



BELTRAMI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*"History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme." — Mark Twain*

I have no words adequate to describe 2020. Our museum was closed to the public much of the year and our work was thrown into disarray. In spite of the tragedy and challenges of COVID-19, however, steadfast members, board members, and volunteers pursued projects to maintain our collections and facilities and continue bringing the history of Beltrami County to its residents and visitors.

The picture above is of an Elder Jingle Dress dancer at a Red Lake Powwow. The dance and dress were born in the pandemic -

the dream of a medicine man whose granddaughter fell ill during the 1918 influenza pandemic. The Jingle Dress - known also as the Prayer Dress - is worn and women perform the Jingle Dance together to heal the community.

We emerge from a difficult year grateful for the members of our community who brought their own strengths and stories to contribute to the history of Beltrami County. I am grateful that history proves what communities can do when they come together to heal. Miigwech.

**EMILY THABES**

*Director*

# ABOUT BELTRAMI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Our Mission

Collect, preserve, and share the history of the people, land, and stories of Beltrami County to honor our past, to understand our present, and to build our future.

## Our Values

- Continuity
- Leadership
- Outreach
- Stewardship
- Teamwork



# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

## Board Members

- Sue Bruns, President
- Jim Aakus, Vice President
- Charlene Sturk, Treasurer
- Chris Muller, Secretary
- Dan Allosso
- Andy Mack
- Catherine Marchand
- Cecelia McKeig
- Leo Soukup

## Board Liaisons

- Josh Peterson, Bemidji City Council
- Charlene Sturk, Beltrami County
- John Ellis, Bemidji State University
- Dan Allosso, Bemidji State University

