

# Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



2023-2024  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

Lindsay Marshall  
Chair  
Scott County Historical Society

Dave Nichols  
Vice Chair  
Rice County Historical Society

Christopher Welter  
Secretary  
Minnesota Discovery Center

Mai Huizel  
Treasurer  
Hmong Museum & Minnesota  
Historical Society

Jennifer Andries  
Lyon County Historical Society

Corrie Hackbarth  
Lake Superior Railroad Museum

Hannah King  
Minnesota Historical Society

Mariah Ring  
Minnesota Historical Society

Adam Smith  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Since its founding in 1991, the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums has focused on the mission of peers helping peers. As the organization grew, our opportunities to improve services and try new things did, too. In 2002, MALHM published The Alliance Millennium Collection Initiative as a way to share professional resources among small and rural museums around the state. The Initiative is now part of a more extensive set of resources available in our online member library. This expansion is just one example of how MALHM continues to mature and expand to meet the changing needs of Minnesota local history organizations.

The past year has seen even more growth for MALHM. We have drastically expanded our emergency response efforts, continued to create opportunities for members to get more involved with our work through MALHM Teams, and have rented an office space in downtown St. Paul. More and more museums are joining CollectiveAccess, strengthening public access to our shared history. New partnerships with other Minnesota organizations are opening up pathways for connection. We hope you continue to join us as we explore more ways to better serve our members and the local history community more broadly.

2024 AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER.....Lindsay Marshall

APPROVAL OF 2022 MINUTES.....Christopher Welter

ACCEPTANCE OF 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT.....Lindsay Marshall

ALLIANCE COORDINATOR REPORT.....Liz Koele

COLLECTIVEACCESS PROJECT MANAGER REPORT....Ann Grandy

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2026.....Lindsay Marshall

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

ADJOURNMENT.....Lindsay Marshall

# 2023 MINUTES

The Annual Meeting was held on April 26, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Austin, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Hannah King.

## **Approval of 2022 Minutes**

A motion was made, then duly seconded by members in good standing to approve the minutes; members present voted to approve the 2022 minutes.

## **Acceptance of 2022 Treasurer's Report**

A motion was made, then duly seconded by members in good standing to approve the treasurer's report; members present voted to approve the report.

## **Alliance Coordinator's Report**

Gibson Stanton provided an overview of MALHM'S activities over the previous year. Highlights included the coordinator's resumption of in-person site visits, the Mutual Assistance Team's progress in disaster-response initiatives, and the continuing partnership between the Minnesota Historical Society and MALHM.

## **CollectiveAccess Report**

Ann Grandy provided a five-year retrospective of the CA Team's efforts. Highlights included that the initial goal of 20 subscribing organizations has been more than doubled, that said organizations' subscription fees cover MALHM's expenses in offering CollectiveAccess, and that these organizations have inventoried ~1 million objects, with ~300,000 records shared with the public.

## **Election of Board Members 2023-2025**

Election: Jennifer Andries, Hannah King for 3rd term; Mai Huizel for 2nd term. A motion was made, then duly seconded by members in good standing to elect the board nominees; members present voted to approve the nominees' election.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

MALHM introduced its first annual recognition of volunteers. Each MALHM member organization was given the opportunity to submit the name of one volunteer. Forty-one individuals were recognized by name in the conference program.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made, then duly seconded by members in good standing to adjourn the annual meeting; members present voted to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Christopher Welter, Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2023

### **Starting Balance**

\$ 107,868.22

### **Operational Income**

Annual Conference	\$ 22,550
MNHS/MALHM Partnership Grant	\$ 60,000
Mutual Assistance Grant	\$34,673
(work continuing into 2024)	
Membership Dues	\$ 537.73
CollectiveAccess	\$ 51,357.23

### **Total Income**

\$ 169,117.96

### **Operational Expenses**

Coordinator Payroll	\$ 55,580.64
Annual Conference	\$ 24,190.08
Office Supplies	\$ 1,635.13
Coordinator Expenses	\$ 1,004.40
Phone	\$ 632.49
Accounting/Banking Fees	\$ 1,314.15
CollectiveAccess	\$ 27,918.33
Mutual Assistance Grant	\$ 7,680.49
Office Space Lease	\$ 355.92
Insurance	\$ 594

### **Total Expenses**

\$ 120,905.63

### **Annual Profit/Loss**

\$ 48,212.33

### **Ending Balance**

\$ 156,080.55



**MUTUAL  
ASSISTANCE  
LINE**

**(612) 208-3150**

# REPORTS

---

## ALLIANCE COORDINATOR

Hello! If we haven't already been introduced, my name is Liz Koele. I've had the privilege of attending the conference as a MALHM member these last few years, and I'm now honored to be serving as MALHM Coordinator.

My first three months on the job have been a whirlwind, from preparing for the conference to getting up to speed on all the exciting work MALHM is a part of. I particularly want to bring attention to the recent efforts of the Mutual Assistance Team. MALHM partnered with the Midwest Art Conservation Center to host regional wet salvage trainings last fall and emergency planning workshops earlier this year. Thanks to generous funding from Minitex, we also have been able to create 12 emergency supply caches to spread across the state (visit the Mutual Assistance Team table to hear more)! We're still working on deploying the caches, but they've already come in handy. We're grateful to have this resource available to everyone who might need it.

