



FRIEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://friendnehistoricalsociety.org>



Preserving the Legacy!

Warren Building

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 Highlights “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words”

The Friend Historical Society (FHS) formed in 2007, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and owns the Warren Building-Opera House which in 1988 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1885 and still today the first-floor houses businesses and the second floor Opera House. The first floor features the original 1920's Hardware Store fixtures.

FHS Mission: **1) PROVIDE** a community gathering place in the historic Warren Building, **2) PURSUE** diverse educational, historical, and cultural experiences and **3) PRODUCE** economic benefit by MAKING FRIEND AN INVITING PLACE!

FHS Board of Directors: Mark Stutzman, Mary Ann Losh, Deb Polacek, Pam Hromadka, Deb Chase, Ginny Farrar, Harold Janda, Preston Meints, Terry O'Neel, Trish Ricenbaw, Carolyn Taylor, Chere Tuttle, Will Yokel, Ruth Ziegler.

The Historical Society hosted 12 events which included educational, historical and cultural events.

The Friend Historical Society had 60 members. A member Messenger Group provided communication about upcoming events and activities. The dues helped upgrade the lighting in the San Carlo Room/Welcome Center.

Space was rented to the Pour House Bistro, Edward Jones Office, and the San Carlo Room/Welcome Center rentals provided space for 15 private events. With reasonable pricing, these rentals included birthday parties, anniversaries, family reunions, graduation parties, meetings, etc.

Other Revenue Sources:

- Donations, grants, QCDs, gifts of grain, and estate gifts have provided building renovations.
- Local funds of over \$1,300,000 have supported the first-floor renovation and continued structural repairs.
- The NE Dept. of Economic Development Shovel Ready Grant with local match funded new brick, cap flashing, helix ties, tuck pointing, north foundation repair, steel beam under the Welcome Center, etc. State reimbursement was made.
- CDAA tax credits funded approved Historic Renovation projects.
- The Saline County Visitors Bureau & Norris Public Power grants provided partial funding for advertising and lighting in the San Carlo/Welcome Center, the Ne State Historical Society Foundation helped support the Ray Page video which describes Friend's most famous citizen who, in 2021, received NE Legislature recognition for his 1920's contributions to aviation history. His Lincoln Standard Aircraft Company and Flying School taught Charles Lindbergh how to fly.

2023-2024 Next Steps

The Opera House renovation next step is adding an addition on the southside of the Warren Building to provide an elevator for accessibility to the Opera House. The addition includes a catering kitchen and a mechanical room for Opera House HVAC/sprinkler system needs.

How Can You Help?

Continue to spread the word about Friend Historical Society, our events, rental options, and Opera House renovation.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have suggestions/ideas, please visit with a Board Member. Our website listed above provides historical information and program updates. *Hope to see you on Second Street where friends meet.*



The first phase in the Shovel Ready Grant, scaffolding on the north and west sides. This picture was taken on October 4, 2022. The grant funded new brick, cap flashing, helix ties, tuck pointing, north foundation repair, steel beam under the Welcome Center, etc.



Our annual Gala held on April 1, 2023. The wonderful meal featuring prime rib was catered by Paul Coffey of McCool Junction and the entertainment was by Bill Shomos of Lincoln NE.



Beer & Bacon was a huge success with lots of hard work from the O'Neel family and many others who prepared delicious food and helped serve it. Great music kept everyone entertained. This was our 7th annual event and was held on October 8, 2022.

Polka music is always a favorite in the San Carlo Room and on March 5, 2023 we had a great time thanks to the wonderful music by the Milligan Brass Band!

