

# 2023 Annual Report

*Let the Poor House Enrich You*



WOOD  
COUNTY  
MUSEUM

13660 County Home Rd.  
Bowling Green, OH  
woodcountyhistory.org  
419-352-0967



**Mission Statement:** The Wood County Historical Society promotes stories of Wood County, Ohio and its County Poor Farm, connecting memories of the past to the present while facilitating an informed future.

## 2023 Board of Directors:

President: Gordon Bowman*	Scott Gross
VP: Michael Ginnetti	Dave Hollinger
Treasurer: Frank Butwin+	Andrew Kalmar+
Secretary: Brenda Ransom	Rebecca Mancuso
Julie Baumgardner*	Erika Miklovic
Lois Bowlus	Dave Steiner*
Sandy Gill	Todd Waggoner
Roger Grant	

\* Board of County Commissioners appointee  
+ Wood County Park District appointee

The Wood County Museum is managed jointly by the Wood County Commissioners  
Craig LaHote - President  
Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus - Vice President  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. - Member  
the Wood County Historical Society; and the Wood County Park District.



## MUSEUM & SOCIETY STAFF

(Left to Right)

- **Alexandra Hutchings, Assistant Events Coordinator**
- **Michael McMaster, Education Coordinator**
- **Annette Wells, Director**
- **Holly Kirkendall, Curator**
- **Alyssa Garland, Administrative Assistant**
- **Marissa Muniz Kolhoff, Marketing and Events Coordinator**

## Society Highlights: Events & Programs

\*\*\*\*Despite having the Museum's Exhibits closed for 10 months during repairs, we were able to have a robust Events and Programs schedule. We also took the opportunity to host events that highlights the Museum's beautiful grounds! \*\*\*\*

- First Free Fridays every month
- 5 Tea & Talks Series programs
- NWOH Blacksmithing – Spring and Fall Demonstrations
- Ohio Local History Alliance Region 1 Meeting hosted at museum
- 3rd Annual Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
- Early Ohio on the Portage – Living History Event
- Round Barns –Book Signing & Painting with Dr. Robert Kroeger
- Power of Yesteryear Spring Tractor Showcase
- 3 Summer Tea Workshops with The Summer Kitchen Girls – June, July, & August - NEW!
- Cruise-In To Summer Safety – Safety Event & Car Show with Amateur Radio Club – NEW!
- Music at the Museum Series – June, July, & August Porch Concerts
- Portage July 4th Parade with Firetruck
- Boiler BBQ Bash and Virtual Silent Auction – Fundraiser
- 20th Annual Living History Day
- German American Day
- Museum Reopening & Ribbon Cutting
- North Baltimore Trunk or Treat
- (Foam) Turkey Drone Drop Fundraiser - NEW!
- Bowling Green Holiday Parade



**Boiler BBQ Bash Fundraiser**  
Nikki D & The Sisters of Thunder entertaining the crowd!



**Cruise-In To Summer Safety**  
Visitors enjoying the event & seeing the emergency vehicles!

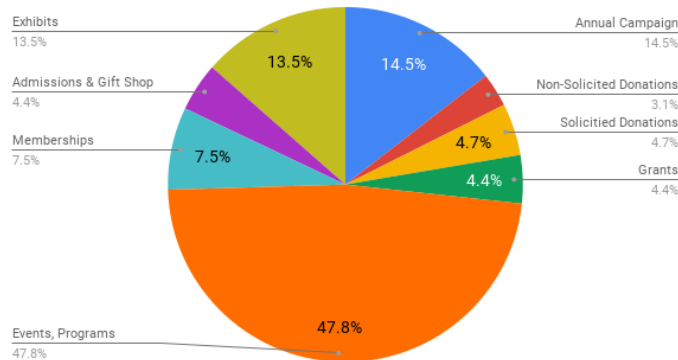
## 2023 Summary:

Staff and Board had a challenging year in 2023 when we were forced to close in the aftermath of the boiler going out and 11 radiators breaking during the below-zero Ice Storm on December 23-25, 2022. The exhibits were dismantled to dry everything out and repair ceilings and floors. During our unplanned 10-month closure we 'looked outside' and saw the wonderful possibilities of our 50-acre site and hosted many events and programs on the Museum Grounds until we were able to reopen on October 16th! Our successes in 2023 have been largely due to tremendous support from friends in and around Wood County.

