

Arlington Historical Society, Inc.

2016 Annual Report



Photograph by Dwight Grabitske

Save Your Stones Workshop

Jeff Pinske & Rich Nagel clean a tombstone during the workshop

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BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Arlington Historical Society board members for 2016 are Curt Boeder, Greg Goblirsch, Dwight Grabitske, Ramona Bade, Pauline Wiemann, H. Michael Noack, DDS, and Lowell Nagel. Officers elected in 2015 were Boeder, President; Goblirsch, Treasurer; and Grabitske, Secretary.

Grabitske represents the board for the Arlington Greys Vintage Base Ball Team. Ramona Bade is the board representative on the Historic Structures Committee.

Former board member Annmarie Trocke passed away in 2016.

NON BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Arlington Greys manager, Kurt Menk, is considered a historical society member because the historical society sponsors the Greys.

When the Historic Structures Committee is re-established, those members would be considered members of the historical Society.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

The Historic Structures Committee was not assigned any tasks in 2015 and did not meet during the year.

ARLINGTON MUSEUM

The remodeling process has reached the point where the Arlington Museum is functional. The old walls of the police station have been removed opening the area for exhibits and displays, and the rest room has been upgraded to ADA standards. The walls have been painted in an off-white color to brighten the area. The lighting still has overhead fluorescent tubes, but with the larger open space and light colored walls the area appears brighter.

Thanks to three donors, the Historical Society was able to purchase three display cases to exhibit artifacts that are not to be handled.

The Arlington Historical Society held an open house at the

museum for the Arli-Dazzle celebration on Saturday, December 3. The four-hour open house was well attended; 65 people signed the guest register, and donations totaled \$55.00.



Arlington Enterprise Photograph
(L-R) Dwight Grabitske, April Christensen Reuter, Keith Christensen & Jim Martin posing in front of the Dr. T. P. Martin Medical Exhibit.

ARLINGTON GREYS VINTAGE BASE BALL

The Arlington Greys finished the 2016 season with five wins and three losses. The team won one and lost one at Mankato, the same at Jordan, and took three of four matches in Arlington, including a thrilling win during the Arli-Dazzle celebration in December.

The Arlington Greys have nine contests scheduled for 2017. The Greys will host matches on Saturday, September 23 with the Quicksteps and La Crescent Apple Jacks and on December 3 with the Mankato Baltics. The Greys will play games at Mankato, Stillwater and Jordan in 2017.



Arlington Enterprise Photograph

Arlington Greys and Mankato Baltics pose for a photograph after the 2016 Arli-Dazzle Snow Ball Match.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Secretary Dwight Grabitske attended the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) Annual Meeting in Willmar, Minnesota. The report on that meeting is on page 10.

Board members Ramona Bade and Dwight Grabitske attended the Minnesota Historical Society workshop in Cokato, Minnesota, in June. The theme of the workshop was "Writing the Record; Expressing History through Writing." The report on the workshop is on page 12.

In July members of the MALHM Curators Group were given a tour of the Minnesota Twins stadium coordinated by Twins Curator Clyde Doepner. Secretary Grabitske attended the session. Attendees viewed many of the exhibits in the stadium complex as part of the tour of the stadium.

Secretary Grabitske attended a meeting of the MALHM Curators at the Stearns County History Center in October. Grabitske led a round table discussion on the topic "Taking Your Museum on the Road" which focused on circumstances for programs outside the museum and situations when outside programs are impossible. Other topics discussed were programs and speakers for the MALHM Annual Meeting in April and the proposal for MALHM grants for professional development.

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Representing the Arlington Greys Vintage Base Ball team, Secretary Grabitske attended the area meeting of vintage base ball managers in Red Wing in November. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters of interest to the teams and to arrange for matches in 2017. Minutes taken by Corky Gaskel at that meeting appear on page 13.

PUBLIC INTERACTION

In June the Arlington Historical Society sponsored a workshop conducted by Jarrod Roll entitled "Save Your Stones." The goal of the workshop was to teach people the proper way to clean cemetery tombstones and to give them the opportunity to practice at a cemetery the procedures they learned in the presentation. Only 13 people registered for the workshop, and those who attended the session at the cemetery received "hands on" experience in cleaning and straightening gravestones. The workshop received front page recognition in the *Arlington Enterprise*.

