00	72.36 %
OPERATING EXPENSE (deleted)	247.88		
PAYROLL	148,282.04	160,927.96	92.14 %
Postage and Delivery	2,412.61	2,400.00	100.53 %
Preservation Supplies	1,549.23	1,800.00	86.07 %
Printing and Reproduction	2,732.41	300.00	910.80 %
Professional Fees	6,616.14	6,393.20	103.49 %
Program Expense	7,327.40	4,200.00	174.46 %
Purchases	655.10	523.64	125.11 %
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-494.84	-228.00	217.04 %
Research Expense	20.00		
Travel Expense	1,135.26	1,800.00	63.07 %
Total Expenditures	\$227,021.81	\$239,162.15	94.92 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$7,768.47	\$ -104.05	-7,466.09 %
Other Expenditures	\$1,602.50	\$0.00	0.00%
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -1,602.50	\$0.00	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$6,165.97	\$ -104.05	-5,925.97 %

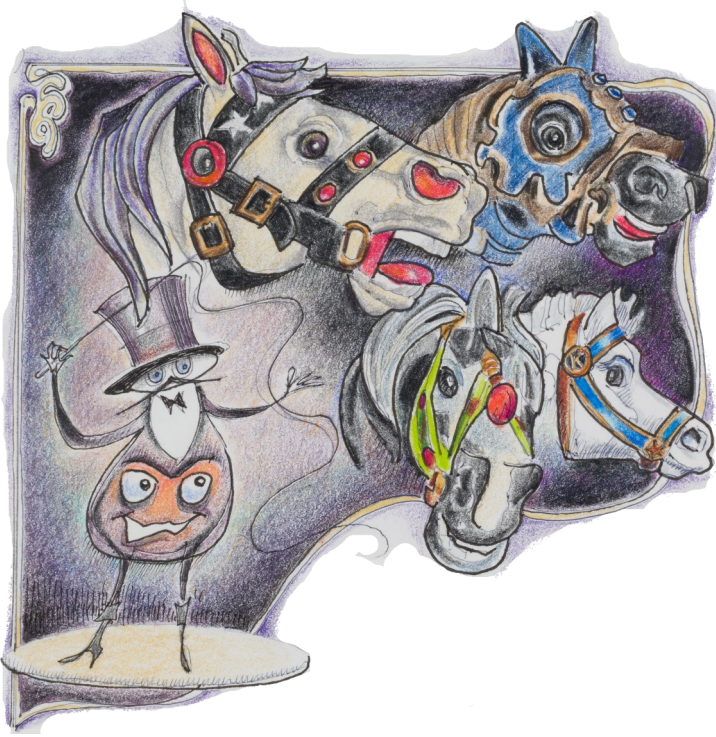
REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Cover Art from Jon
Arfstrom Journal
Pages. Accession #:
2016.1690



Thank you for your support!



2135 Third Ave North
Anoka, MN 55303
Phone: 763-421-0600
Email: achs@AnokaCountyHistory.org
AnokaCountyHistory.org