## Staff

- Emily Thabes, Director
- Colleen Joyce, Administrative Assistant

# BCHS 2020: FEATURED NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIPS

167

MUSEUM ADMISSIONS

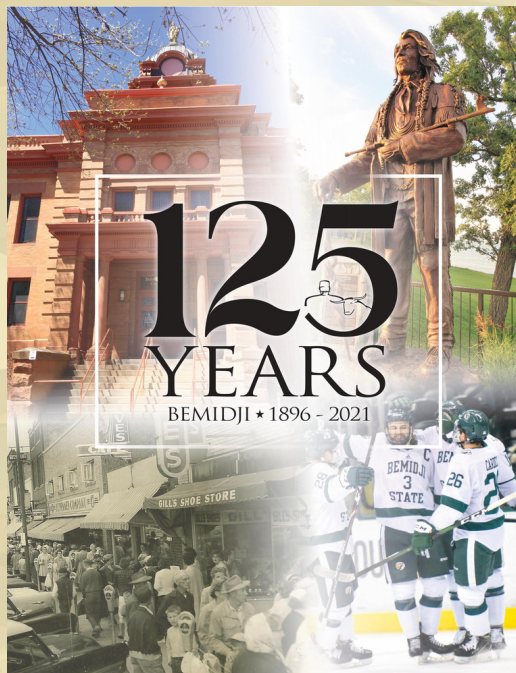
427

VOLUNTEER HOURS

1000+

GIFT SHOP SALES

\$2560



A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
BELTRAMI COUNTY



CHARLES VANDERSLUIS  
LEO SOUKUP

\*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

	ACTUAL Jan-Dec	BUDGET Jan-Dec	DIFFERENCE	2019 ACTUAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership	\$ 8,325.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (6,675.00)	\$ 11,010.00
Contributions	\$ 6,337.73	\$ 16,000.00	\$ (9,662.27)	\$ 10,001.98
Fundraising	\$ 990.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (9,010.00)	\$ 6,797.00
Grants	\$ 5,155.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 2,775.00
Museum Admissions	\$ 1,718.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (3,782.00)	\$ 4,609.00
Research Fees	\$ 96.20	\$ 300.00	\$ (203.80)	\$ 390.80
Program Fees	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 2,213.00
Gift Shop Sales	\$ 2,560.70	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (3,439.30)	\$ 4,452.70
Dividends & Interest Earned	\$ 2,721.22	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 721.22	\$ 2,570.40
Beltrami County Appropriation	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
Louie Marchand Fellowship	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Reimbursed Expenses	\$ (731.05)			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 37,672.80</b>	<b>\$ 71,800.00</b>	<b>\$ (34,127.20)</b>	<b>\$ 55,319.88</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Alarms Inspection	\$ 206.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (793.60)	\$ 206.54
Advertising	\$ 2,845.38	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 845.38	\$ 1,330.53
Conferences, Travel, Trainings	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ 506.41
Credit Card Fees	\$ 97.22	\$ 250.00	\$ (152.78)	\$ 271.91
Investment Account Fees	\$ 2.09	\$ 200.00	\$ (197.91)	\$ -
Cost of Goods Sold (Gift Shop)	\$ 1,259.58	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (1,740.42)	\$ 3,028.67
Insurance	\$ 2,774.00	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 224.00	\$ 2,215.00
Fundraising Expense	\$ -	\$ 6,200.00	\$ (6,200.00)	\$ 2,977.08
Exhibits Expense	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ -
Janitorial/Cleaning	\$ 524.69	\$ 350.00	\$ 174.69	\$ 254.93
Licenses & Permits	\$ 384.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 334.00	\$ 300.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,993.66	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 993.66	\$ 534.32
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 644.15	\$ 700.00	\$ (55.85)	\$ 531.15
Office Supplies	\$ 1,356.58	\$ 800.00	\$ 556.58	\$ 725.06
Gift Shop Discounts	\$ 98.11	\$ 100.00	\$ (1.89)	\$ 149.86
Personnel (Director & 1 Seasonal)	\$ 19,051.47	\$ 26,140.00	\$ (7,088.53)	\$ 19,736.84
Louie Marchand Fellowship Intern	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ 3,000.00
Printing/Copier	\$ 3,792.60	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,292.60	\$ 2,589.59
Postage	\$ 417.56	\$ 800.00	\$ (382.44)	\$ 668.13
Professional Fees	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 1,560.00	\$ -	\$ 1,690.00
Program Expense	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 215.45
Collection Expense	\$ 3,084.79	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 584.79	\$ -
Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,565.80	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 15.80	\$ 1,266.05
Utilities	\$ 9,170.49	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (829.51)	\$ 9,192.82
Solid Waste Expense	\$ 139.00	\$ 139.25	\$ (0.25)	\$ 139.24
Miscellaneous - Book Production?	\$ 1,896.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,396.50	\$ 862.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 52,864.07</b>	<b>\$ 71,389.25</b>	<b>\$ (18,525.18)</b>	<b>\$ 52,392.33</b>
Depreciation Expense	\$ 13,428.96	\$ 13,500.00	\$ (71.04)	\$ 13,428.96
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE with depreciation</b>	<b>\$ 66,293.03</b>	<b>\$ 84,889.25</b>	<b>\$ (18,596.22)</b>	<b>\$ 65,821.29</b>



# 2020 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Despite closures and challenges due to the pandemic, we found innovative ways to continue extending our resources and services to the community:



## SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS:

- "League of Women Voters closely tied to Bemidji's history"
- "On the Street Where You Live: Historic Homes Project Takes on New Life During Pandemic"
- "Have you heard? Bemidji Steel changes with the times to forge success"
- "Vikings launch on Lake Bemidji in 1961"



## GRANT FUNDING

- Neilson Foundation Membership Matching Grant
- Beltrami Electric Roundup Grant
- Minnesota Cultural and Historical Heritage Grant (*A Brief History*)
- Beltrami County & City of Bemidji publication grants (*125 Years*)



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Native plants added to exterior planters by volunteers and Master Gardeners
- PastPerfect Museum Management Software Inventory module added
- Initial inventory mapping completed.



# LOOKING AHEAD: INITIATIVES AND HIGHLIGHTS

## Strategic Initiatives 2021-24

1. Build a more inclusive Historical Society.
2. Hone our historical research and development practices and knowledge base.
3. Establish an accurate and more complete records management system.
4. Focus outreach & engagement efforts on key stakeholders.
5. Demonstrate the value of the Historical Society across our network.

## 2021 Q1 & Q2 Highlights

- Depot exterior washed, stripped, and painted
- Successful Virtual History Mystery
- Wifi network updated and free public wifi added
- Website secured following a server hack
- Our grant-funded publications come to press:
  - A Brief History of Beltrami County by Charles Vandersluis, revised by Leo Soukup (pub. 2021)
  - Bemidji 125, edited by Sue Bruns and Cecelia McKeig (pub. 2021)
  - Beltrami County Historical Society Coloring Book, edited by Sue Bruns (pub. 2021)



POOL

THIRD ST  
BEMIDJI

DEPOT BEMIDJI MINN

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING

# BELTRAMI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Contact us:

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