In July Secretary Grabitske addressed the Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce. He spoke about the Arlington museum, its background and the plans for opening the museum on a regular basis. Approximately 18 chamber members were in attendance.

In November, Secretary Grabitske gave a power point presentation about the Arlington Historical Society at the Sibley County Leadership Program. The focus was on the accomplishments of the historical society over the past 16 years and the reasons for the success the society has had.

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY GOALS

1. MUSEUM IN 2017:

The Arlington Historical Society Board is planning to have the museum open regular hours during the summer and fall in 2017. The normal hours of operation will coincide with normal business hours on Saturday mornings. In addition the board will consider open hours during special events or activities in Arlington.

The overhead lighting in the museum needs to be evaluated for proper use and upgraded to meet accepted museum standards. Grants for the lighting evaluation are available through the Minnesota Historical Society. Once the evaluation is complete, it will be necessary to raise the funds for the new lighting and to raise the museum ceiling approximately two feet allowing the space for taller exhibits and displays.

The flooring in the museum needs to be carpeted. The linoleum floors are badly stained and are not easily cleaned. Carpeting would help greatly with acoustics in the museum.

The work room needs shelving to properly store the Nuessmeier Collection of obituaries making them accessible to visitors.

The museum will need additional display cases as it accumulates Arlington artifacts.

2. ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEB-PAGE

Arlington Historical Society intends to have a web-page providing public information about the society and its activities. The Arlington Historical Society has a page on the city's web-site, but it needs up-dating.

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3. MEMBERSHIP IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There is a need to establish a membership program for the Arlington Historical Society. Since its beginning the board members of the board have carried out all the functions of the society with the exception of the Structures Committee, which was given specific tasks by the board. With the opening of the museum, additional members of the society are needed to help with the operation of the museum. These members should have an interest in Arlington History and a willingness to guide at the museum.

4. MAYORAL PICTURES:

The Arlington Historical Society continues to search for photographs of early Arlington mayors (presidents of the Village Council) for the gallery of mayors in the City Council Chambers at the Community Center. Pictures of Christ Klinkert, August Huckenpoehler, William C. Porter, and Albert Zimmermann are known to exist, but nothing suitable for copying has been found.

5. BY-LAWS REVIEW:

The last change to the Arlington Historical Society By-Laws was in 2007 when the number of board members was changed from “five” to “no less than five and no more than twelve” members. A review of the by-laws with respect to how the board conducts its business is warranted.

One item of note for change is in Article IV OFFICERS, section 1, which directs the board to “elect a president and a secretary-treasurer.” In practice the board has elected a secretary and a treasurer for many years. The by-laws should show these as two distinct officers of the board.

6. FUND RAISING

The Arlington Historical Society needs to establish a systematic fund raising program to ensure the continued operation of the society and the museum. The City of Arlington is providing the building at no cost to AHS; however, AHS needs to raise funds to cover the costs of operation, such as personal property and liability insurance, office equipment expenses, web-page creation and maintenance costs, maintenance of the exhibits, etc. While grants may be available for the creation of new exhibits, the moneys given for such programs are usually in the form of matching grants, necessitating a fund raising program before the grant is given.

7. FIRE HALL ON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

The Arlington Historical Society needs to resume its efforts to get the Arlington Fire Hall listed on the National Historic Register. The first step is to get a structure report which evaluates the property to see if it would qualify for the national register.

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ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATION TOTALS:

The following chart shows the number of gifts (donations) and amounts from 2001 to 2016 which AHS has received. The average yearly gift total is \$6,652d.81 and the average gift (367 total gifts) is \$290.04

Year	# Gifts	Amount
2001	38	9,735.00
2002	44	10,460.00
2003	31	3,515.00
2004	43	4,960.00
2005	35	5,255.00
2006	5	1,230.00
2007	16	28,815.00
2008	16	3,245.00
2009	21	2,645.00
2010	26	4,690.00
2011	13	250.00
2012	13	3,095.00
2013	9	2,625.00
2014	12	3,250.00
2015	22	14,875.00
2016	23	7,800.00
TOTALS	367	106,445.00

The amounts shown are only donations and grants received by the Arlington Historical Society according to records of the AHS secretary. The amounts do not reflect income received through other sources such as donation jars, book sales, post card sales, etc.

