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Letter from our WLAHS President: (written in early March 2020)

As we enter 2020 our historical society has much to celebrate! Allison Tate, one of last year's student presenters at our May meeting, went on to WIN the NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION!!! Her project was entitled "A Bitter Pill to Swallow" and it took her all the way to FIRST PLACE NATIONALLY!!! CONGRATULATIONS to one of our own young people!

Other reasons to celebrate :

- 1. Our membership remains stable with 134 active members; average monthly meeting attendance is 40, with several visitors each month.
2. This year we have expanded our calendar, featuring an April meeting of the National History Days presentations. This helps out the students so they can show off their projects before they go on to statewide competition later in the month.
3. We have welcomed two new members to our board: Ron Arnson as treasurer and Jan Grady as hospitality chairperson.
4. Our website has been updated with a new logo which more readily reflects our White Lake "home".
5. Our local history is promoted almost daily on Facebook and other sites by Laura Connell (VP) and Barbara Brow (Secretary) as they post pictures, postcards, and newspaper clippings from our past.
6. Our Walking Tour booklets have also been updated and continue to be welcomed by visitors to the White lake Area.

In spite of these reasons to celebrate, we are facing challenges. Physically our bodies are aging, and mobility issues present difficulties when meeting sites are uneven, or require walking any distances due to restricted parking. Age itself causes attendance to decline, and as a Board we need your input as to how to keep the history of the White Lake area alive and well as we enter this next decade. We are looking forward to another decade of stories and visits to our local historical points of interest. Please help us in reaching out to new and younger people to introduce them to the rich heritage of our area in order that our past may survive!

I challenge each of us to bring younger visitors to our meetings. Encourage them to join with us as we celebrate our history!

Cheryl Lohman, President

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Note that our Schedule for April-Oct. 2020 on the next page was planned in Feb.-March 2020 and is now ON HOLD until further notice!

Postscript from Cheryl Lohman, President (May 10, 2020): We regret the necessary cancellation of any of our programs due to COVID 19, but the health and well-being of our members and White Lake Community are a higher priority. Hopefully the events which have been cancelled can be included in the 2021 calendar. Please also note that the remainder of 2020 programs are TENTATIVELY cancelled, but be sure to check our website for a month-by-month decision prior to the scheduled date. Dues which have already been paid will be credited to 2021, and there will be no payment for dues through the remainder of 2020. STAY HEALTHY AND STAY CONNECTED!! Your President, Cheryl Lohman

Proposed Schedule (on hold until further notice)—3rd Thursdays

April 16 National History Day Competitors. Lebanon Lutheran Church --Local students from the District National History Day competition will present winning projects before the State Finals. Always a delightful evening, including poster displays, documentary mini-films, website overviews, and dramatizations. This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers in History." (see page 4)

May 21 Walking Tour of Montague's Historic Upper Ferry Street. Meet in front of Montague City Hall, 7pm. *Cancelled*

June 18 White River Township's Old Mouth Cemetery. 6601-6751 Sunset Lane, (Off Indian Bay Road), 7pm. We will walk around the cemetery, but bring a portable lawn chair if you like. Mosquito repellent may be needed.

July 16 White Lake's Winter Fishing Ark and a Tour of the 1906 White Lake Yacht Club. 6748 South Shore Drive, Whitehall, 7pm. Handicapped guests should still park above; they will be assisted with golf cart to access the site.

August 20 Fred Ottiger's Airport and annual business meeting. 10756 Sikkenga Road Jeff Pierson will present the published history, plus anecdotes from memories of locals, and discuss the lull and resurgence in interest in personal flying in the neighborhood. He will arrange to have at least three diverse but typical airplanes attend. Shelter in the hoop tent if necessary. Bug repellent may be in order, and be sure to bring your own folding lawn chairs.

Sept. 17 Oceana County's Historic Mears Museum (more details to be announced via email, the White Lake Beacon, and prior meeting—watch for details of place and time. Carpooling might be available. This will be a special guided private tour.

