



Dubois County Museum E News



Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2026

Changes in the Board of Directors

The Dubois County Museum Board of Directors met for their reorganization meeting and have elected Jeff Schmitt



as the President of the Board. Elected to continue in their positions will be Vic Betz as Vice-president, Julia Flynn as Treasurer and Joann

Schnarr as Secretary of the board.

Several members will be leaving the

board. Bruce Heeke has decided to step down after serving for over six years; the past two years as President. Margaret "Peg" Wagner will be leaving after many years on the Board. She had served as Treasurer and as



Membership Chairman. Returning to the Board will be Cheryl Sermersheim.

Thank you to all who made a commitment to the museum and the Board of Directors.

Membership Dinner Held January 22

The 27th Membership Dinner was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Over 150 members attended.

Following the catered meal

and business meeting, speakers Randy Wellmeyer and Tom Fierst spoke. Randy spoke about mines in Hunt- ingburg and Duff area with information he had written in

a book he published. Tom Fierst spoke on the Silver Rush that was growing in the late 1800's in Dubois County that lead to a smelter being made. It was a Bust though.

Pictured below are Randy Wellmeyer and Tom Fierst.



Storytime for February

The Dubois County Museum will continue their Storytime program each month in 2026 at the museum. The program is held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Book Nook in the Little Pioneer's area for the young visitors. Coordinator Carrie Holdsworth announces in 2026 she will be reading books each month by some renown children's authors. The list includes Mo Williams in February (Pigeon books and Knuffle Bunny), Dr.

Seuss in March (*Cat in the Hat*), Sandra Boynton in April (Board books like *I'm Going to Bed*), Margaret Wise Brown in May (*Goodnight Moon*), Eric Carle in June (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*), July is Beatrix Potter (Peter Rabbit books), August is Leo Lionni (*Frederick, Swimmy*), September is Robert McCloskey (*Blueberries for Sal, Make Way for Ducklings*), October is Mau-

rice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*), November is Lois Ehlert (*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Planting a Rainbow*) and December is Jan Brett. (*The Gingerbread Man, The Three Snow Bears*).



Exhibit Team at Work

Our Exhibit's Team has a lot of items on their 2026 schedule.

The display case below the ramp will feature Americana Items to celebrate our 250th birthday. They have plans to Remove the Masterbrand kitchen/store upstairs
Establish new Temp display "The Wonders of Wood"
(Will be up for 1 year Possibly

March 2026-2027).

New Military addition - Permanent Installing in March 2026

Lobby

Work on the donor wall beginning Jan. /Feb 2026

Ramp Wall - Photo Gallery

School display continues until Photo Contest that begins April 15.

Photo Contest in May- July 2026

Churches in Dubois County - Aug. 2026 - May 2027

Come in and check out their progress and all these wonderful exhibits.

Thank You Optimist Club of Jasper

Thank you to the Optimist Club of Jasper for the recent \$1,000 donation made to our Children's programming. They reached out and asked us to submit a grant application recently

and Kathy Bachman completed the application and again asked for assistance with our Children's Programming. We will use this money to help with Storytime, Sweets with Santa,

Tea with Teddy and Heritage Days with fourth grade students from the county elementary schools.

Thank you for again supporting our museum!

Update on Fundraising Efforts

A note from our Treasurer, Julia Flynn.

Our capital campaign this year was for repairing and adding Air Conditioning to all of our exhibit areas. The biggest room with the log cabin and all the farm machinery will finally be air conditioned.

AC will keep our artifacts stabilized and allow for more programs in the log house area for programs during the summer.

We had an outstanding response from the community for this cause.

We are also establishing a donor wall in our Hoffman-Sendelweck Welcome Area. The wall will be a living wall that will be updated yearly. We will look back for donations, memberships, and in kind gifts for the past 10 years. Once your name makes it to the wall, it will not come off. If you achieve a new level, that level will be reflected.

You can choose the name you wish to display on the wall. For instance, you may want a formal name or a shortened name. You may want a name that includes your deceased spouse. The choice is up to you.

There will be 228 names on the wall for us to start with.

Weather Related Closings

The museum was closed during the large snow event we saw these past few days of January. 2026. Due to our staff being made up of volunteers we try to close on the side of caution. So, we heard the weather reports of this large storm com-

ing in and decided to close the museum on Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25th. Predictions of snow accumulations were true. Whenever it is a weekday, we go by school closings. So, when Jasper closes school, we will close.

I hope this helps any walkers who come in to walk or visitors who plan to visit on whether we are open.

It is posted on Facebook and on radio (WBDC, WITZ) and Free Press.

Remember,
when Jasper schools close due to weather, we will close.

2025 Year in Review

Volunteers, Tours, and Programming Chairman Kathy Bachman compiled these stats for the year 2025.

We saw about 9,000 visitors pass through our doors. 6% were from Out of State and 12% were

from out of the county.

Our volunteers logged 9,763 hours. We have 143 available volunteers. Last year 125 volunteers logged in hours. Some help seasonally with Christmas trees, while others, like the 55 that cov-

er the lobby desk, welcome visitors into the museum.

Ten groups requested and were given guided tours.

The Exhibits team displayed at least eleven news exhibits and worked to update many others.

The Collections team worked to bring our totals up to 66,000 pieces in our collections.



Dubois County Museum
2704 N. Newton Street, (US 231 N) Jasper,
IN 47546

Call 812-634-7733

Hours are 10 a.m.-2p.m. Tuesday-Friday,
10a.m.-4p.m. Saturday, 1-4p.m. on Sunday.
Closed Monday.

Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 high school
age, \$2 middle and elem. school, and under
4-free.

Members admitted free.

The Dubois County Museum is a local non profit organization committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations are funded by annual memberships, admissions, donations and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses. The DCM is staffed entirely of volunteers. Visit the museum web site www.duboiscountymuseum.org. Like us on Facebook at Dubois County Museum. *Funded in part by the Dubois County Visitors Center-www.visitduboiscounty.com 800-968-4578.*

Book a tour by calling Kathy at 812-630-8696.

Contact Kathy at 812-630-8696 if interested in volunteering.

For Room Rentals, contact Kathy at the museum at 812-634-7733.

Support the museum by making a Memorial Gift in memory of or in Honor of a loved one.



Update on Remodeling in Collections Area

From Jeff Schmitt with Collections:

In addition to taking in new artifacts and managing the inventory of the museum's over 66,000 items, the collections department has been working to remodel their workspaces and expanding their storage area. The main room has been painted, lighting updated, carpeting installed, and desks updated to be able to have all group members working in the same room. This has made for better collaboration and team building among the members. A room previously used for workstations has been cleaned out and configured to be used for expanded storage of our photographic, clothing, and loan artifacts. The collections group thanks everyone that was involved in this freshening of our workspaces!