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INCOME:

Donations:.....	5,255.00
Gifts	5,070.00
Memorials	130.00
Cash Donations	55.00
Grants	0.00
Book / Post Card Sales	75.00
Fixtures	1,900.00
Display Cases	1,900.00
Save Your Stones Workshop	1,340.00
Registrations	390.00
Sponsorship	700.00
Thrivent Financial Grant ¹	250.00
Miscellaneous Income	120.00
Reimbursements	120.00
Interest	24.75
Passbook	\$13.21
CD's	\$11.54
Arlington Greys BBC:	250.00
Scott-Carver Threshers	100.00
Arlington Chamber (Arli-Dazzle clean-up)	150.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,967.75

¹ Thrivent Financial Grant was in the form of a credit card and was used to pay for miscellaneous expenses related to the Save Your Stones workshop. The miscellaneous expenses included advertising, brochure printing, mailings, etc.

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EXPENSES:

AHS General Fund Expenses	1,470.27
Museum Insurance	300.00
Save Your Stones Workshop	1,170.27
Jarrod Roll	884.00
Refreshments	36.27
Misc. Expenses (Thrivent Grant)	250.00
Office Expenses	25.00
Supplies / Equipment	0.00
Advertising	0.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Conference & Membership Expenses	125.00
Minnesota Historical Society Workshop	60.00
MALHM Conference	60.00
MALHM Membership	5.00
Museum Expenses	11,786.26
Building Remodeling Expenses	9,549.95
Tuchtenhagen Construction	5,159.63
Splitzer Home Repair	650.00
Matz Flooring	537.43
Y-NOT Plumbing	1,885.95
Kranz Electric	830.27
Haggenmiller Lumber	241.71
Thomes Brothers	244.96
Fixtures	1,897.07
Doors Unidoor	60.00
Showcases	1,837.07
Exhibit	251.31
Haggenmiller Lumber	5.88
Thomes Brothers	245.53
Supplies	87.93
Arlington Greys BBC Expenses	50.00
VBBA Membership	50.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,456.53

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TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS (December 31, 2016)

Pass Book Savings	\$ 4,018.61
CD #819859	\$ 1,016.52
CD #820278	\$ 2,010.53
Checking Account	\$ 5,285.85

TOTAL \$ 12,331.51

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Total Designated \$ 10,004.52

Computer Program	200.04
Museum	8,929.32
Arlington Greys Base Ball	705.88
Income	250.00
Expenses	50.00
Save Your Stones	169.28
Income	1,340.00
Expenses	1,170.72

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Total Liquid Assets	\$ 12,331.51
Total Designated	\$ 10,004.52
BALANCE	\$ 2,326.99

2016 MALHM CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

April 27-28, Willmar, Minnesota



The 2016 MALHM Conference & Annual Meeting was held at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, Minnesota. The conference had 16 sessions dealing with various topics of interest to museum people. The annual meeting was brief; the 2015 minutes and treasurer's reports were printed for members. Three board members were re-elected: Dustin Heckman, Alyssa Auten, and Sara Markoe Hanson. Two new members were elected to fill board openings: Milissa Brooks-Ojibway (Glensheen Mansion) and Tamara Anderson Edevold (Clearwater County Historical Society).

Following the meeting, MN History awards were given for Lifetime Achievement (Art & Jan Warner – Morrison County Historical Society) and Mary Hirst (Lake of the Woods Historical Society), and project awards to Northfield Historical Society (Behind the Scenes and Public Program) and Waseca County Historical Society (Public Program). A plaque was presented to retiring board president, Dean Vikan, recognizing his many years of service to MALHM.