Oct. 14 NOTE DIFFERENT DATE AND TIME—2ND Wednesday, earlier meeting than usual. Learning about local and state history resources. White Lake Community Library, 3900 White Lake Drive, Whitehall, MI 49461

Other Special Events of Interest—may or may not be cancelled:

--July 12, Sunday, White Lake Historical Cruises on the Aqua Star (formerly the Port City Princess)—hope to have two afternoon trips and one evening tour. Departure location and specific times TBA by White Lake Chamber of Commerce.

--Car and Boat Show in July, also TBA

--Friends of the Montague Library Book Talks on Wed. nights late June-July include several historical books—on hold for now, may be virtual

Treasurer’s Report..... Treasurer Ron Arnson

The WLAHS has two CDs, one for \$2,000 and another for \$8,000.96, the latter one earning a bit of interest. In the checking account there was \$5077.62. In addition, the Memorial fund contains \$1,488.01. Thus our total was \$16,566.59 (March '20).

Membership Report.....Tom Lohman, Membership Chair

Membership as of March 2020: 90 Active Members; 32 Family Life members, 21 Individual Life
 22 Dues Paid for current year (2020)
 68 Dues Not Paid for current year (2020)
 Of those that did not pay for current year
 32 Did not pay for last year
 18 Did not pay for 2 years ago
 7 Have not paid dues since 2017 - Will Drop after Notification

Inquiries

One of the missions of the White Lake Area Historical Society is to help preserve history. We receive inquiries of people looking for history. If you can help with any of these requests, please send your information to: whitelakehistorical@yahoo.com and we will forward the information to the person making the inquiry. We will also list information we receive on our website: <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalociety.com/inquires/>
This site posts many youtube videos from former meetings, filmed by Oscar Osbo, handouts from meetings, and, on the page “Memory Lane,” articles on various topics.

The “Remembering White Lake History” Facebook Group... VP Laura Connell

This group on Facebook was started over two years ago when it looked like there was a need to try to keep our local history alive. Social media gets things out to so many and we hoped that we could get the interest of many that enjoy our history like we do. We also hoped through this group to encourage others to join the Historical Society and the Montague Museum.

We have had lots of fun sharing news from the Digitized Newspapers that were saved by some wonderful locals, searches and personal info we have from family and friends and help from the White Lake Area Historical Society and the Montague Museum!! We enjoy all our members’ comments and posts and appreciate their help along with our own Barb Bedau Brow who does an excellent job of collecting and presenting so many stories!! Very thankful for her and the others

who add their own info for us to enjoy!! The many contributors are the reason we can do this and have fun doing it. We'd love to have others join us, add their info and memories and pics for us all to enjoy!! Join us for some fun and learn about our towns too!!!! In Facebook it is named "Remembering White Lake History".

There is also a link available at White Lake Community Library for digitized papers. You can search online or go to the library in person to get computer access. It is easy to search with keyword and dates and all the past local newspapers we've had in our area (digitized searchable newspapers back to the 1800s) <https://www.wlclib.org/Reference/digitized-newspapers>

Our Heroic National History Day students succeed in "Breaking Barriers"

For the 2020 NHD competition, the theme set in 2019 for student research projects was "Breaking Barriers." But due to Covid-19, the students themselves have had to break barriers by preparing online versions of all their research! Judges evaluated them in electronic format rather than gathering with all students on one magnificent day of live presentations and interviews (usually students have to answer judges' questions about their work).

All projects from the District competition got revised and then went forward to the State competition in late April. The winning entries were announced in a 45 minute online presentation which, fortunately, the History Society members can view for themselves—a magnificent overview of winning student projects all over Michigan: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgapZ_1_QMQ Even better, on p. 5 below, you can see links to some of the students' online projects!