Once the conference rush ends, I'm hoping to travel out and visit with folks. I've already had some great conversations while working on the caches, and want to continue to see your spaces and discuss future collaborations. Please reach out if you'd like to schedule a visit!

We are grateful for the continued partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, which has allowed us to expand our work and further support our colleagues in local history. Thank you to the members, community partners, and MALHM Board of Directors for your commitment to our mission of peers helping peers. We couldn't do it without you!

Liz Koele  
Alliance Coordinator  
[liz@mnhistoryalliance.org](mailto:liz@mnhistoryalliance.org)  
(612) 500-7460

## COLLECTIVEACCESS

CollectiveAccess Minnesota (CA) is an open-source collection management software supported by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. CA is financially self-sustaining. CA Members pay a small annual fee that covers the shared web hosting, backup costs, and allows us to set aside funds for technical support and future server expansion. This past year, CA moved to a new, larger, faster server, and updated the backup system.

CollectiveAccess Minnesota currently has more than 50 member organizations across the state. CA member organizations have well over 1 million objects inventoried in their private cataloging systems and are sharing nearly 300,000 records with the public on our shared public site [MNCollections.org](http://MNCollections.org).

The project is overseen by the CollectiveAccess Team that guides the project manager and recommends software changes based on user requests. The Project Manager provides training and support for incoming organizations throughout the conversion process, offers on-going monthly training and on-going for existing users, and is in frequent communication with other CollectiveAccess users and museum consortiums throughout Canada and the United States to discuss shared issues and updates.

We onboard four new organizations twice a year on the following schedule:

Application Due to MALHM  
September 11, 2024

MNHS Small Grant App Due  
October 11, 2024

Approximate Start Date  
January 2025

Application Due to MALHM  
March 11, 2025

Grant Application Due to MNHS  
April 11, 2025

Approximate Start Date  
August 2025

Data Transfer & set up can take 1-3 months after the start date depending on the complexity of your data and how quickly you can respond to set-up and customizations questions.

If you are interested in joining please contact Ann Grandy or Liz Koele.

Ann Grandy  
CA Project Manager  
[collectiveaccess@mnhistoryalliance.org](mailto:collectiveaccess@mnhistoryalliance.org)

Many volunteers across Minnesota dedicate their time and resources to preserve and share our collective history. We want to celebrate this contribution year after year. Each MALHM member organization was invited to submit one name for inclusion.

# VOLUNTEER

---

Arlene Fults, Todd County Museum

Dale Johnson, Kandiyohi County Historical Society

Garry Hippe, Wheels Across the Prairie Heritage Center

Glenn Van Amber, Douglas County Historical Society

Gloria Lee, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County

Illene Schmitt, Cold Spring Area Historical Society

Javier Avalos, Scott County Historical Society

Jerry Meyer, Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library & Village

Karen Hurst, Lyon County Historical Society

Karen Schlenker, Milaca Area Historical Society

Ken Gregornik, Wright County Historical Society

Leo Elke, Anoka County Historical Society

Lou Ambrose, Robbinsdale Historical Society

Lucy Gluth, Brown County Historical Society

Lynne Moratzka, Gammelgården Museum of Scandia

Margaret Peterson, Wabasha County Historical Society

Marguerite Andrews, Otter Tail County Historical Society

Mari Oyanagi Eggum, Ramsey County Historical Society

Mary Lohrs, Carver County Historical Society

Pat Sharon, Friends of Linden Hills, Inc.

Patricia Cutting, Byron Area Historical Society

Phyllis Sorensen, Pope County Historical Society

Sherry Abts, Dorothy Molter Museum

Steve Inkel, Beltrami County Historical Society

Sue Grove, Mower County Historical Society

# RECOGNITION

---

"[She] personifies thoughtful action and leadership. During her tenure on our board, [she] has been an impactful voice for inclusion and equity while doing all the other things a great board chair does. She has helped align board and staff efforts to elevate voices from all parts of our community and has made [us] a better history organization."

"[He] volunteers at our welcome desk every week. Often he will pick up other "shifts" if we have another volunteer out. He also serves on our board of directors and is a terrific cheerleader of our organization, ensuring people know about new exhibits, lectures, and events. Plus he brings us muffins and cupcakes!"

"Our collection inventory could not have happened without [them] keeping us on track."

"[He] has been a great help to the organization, especially in the last year. He has built beautiful cases for our exhibits, coordinated a crew of volunteers to help move these large pieces into the museum, and completed a number of smaller facility/maintenance projects. We are very grateful for all of his contributions!"

"[She] has been a twice-a-week library volunteer for over eight years. She says it is her favorite place to be. She is a vital part of the newspaper indexing and database pipeline, which is used by thousands each year. [She] is always a pleasure to be around and adds sunshine to the day."

THANK  
YOU!





This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.