The Keynote Speaker for the conference was Twins Curator Clyde Doepner. Mr. Doepner related stories about the Twins memorabilia collection and showed a number of uniforms which were worn by Twins players, players' wives, and children of Twins players. He also spoke about the hologram currently being used to authenticate jerseys, baseballs, bats, and other memorabilia used in games.

The Secretary attended the following sessions at the conference:

- Attorney Walter Lehman gave a presentation on copyright laws and some of the changes affecting museum use of copyrighted material. He noted that laws governing material covering copyrights are very complex, because of the number of changes over the years. A guideline for copyright laws can be found at: <http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/docs/copyrightterm.pdf>
- Sean Pallas & Dustyn Dubuge (Washington County Historical Society) presented a session on museum outreach programs. They spoke about evaluating past programs, those that worked and those that didn't, and ways to look for new programs to fit the interests of their audience. One of the newer programs that has been successful has been using new craft breweries for "beer tasting" events. Although the event does not have to be tied to local history, there are ways to tie local history in some way. They said: "Don't be afraid to try something new" and stressed that each event should be evaluated for its effectiveness.
- Mary Warner (Morrison County Historical Society) presented a session on museum succession. She stressed that a museum should have written policies and procedures for the various positions in the museum and on the board. There should be a manual with general instructions so that a person new to the museum staff or new to the board would have an easy transition to the position; this would also be a great tool in the event a person died or decided to leave without a replacement. She advocated a "Board Orientation Guide" for new members and suggested it contain 1. The Mission Statement, 2. Articles of Incorporation, 3. By-laws, 4. Duties, and 5. A Brief History of the Organization.
- Nicole DeGuzman (Maplewood Area Historical Society) conducted a session on partnerships that historical societies can form with other organizations for specific programs. She showed how useful partnerships can bring people into events and ease the cost to the museum. A proper evaluation afterwards can determine the effectiveness of the partnership.

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- Afton Esson (Goodhue County Historical Society) and Mike Worcester (Cokato Museum & Akerland Photography Studio) presented their experiences with photographer collections and the challenges of accepting a large collection, such as cataloging, storage, digitalization, and accessibility. They also related the issues with making prints available to the public, such as establishing a “dummy work station” which allowed visitors to view the pictures but not print them. This allowed the society to keep control of who had access to the prints.
- Tamara Edevold (Clearwater County Historical Society) and David Grabitske (Minnesota Historical Society) introduced the Standards and Excellence Program (StEP) which is a self-study program designed to help museums evaluate themselves with respect to accepted standards. To use StEP, a museum must be a member of AASLH (American Association for State and Local History).
- Ann Grandy (Pope County Historical Society) and Adam Smith (Stearns History Museum) conducted a session on collections inventory. They pointed out the need to know what you have in the collection and where it is stored. It is necessary to have a digital record and should include a photograph with the record. The photograph can show the condition of the artifact so that one can tell if there have been changes in the item over time.
- Chris Schuelke (Otter Tail County Historical Society) spoke about interpreting sensitive matters, such as crime, local scandals, personal tragedies, etc. He talked about the challenges in relating the stories about which family members may have strong feelings. He also noted that some issues have conflicting facts which clouds the interpretation. In those cases it is necessary to accurately tell both sides of the story.

This conference was the largest ever for the MALHM organization. More than 90 people registered for the two-day event, breaking the record set in 2015 at the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth.

The 2017 MALHM Conference & Annual Meeting will be held April 26-27 at Chase on the Lake in Walker, Minnesota.

AHS Secretary Evaluation:

The conference programs were very well planned; the variety of topics was very good; and the speakers were excellent. It is very clear that a lot of work was put into making the conference the very best. The conference organizers should be lauded for their accomplishment!

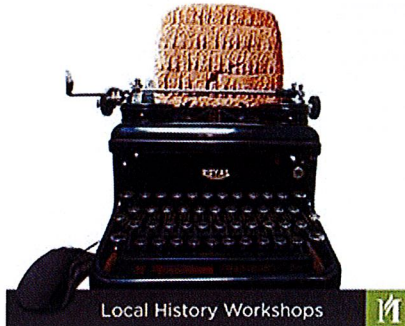
The on-line site which provides a guideline for copyrighted material will be extremely helpful in how AHS handles photographs in the displays.

