

2016 ANNUAL REPORT NAVAJO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING, an open meeting for members, friends and neighbors.

Where does the time fly to? Two months into the new year and it is time to plan for the society's annual meeting. It has been **scheduled for 6 p.m., Thursday, March 23 in the Rt 66 Auditorium.**

2017 marks the anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Holbrook, as requested by the townspeople and authorized by the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, Territory of Arizona. A program will be presented on this historic event and a brief business meeting will be conducted. Mark your calendar for this meeting. Refreshment are also planned. The board of director terms of Mary Bragg, Darlene Brinkerhoff, William Fee, Richard Peterson, D.V. Stuart and Leann Baker are expiring in March 2017. They have been valuable assets on the board and for the society and hopefully they will consent to continue their service as a director. Society members who are interested in serving a three-year term as a director should contact secretary JoLynn Fox, 524-6558 to submit a letter of interest by March 17 and a place on the Mar. 23 ballot.

MEMBERSHIPS SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM

The annual membership enrollment is now being held. Many members have joined the society in March or April, while others signed on during the summer or fall months. Renewals for current members are noted below.

NAME _____ RENEWAL MONTH _____

Attached to this report is the membership application form for your convenience. Society memberships are open for anyone interested in preserving history for future generations and their support is greatly appreciated.

2016 Progress and Changes At Your Museum

Visitors' center - Mary Barker has been out ill since before Christmas, so keep her in your prayers. Michael Ozment has joined Dawn to staff the desk and Julie remains as a substitute. Served 20,593 visitors in 2016. Everyday compliments on the museum.

Book Shop – New books have been added, expanding inventory and sales have increased significantly. A chip reader purchased as required. The raffle of the slab of petrified wood brought in \$885 and was won by an Ohio woman.

Savings account – Established for building improvements, \$11,549 balance after paying \$1576 for new flooring in the sheriff's office and public restrooms. The city said they would install. The savings funds come from a portion of the donation box collections each month. Now if we could just use \$ toward a major grant for the building preservation!

Minimum Wage – NCHS does pay the minimum wage, though it is adding an estimated \$12,000 to our expenses in 2017 and may affect our savings portion.

Lights – The city and NCHS purchased LED lights for the downstairs' hallway areas. We also purchased pendent lights with LED bulbs for three areas upstairs. We had two spotlights donated by Navajo County, installed to light the courthouse tower. LED lighting added to three exhibits.

Computers – New laptop was purchased, two computers' memories upgraded, two new battery backups.

Signs – Six replacement exterior signs purchased/volunteer Buddy Dupee installed.

Rugs – Our Navajo rugs were cleaned, repaired and mothproofed after we lost one to hungry moths.

County Fair – Trudy and Mary put together a NCHS booth and board members manned it.

New exhibits – Service stations on Rt 66, youth, movie houses, 1923 great flood.

Exhibit expansion – Major additions to telephone, bedroom. Plus, a number of additional touches here and there.

In the works – Organizations, Scorse, Fire Department, Aztec Land and Cattle Co., expansion of cameras, ranching.

Memberships – Forty-four members/\$1,895 dues four life memberships.

Volunteer hours – 2,748 hours

The support from members, volunteers, community, City of Holbrook and Navajo County made 2016 a progressive year, as well as their continuing support for the historical society's mission to preserve the history and legacies for future generations. The Historical Courthouse, Visitors Center and Museum remains as one of **Holbrook's most important and valued asset.**

Volunteers are the museum's most valued asset, whether brawn to move stuff, sorting news clippings, using established procedures to process photos or documents, help to set up exhibits, or help spread the word on the treasures that the museum shares with the public. **Call us today if you have free time that we can utilize at 524-6558 or 524-6886.**