From the tireless student coach, Jan Klco:

"The NHD State Contest awards ceremony just ended. The Whitehall/Montague Team did great once again!! Here is the list of awardees from our two school districts, including 6 national qualifiers, 2 alternates (3rd in state), 3 youth placements, and 4 special awards:

Youth (grades 4-6):

2nd Place, Ind. Documentary: Henry Chen - *Breaking Enigma: Alan Turing Cracks the Code*

2nd Place, Group Exhibit: Isla Dykman, Ella Nicholson, Ryanne Ellsworth - *Lobbing the Ball to Women: Title IX Breaks Barriers in Tennis*

3rd Place, Ind. Exhibit: Isabella Causie - *Through the Stratosphere: Valentina Tereshkova and Sally Ride, the First Women in Space*

Junior (grades 6-8):

Alternate, Ind. Performance: Megan LeaTrea - *Higher, Further, Faster: Jackie Cochran takes aviation to new heights for women*

Finalist, Ind. Documentary: Laura Thielman - *Breaking into the Billboard Hot 100: How Motown Got Everybody "Dancing in the Street"*

Finalist, Ind. Website: Amelia Chen - *Making Space: The Mercury 13 Launch a New Future for Women*

Senior (grades 9-12):

Alternate, Group Exhibit: Kya Mahoney and Maddie Wegner - *No Longer in the Shadows: Traverse City State Hospital Breaks Mental Health Barriers*

Finalist, Ind. Performance: Alison Chen - *Cracking the Bamboo Ceiling: Anna May Wong Increases Representation of Asian-Americans in Media*

Finalist, Ind. Documentary: Ella Johnson - *Breaking out of the Hospital: Dr. Frank Pantridge Takes the Emergency Room to the Streets of Belfast*

Finalist, Group Documentary: Liam Szegda, Griffin Lownds, and Kieran Cook - *Come Together: How the Beatles Tore a Hole in the Iron Curtain*

Finalist, Ind. Exhibit: Allison Tate - *Brownie Seals the Deal: Tupperware Parties Break Economic Barriers for Women*

Special Awards:

Elly Peterson Award for Best Entry on Women in Michigan History, Sr. Div.: Allison Tate - *Brownie Seals the Deal*

Best Entry on Michigan History, Jr. Div.: Laura Thielman - *Motown*

Best Use of Primary Sources, Jr. Div.: Amelia Chen - *Mercury 13* ,

Best Use of Primary Sources Sr. Div.: Emily Olsson - *Sabotage and Subversion: Churchill's Secret Army Sets Europe Ablaze*

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. We look forward to having an opportunity to showcase their work in person. Nationals are also virtual. Entries will be revised and submitted by May 22nd. Contest is June 14-20. Still "Breaking Barriers in History." Onward and upward!

Jan/Coach K
Whitehall/Montague NHD Team”

The first link below gives you a slideshow of the winning exhibits from Whitehall-Montague team.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRBEv3nF-9oLZyd12mbies-6TOyjhv1YK70i4I36n6ZOHmjUDvACBRfzuMA5xJ76DgUskTWA3uvo710/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=10000>

The others below are short prize-winning documentaries. Great viewing pleasure awaits you!

Henry Chen (Youth Ind.) Turing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whR19KcvWEk&feature=youtu.be>

Ella Johnson (Sr. Ind.): Breaking Out of the Hospital: Dr. Frank Pantridge Takes the Emergency Room to the Streets of Belfast and Beyond <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wrUusBw4wc>

Liam Szegda, Griffin Lownds, and Kieran Cook (Sr. Grp.): Come Together: How the Beatles Tore a Hole in the Iron Curtain https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uP7o_QDRWk&feature=youtu.be

Laura Thielman (Jr. Ind.): Breaking into the Billboard Hot 100: How Motown Got Everyone "Dancing in the Streets" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yPNHrZESYI&feature=youtu.be>

One other piece of great news! Jerry Grady reports about his webcam of wildlife: “The phenomenon with my YouTube channel has me responding to email and messages and comments from all over the world daily. The views of my wildlife videos increased from a modest amount to over 670,000 just since we began isolating. I've been getting comments that express appreciation for uploading them as a distraction from the Covid-19. Kind of puts pressure on me to create more videos than normal. I've been moving my 3 cameras to a variety of locations. YouTube even allocated a simpler URL to me for the channel: youtube.com/watershedwildlife.” In addition, Jerry Grady and Barb Brow have begun a project to inventory historical media online. Barb has an immense library of research and Jerry is processing all the images he can acquire. They hope someday it will be a stand-alone website. It's at: <http://www.watershedwildlife.com/archive/archive.htm> .