The session on board succession was especially helpful in that a copy of the Morrison County Historical Society Orientation Guide was provided by Mary Warner. This guide for new members shows the major factors necessary for board members, giving clear guidance for the tasks ahead of them in directing the affairs of the society.

Overall, each of the sessions attended provided useful information which can be applied to the functions of the Arlington Historical Society board and the Arlington museum.

Writing the Record

Expressing History
Through Writing



The Minnesota Historical Society sponsored workshop had four sessions: *Grant Writing*, *Writing a Nomination for the National Historic Register*, *Writing for the Web*, and *Writing Exhibit Content*. The sessions were offered concurrently with two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. Secretary Dwight Grabitske attended the sessions on Grant Writing and Writing a Nomination for the National Historic Register. Board member Ramona Bade attended the session on Writing Exhibit Content and the session for Nomination for the National Historic Register. The workshops were given in several different locations; Grabitske and Bade attended the sessions in Cokato, Minnesota

The session on grant writing was very similar to sessions in the past with very little that was new. John Fulton, Minnesota Historical Society Grants Department, went through the steps as presented on the web-site. All grants requests now must be submitted on-line through the Minnesota Historical Society grants portal: mnhs.fluxx.io. The required information (reasons for a grant) needs to be more precise than in the past.

The session on writing for the National Historic Register showed some changes from the past. Ginny Way, Minnesota Historical Society National Register Architectural Historian, spoke about the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act as an introduction to her presentation. A structure report, which evaluates the property, is now required before beginning to write a nomination to the National Register. Grants are available to obtaining a structure report. Everything is done on-line.

The session on exhibit writing provided guidelines for making exhibit labels and story texts easier for the viewer to read. The final point made for exhibit writing was: "*Less is more* is a good rule to remember for exhibitions, exhibit labels, and on-screen text."

The sessions presented a lot of information on each topic. The speakers were very well prepared, and each session was very well done.

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The following is an adaptation of the minutes as recorded by Corky Gaskell:

Minutes from the meeting of the Area Vintage Base Ball Managers at Red Wing, Saturday, 5 November 2016:

Attendance:

Team:	Location:	Manager:	Captain or Player Rep:
Apple Jacks	La Crescent MN	Joel Affeldt	
Baltics	Mankato MN	Ariane Belgard-Hawker	Hugh Belgard
Blue Caps	Menomonie WI	Dustyn Dubuque	Todd Hayden
Rovers	Rum River (Anoka) MN	Eric Hirsch	Marc Morrison, Steve Barry
Roosters	Rochester MN	Mary Jane Schmidt	Corky Gaskell
Crescents	Red Wing MN	Dustin Heckman	
Silver Stars	Northfield MN	Doug Morris	
Excelsiors	Lanesboro MN	Gordon Tindall	
Greys	Arlington MN	Dwight Grabitske	
Quicksteps		Doug Ernst	Rich Arpi, Christopher Nelson
St. Croix			Patrick Pfundstein
Hayseeds	Highland Prairie MN		Steve Gorder
Red Socks	Afton MN	Ray Hansen	Jay McInerney

New Teams Not in Attendance:

	Dakota County MN
	Sand Creek WI
Driftless Dodgers	Decorah IA

1. Doug talked about authenticity. The Sutler he referenced, was the River Junction Trade Company. I will reference a link to their website for your convenience. <http://www.riverjunction.com/> The purpose here isn't to get you to spend money, but to raise awareness that the LOOK of the game can have an impact, as much as the play on the field. So, do your best to get your guys out of sweat pants and spiked Nikes, as best you can. Sometimes money gets in the way. Sometimes size limits get in the way. Just do your best. We can also help by eliminating our modern bats from the collection of bats we bring to games.