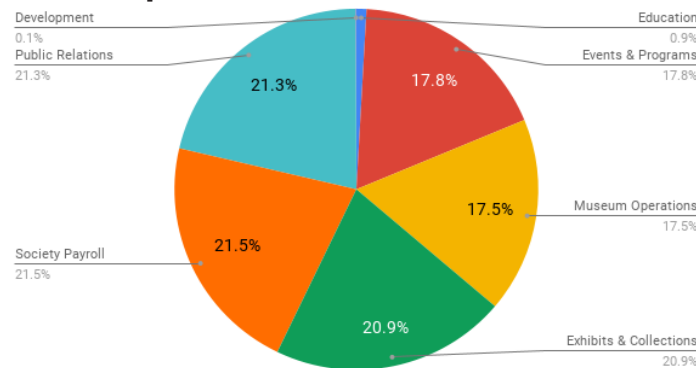
### Partnerships:

- American Alliance of Museum (AAM)
- American Assoc. for State & Local History (AASLH)
- BG Chamber
- BG Exchange Club
- Destination Toledo
- HerHub of NWOH
- Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor (MVHC)
- National Council of Public History
- North Baltimore Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio History Connection (OHC)
- Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA)
- Ohio Museums Association (OMA)
- Perrysburg Chamber
- Visit BG Ohio
- Visit Perrysburg
- Visit Rossford
- Wood County District Public Library
- Wood County Park District
- Wood County Buildings & Grounds Committee
- Wood County Farm Bureau
- Wood County Genealogy Society

### Society Income:



### Society Expense:



### Society Operating Budget:

• \$132,670  
 Society income is generated from community support through memberships, museum admission, rentals, gift shop purchases, sponsorships, and donations. In 2023, the Society received additional support through three grants. The Society was forced to close the Museum for 10 months while unplanned building repairs went on caused by water damage from cracked radiators. Admissions were directly affected by the closure.

#### Grants

- BGSU Students, 4 Community (\$1000)
- Ohio Arts Council (\$4,035)
- Ohio Humanities (\$800)

### Museum Exhibits:



*Allure & Illusion: A Rose Colored Romance* – On exhibit until November 2024

*For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio by Way of the Poor Farm* – On Exhibit Indefinitely

*The Mary & Carl Bach Story* – Permanent Exhibit

*Chasing the White Rabbit: An Historical Look at American Mental Illness* –Asylum building

*A Clean Bill of Health: Societal Response to Disease* –Pest House building

## A LOOK AT EDUCATION IN 2023

**3,696 PEOPLE**

served by WCM education services



**ADULTS 1,345**

66

Programs & Tours



**2,351 STUDENTS**

29

Programs & Tours

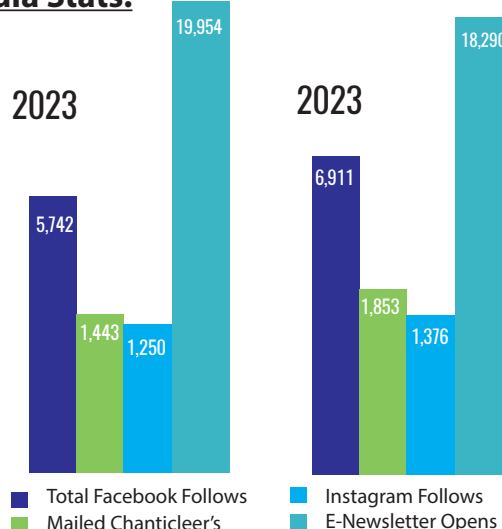


### Society Membership:



New Members: 28  
 Total Members: 678

### Media Stats:



## Total Numbers of Visitors Served

\*based on 2022 data

Museum Visitors: 302  
 (from Oct. 16-Dec. 31)

