

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report
for COW Meeting - 04/16/2019**

The THM Board met on Monday, April 1.

1. **THM May Event** -- Tontitown Heritage Day will be Sunday, May 19 from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Harry Sbanotto Park. New activities are in the works this year. Be sure to mark your calendars to join in the fun!
2. **New Board Member** -- Katherine McDaniel, currently the Guest Experience Manager at the Amazeum, would like to join the THM Board. Katherine has a background in collections and historical museums, and will be a great asset to THM. The Board requests that the City Council approve Katherine's appointment at the May 7 City Council meeting.
3. **Special Tour** -- Sarah Boyd from the Stone Valley Extension Club has requested a tour of the museum on April 24. Pam Herron will conduct the tour.
4. **HOBO Data Logger** -- The data logger, which collects temperature and humidity, is working again. Pam will collect data weekly to help the board create a Collection Management Plan.
5. **City Hall Exhibit** -- The new exhibit in City Hall will feature the Tontitown Oral History Video Project. The installation of the exhibit is in progress.

The next THM Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Board Members:

Heather Ranalli-Peachee, President - 479-685-4793

Caroline Franco Ceola, Vice-President - 479-200-9980

Ashlee Bailey, Secretary - 563-380-0792

Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer - 479-361-2609

Jennifer DeMartino - 479-435-6320

Emily Pianalto-Beshears - 479-799-5643

Roger Pianalto - 479-361-2207

Riley Tessaro - 479-361-2607

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report
for COW Meeting - 03/19/2019**

The THM Board met on Monday, March 4.

1. **EAST Exhibit project** -- We received a \$1,000 award check for the Smithsonian Museums on Main Street Program (MoMS) from the EAST Initiative students projects. We are excited to implement the Setting Our Table exhibit later this year, as well as the audio and driving tours.
2. **AMA Conference** -- No members of the Board are able to attend the Arkansas Museums Association conference later in March. However, the board will provide a raffle donation basket entitled "Taste of Tontitown."
3. **3rd+ Generation genealogy** -- Jan Morsani Taldo expressed a concern that the genealogical records of Tontitown settler families after the first and second generations, which are documented in our "*So Big, This Little Place*" book, are threatened to be lost. Jan asked whether the museum had plans to preserve the genealogy records for Tontitown for 3rd generation and beyond. The Board agrees that this is a much needed project and is working on plans to accomplish it.
4. **Collections** -- Jan Morsani Taldo's cousin, Margaret Lazzari in California, has the first organ from the oldest St. Joseph's Church and contacted Jan to offer to donate it to THM. Margaret is the daughter of Vincent and Anna Aimerito Lazzari. (Anna's father, Jack Aimerito, was Jan's great uncle.) Margaret will pay to ship the organ to Tontitown. The organ dimensions are 42 inches wide by 21 inches deep by 40 inches high.

Margaret shared this story about the organ:

"When I was young, I was told that this organ was brought by the Ursuline sisters to Tontitown and was used as the first organ in the oldest church. Another organ was acquired and then this organ was moved to the convent. When the Ursuline sisters left Tontitown, they gave the organ to my Aunt Angela Lazzari, who had it until she moved into a nursing home. Then my brother Tony had it in St. Louis. I've had this in my home since 1997."

The Ursuline nuns taught in Tontitown from 1914 to 1923. Due to space issues, the Board is pursuing storage and display options in order to accept this treasured artifact of our history.

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