2. Doug put together a nice brochure on History of Health and Base Ball. If you want an online copy that you can edit and use for your own, please contact Doug Ernst. It was also a nice memorial for Hunter "Hayes" Mercer. quickstepsmanager@gmail.com

3. Doug announced he will be stepping down as the organizer of the Minnesota Schedule Meeting. Work and health constraints led him to this difficult decision. With an apparent lack of interest by others to fill the position, I will step in and assume that role going forward. Down the road, if you have questions about our Minnesota Area base ball, just let me know. I will do my best. The intent is to leave the meeting "as is", with an annual get together, but, ideas on how to make it a video conference, or a phone conference, can be entertained. The proposed date will be voted on, as Doug did this year.

4. Minnesota Union travel team: 2016 saw the Union make trips to Topeka, KS, and Columbus, OH. Both trips were successful and positive comments received on both trips. 2017, we have just one trip officially scheduled, but Raymond "Stache" Hanson will be trying to coordinate a second trip over Memorial Day weekend, possibly back to Topeka! The main trip, back to Columbus, OH, will have a twist this year, in that we will add another match to the weekend, playing the Deep River Grinders at their home field, on the Thursday evening before Labor Day. This means we will need people to leave Minnesota early on Thursday (plan vacation accordingly), play Thursday night in Hobart, IN, stay over there, or near there, and then head into Columbus on Friday. I will send a separate note to the captains early next year with all the pertinent info and ask you to send the info along to your players for response. I expect it to a good opportunity, and should

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be well received. Ray will send out note on a 2nd trip, if he is able to line one up for Memorial Day weekend. I have travel plans that weekend, so Ray will head that one up.

5. Umpire class: The idea here is to get MORE people trained in umpiring vintage base ball matches. We have some good umpires around, but with the growth of the teams in the past few years, we need more, and even those that have umpired for years, might find a few new twists that they can learn from. The idea was very well received, and ideas were bantered about on how to put it together. Most in agreement thought that getting to an area, outside, where we can go through specific examples, would be better than just a classroom environment. Also, asking current umpires to become "mentor" during their off weeks would be very useful. Please mention this to your current umpires, and get their feedback on whether or not they are willing to mentor as time permits. I will send out some date options in the spring, before the season starts, and some possible locations. Probably end up with 2 or 3 events in 2 or 3 different areas so people don't have to travel too far.

6. Ball-making class: The hope is that more clubs will find players, or spectators for that matter, who might be interested in making vintage base balls, or town balls. I am willing to conduct a class, or classes, if needed, to help people learn that craft. You don't have to make enough to supply your entire season if you don't want, but it is nice to have a ball that looks a bit more authentic than a factory ball, in your bag, to show people. Watch for emails on that class too, and ensure your club gets it, so they can let me know their interest. Class locations will be based on interest.

7. Discussion of acceptable age: The discussion centered around the accepted age of players. To Portsider's delight, it was focused on the LOW end of the age range, not the high end! The result was that we don't have a Minnesota Area Base Ball RULE on the age, but that each club will have to decide their age limit. Most agreed 16 was a good base for full time players, but, that we also need to consider skill of said players. The Minnesota Area League has grown a lot and most clubs now have some very big hitters that would be uncomfortable hitting against someone too young and inexperienced. We should all work hard to fill our clubs with adults, best we can, but we also need to understand there are times when clubs fall short of players, and we need to make do. I would recommend we do all we can to ensure we have players 16 and up, with some exceptions based on skill level.

8. Doug discussed the upcoming VBBA National Conference to be held, March 24-26, 2017, in Cooperstown, NY. If you are interested in attending, the formal registration will be on the VBBA.ORG website, and the VBBA Facebook page soon. Otherwise, contact Doug Ernst or Corky Gaskell and they can help you get started, and share the information we know about.

9. The scheduling was completed in a timely and a fairly gentlemanly fashion. There were a few instances where sidebar conversations got a bit loud and interfered with the note taking, but for the most part, it went well. Again, watch for an email on that very soon, and please respond in kind with additions, corrections, etc.

10. Bubble Ball 2017. Sunday April 2nd, Rochester Minnesota Bubble Dome. Separate e-mails will be sent out later this year, and then again, early next year, to solicit interest.

11. No Washington County winter game, but Menomonie will be hosting one, on March 11. More info via email will come from Mad Dog on that.

Respectfully submitted, for the love of the game
Corky