

## Consider Serving Your Community through a Board Position with the Lake County Historical Society



The Lake County Historical Society was founded in 1938 by Lake County's leading citizens to secure the future of Lawnfield, the presidential home site in Mentor. Since that time, Lake County's leaders and outstanding citizens have served as Board members for the Lake County Historical Society. They have met challenges, made decisions and raised funds for almost 80 years.

The challenges continue. LCHS is seeking members of the community who want to give back and will make a commitment to the Society's mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting Lake County's history.

### **Mission Statement:**

*The Lake County Historical Society will utilize all available resources to promote a sense of community through the establishment of Lake County history in local classrooms, the education of the public, and the collection, preservation and exhibition of archives and artifacts.*

The Society accomplishes its work through the operation of a museum and research library at the Lake County History Center. In addition, the Society conducts school field trips, in-school programs, adult programs, workshops and a series of special events. The Society is supported by the Lake County Arts and Culture Fund, Ohio Arts Council, Cleveland Foundation/Lake Geauga Fund, Hershey Foundation, Lubrizol Foundation, and the Lake County Commissioners. The Center is also operated through the generous support of individual donations and area corporations.

### **Expectations:**

#### **Time**

LCHS realizes the most important contribution a prospective Board Member has to give is their time. We also note that it is your presence, enthusiasm and ideas that will move the Society forward in the next years.

- LCHS board members serve a three (3) year term. They may serve three (3) consecutive terms before they must leave the board for a period of one year.
- Board members attend a monthly meeting.
- Board members must be members of the Society at a level of their choosing.
- Board members must serve on one (1) standing board committee: Buildings & Ground, collections, Finance, Board Relations, Development, Marketing and Special Events.
- Board members attend the Society's special events and adult programming offerings. For larger special events, Board members may be asked to assist in planning or implementing the event.
- Board members having served one year or more on the Board may be nominated for a board officer position. Board members having served three (3) terms, depending on their service, may be nominated for "emeritus" status.

## **Financial**

The primary purpose of the Board of Directors is to financially support the operations of the Lake County Historical Society through individual donations, solicitation of sponsorships and support of fundraising events.

- Annual membership costs range from \$25 to \$500.
- All Board members are expected to donate to the Society's Annual Fund campaign, which supports operations cost. The amount of the donation is kept confidential.
- All Board members are expected to participate in selling tickets to the LCHS fundraisers.

## **Board Member Profile**

The LCHS Board is made up of 21 individuals with one common bond: to see that the Society and the Lake County History Center become a premiere resource for the citizens of Lake County and surrounding areas. A successful Board member will have an interest in local history, culture and traditions and will want to see that future generations learn of Lake County's past. Board members will utilize their community connections to share the mission of the society and gather support for its operations.

Board members with opinions, vision, ideas, and leadership ability are greatly needed at this moment of transition for the society. Starting in 2007, the Society used hundreds of volunteer and business contacts to turn a 130-year old building into a dynamic museum and gathering place. Board members are needed now to help the Society to continue this work and to take the organization to the next level. Throughout the Society's history, Lake County's leading citizens have served in leadership positions. Now we are seeking leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Current Challenge**

As with many non-profits, meeting operational costs is an ongoing challenge. The organization went through a period of transition that impacted its financial health, membership numbers and volunteer support.

Board members can be the spark that ignites new fundraising projects, interests potential donors or brings new corporate support to the table. LCHS wants to attract prospective Board members who understand that raising funds for a premiere community resource is a priority. Financial stability will enable the organization to stabilize its internal operations, volunteer group and membership base, and to move forward to an exciting future.

## **LCHS Promise to prospective board members**

LCHS Board meetings are open, discussion-filled gatherings. The staff and volunteers support Society and Board inspired projects. Ideas from Board members are continuously sought either in committee or at Board meetings. A spirit of friendliness, fun and camaraderie pervades the atmosphere at the Center. As a board member, you will be asked to give or participate in many ways, but you will receive respect, friendship and the appreciation of the community should you choose to become a member of the Lake County Historical Society Board of Directors.

## **For Further information**

To learn more about the Lake County Historical Society Board or tour the Lake County History Center, please contact a current member of the Board or Executive Director Mazie Adams at 440 639-2945 x11 or [madams@lakehistory.org](mailto:madams@lakehistory.org). Thank you for your interest.