

# *Historical Society of Sarasota County*

## ANNUAL MEETING

April 1, 2023

**Attendance: Board members:** Marsha Fottler; Deborah Bowers; Betsy Lingenheld; Deb Walk; Greg Dickinson; Carroll Williams; Lori Hajost; Jon Stone; Brenda Lee Hickman; Dr. Frank Cassell; Kathryn Chesley; *various members & guests.*

**Site Manager:** Linda Garcia

**Absent:** Jeff LaHurd

**Call to Order:** The Historical Society of Sarasota County Annual meeting was held in the Crocker Memorial Church. Marsha Fottler, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

### ***Election of Officers and Directors at Large***

***Brenda Lee Hickman presented the slate for 2023-2025 as follows:***

President 1<sup>st</sup> term: Greg Dickinson

Secretary 1<sup>st</sup> term: *Open*

Directors at Large 1<sup>st</sup> Term: Marsha Fottler, Carroll Williams, Frank Cassell

Director at Large 2<sup>nd</sup> Term: Deborah Walk

Brenda Lee asked for nominations from the floor. With no suggestions/volunteers, Marsha called for a vote; no opposition. All positions will take charge at the official end of this meeting.

***Treasurer's Report / Finance Committee:*** Jon Stone presented the Treasurer's Report. This group meets every month to review our finances and the current condition of the Crocker Memorial Church and the Bidwell-Wood house. Our hard-working members have met this challenge and thankfully, our finances at the end of this fiscal year are in very good standing. The buildings continue to require a lot of attention but are in good condition. A huge thank you to committee members Ken Abt, an Advisory Board member, Betsy Lingenheld, HSOSC Board member and Project Manager for the Crocker Church renovations, Deborah Bowers, HSOSC Board Member at Large, Brenda Lee Hickman, HSOSC Board Member, and Linda Garcia, our extraordinary HSOSC Site Manager and bookkeeper.

Fundraising efforts this past year and upcoming year include: East wall renovation: estimated \$90,000. We are awaiting the Selby Foundation grant of \$40,000 and have \$59,000 set aside for balance.

4 columns replacement: \$25,000. We have \$17,000 from our annual appeal letter and expect to have balance soon.

Our operating funds come from come from rentals as well as events and programs. Even with Covid we have been able to meet our budget goals. An unexpected expense occurred recently. The AC equipment had to be replaced at a cost of \$11,976.

Other income includes: \$3,005 from our annual Sparkly Saturday Jewelry and Tag Sale, \$10,211 from the Le Barge Cruises, \$6,411 from our Hero of History Luncheon celebrating Carl Abbott, \$3,050 from rentals, and another \$3,140 from other special events. An unexpected amount of \$87,000 was received from the estate of our past President, Arnold Berns.

Regarding our fiscal year, we have a total of \$205,457.53 in our savings/checking accounts and \$1,067.23 in our PayPal account. We will continue to apply for grants when available and participate in other events such as the upcoming Giving Challenge where the Patterson Foundation will match individual gifts from \$25 to \$100.

In closing, Jon thanked all of our community of members and friends for their confidence in HSOSC and for their continuing support of our efforts in historic preservation and history education.

***President's Report:*** Marsha Fottler introduced the entire Board of Directors. Highlights of the year began with the review and rewrite of the organization's By-Laws with the assistance of Deborah Walk and Lori Hajost. We had a great success with Sparkly Saturday Sale and a near sell-out La Barge tour. Brenda Lee Hickman was recognized at organizing more than 30 cruises. Heroes of History honored architect Carl Abbot with a luncheon. Although not as well attended as previous years it was a nice event. History Day in the Park (a county-wide celebration of local and regional history) was a long, dusty day but everyone had a wonderful time with a staff of Marsha Fottler, Linda Garcia, Deb Walk, Jon Stone, Sue Padden, Wil Pearson, Dor Brown, Marsha Ambrose and Norma Kwenski.

Other recognitions of note: Finance committee is the spine of the organization. Kathryn Chesley continues to be our ambassador at large. Kate Holmes is our connection to the wider world. Linda Garcia, our site manager, handles bookkeeping, manages Church rentals, attends all committee meetings, deals with the city and state, and more! Volunteer member Cheryl Gross has been cleaning, repositioning furniture, and more at the Bidwell-House.

***Distinguished Service Awards:*** Presented by Marsha.

**Sue Padden:** Always available especially when culinary services are required. She is an excellent host!

**William Pearson (*in absentia*)**

**Jerry Chesley:** Assists with tag sale. Starts collecting items throughout the year. Prices and stages items throughout the sale day; offers suggestions to potential buyers.

**Deborah Walk:** Historian extraordinaire

***Sarasota Trivia Game:*** Presented by Kim and John Manning. Kim initially asked is anyone was from Sarasota; no one was. Kim asked folks who have lived here the longest. There were quite a few long-timers. Challenging questions presented to group. Jon Sone was able to answer most.

***Door prizes:*** Drawing was held for five lucky ticket holders.

***Closing Remarks:***

Ken Abt requested the floor to thank Marsha for her six years as president. He and his wife donated \$1,000 in Marsha Fottler and Deborah Bowers names for all their hard work. They both accepted and said they would like to see the funds go toward the column replacement project.

Marsha officially closed the meeting and handed the keys to the church and house to the incoming President Greg Dickinson. Greg spoke briefly as to when and how he got involved with HSOSC. Starting with taking his young daughters on a LaBarge tour; he was hooked. Eventually he joined the board, and then took the Treasurer's position and later the Vice President position. He looks forward to the new year. With that, he thanked all for their support and closed the meeting.

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**Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Hajost, Secretary**