Number of Events: 20  
 Event Attendance: 2,040

Education On Site: 1,315  
 Museum Outreach: 1,750

## Curatorial & Exhibits:

Donations to Collection: 100+  
 Research Requests: 78

\*2022: Visitors: 1,996

\*2022: Events: 25 - Attendance: 1,352

\*2022: On: 116 - Off: 3,865



# Tax Appropriated Funds for 2023

The Society received \$192,349 in tax appropriation funds in 2023. These funds were used for utilities and site maintenance:

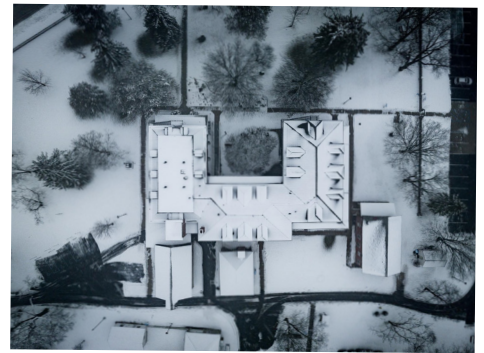
- **HOG BARN IMPROVEMENTS:** Concrete Pad behind Hog Barn – Landscaping cleaned up. Collection items removed. Many went into Awning of Pole Barn and inside Pole Barn Hog Barn cleaned out inside and animal holes made secure with metal sheeting.
  - **POLE BARN:** Awning: County Maintenance brought in a load of stone for the woodchuck holes and filled everything. Farming Equipment that was dragged out of Pole Barn 2 years ago and in weeds in front of Barn: Relocated under Pole Barn Awning. Used heavy equipment to shuffle collections pieces in here for better storage. Several Pieces went to Carter Farm for use.
  - **TOOL SHED/OLD BATHROOM BY CEMENTERY** – Replaced wooden doors with steel, replaced door framings, removed and replaced concrete mantel on north side, metal sheeting covering windows. Building is secured until future plans take shape.
  - Completed Powerhouse project!!
  - Museum's front porch repainted and updated
  - Rented a 20 yard dumpster for basement cleanup and a 10 yard dumpster and cleaned & reordered garage.
  - Cleaned up materials dumped on concrete pad
  - Repaired front concrete gate at stone archway
  - Redid driving gate to stone driveway
  - Helped with landscaping powerhouse
  - Chicken Coop totally empty and cleaned up by Church of Christ volunteer group
  - Front stone driveway and driveways in East lawn redone
  - Added stone to the area around Boomtown's oil barrels
  - Repainted Pest House
  - Repainted Chicken Coop
  - Trimmed trees around the shelter house on West lawn AND across County Home Road. Yippee!
  - Installed electric outlet at Marque sign on Rte. 6
  - Plastered 'kitchen exhibit room' and repainted to prepare children's exploration room
  - Power washed awning, ramp, front porch
  - Replaced fuel pump in Gator; keep it running for us. Big help!
  - Replace outdoor East porch lights and parking lot lights
  - Locks on 2nd floor office doors, made gift shop chalkboard, emergency lighting and exit signs all replaced
  - Herb Garden Volunteers did an excellent job maintaining our Herbs this year!
- Contractor Work Completed in 2023:  
 ~Water damage from radiators repaired  
 ~Updated Electrical in some exhibit rooms and Powerhouse  
 ~Damaged flooring replaced and additional flooring redone  
 ~Museum roof repaired  
 ~14 Trees around the Museum Grounds removed and various other trees trimmed



Front Porch Before



Front Porch After



Before Tree Removal



After Tree Removal



Left:  
Powerhouse Outside with new landscaping  
Middle:  
Inside of the Powerhouse during the BBQ Bash Fundraiser

**Wood County Museum**  
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