

FRIEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

511 2nd St, | Friend, NE 68359



The Historic Warren Building

President Mary Ann Losh
Vice President Terry O'Neel
Secretary Deb Polacek
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friendnehistoricalsociety.org

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024-JUNE 30, 2025 UPDATE

The **FRIEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**(FHS), formed in 2007, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3). The FHS owns the Warren Building-Opera House, which in 1988, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1885, the first floor provided business space and the second-floor entertainment in the Opera House. Today, the renovated first floor provides community gatherings, FHS hosted/partner events, and rental space for businesses/private meetings/celebrations. The Opera House is being renovated to accommodate larger gatherings and performance arts.

FHS MISSION: 1) **PROVIDE** a community gathering place in the historic Warren Building, 2) **PRESENT** educational, historical, and cultural programming, and 3) **PRODUCE** economic benefit by making Friend an inviting place.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mary Ann Losh, Deb Polacek, Pam Hromadka, Ginny Farrar, Harold Janda, Preston Meints, Terry O'Neel, Chere Tuttle, and Will and Sarah Yokel.

HIGHLIGHTS: The FHS provided/partnered to host 22 free or inexpensive programs. The San Carlo/Welcome Center was rented for 15 private events. The Pour House and Edward Jones continued to rent space. Other accomplishments: **OPERA HOUSE** - structural supports floor and beams, breaking ground for new south addition phase one (foundation for southside barrier free entrance/disability parking/pit for elevator), blueprints (drawings) for second floor underway including theater sound/lighting; **POUR HOUSE** - new roof, exterior wall maintenance, interior painting; **SAN CARLO ROOM** - shades, sound equipment updates, painting and woodwork finishing for restrooms; **IMPROVING COMMUNICATION/VISIBILITY** through direct mailings, flyers, sign on highway; **MINIMAL JULY STORM** damage by preventative maintenance and structural support expenditures.

REVENUE SOURCES: Our sources of revenue were grants, fundraising activities, donations, RMDs/QCDs, tax credits, gifts of grain, appreciated stock, foundations' support, and rentals.

2025-2026 PLANS: Increase our visibility, host a season of events, create more youth options, continue building renovation/maintenance, finish addition phase one and access resources for phase two. We are excited to have Theater Arts For Kids return (see more on the back). We continue work on creating lasting memories for guests who, by visiting the Warren Building, "experience history".

HOW TO HELP: Please continue to spread the word about FHS activities, reasonable room rental costs, progress on the Opera House renovation, and website access for more information. (See above for address). Please let us know if you would like to volunteer, have questions, or suggestions for upcoming activities. Thank you for your continued support!

BROADWAY OUT WEST 2025

"A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS"



JOIN US JUNE 1-5, 2026 IN FRIEND AT THE WARREN BUILDING FOR "BROADWAY ORPHANS," A TOTAL THEATER EXPERIENCE! CONTACT TAPK.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.