



## February 2023 Director's Report

The Pump House is off to a great start for 2023. We had the biggest crowd for our February opening of "The Best of Ross County" since I've been here. At 7:10 on opening night I counted 183 people on the floor. Now some had left, and some kept coming. I took this count because it was getting crowded. Our capacity is listed at 190, so we were close! The Gazette did us well by featuring us on the front page of the paper with a nice article by Shelby Reeves. Mike Smith also did some nice feature work for Litter media, and Kevin Coleman did us right on the radio.

Our sponsor, the Atomic Employee's Credit Union, was represented by Dustten Alley, the Western Branch manager. He helped pass out ribbons and checks. Judy Summers, the vice president of the Chillicothe Art League, passed out the honorable mentions for her group, since they donated \$25 gift certificates. Angela Young, our first vice president, handled passing out Hook's Pizza for the crowd, as well as making the drinks and doing the set up for all the refreshments. Steve Robinson, one of our volunteers, came in to take pictures and had 3 nice Facebook posts up before the evening was out. We all work as a team and the team works well.

The inside of the building looks good to start the year. We purchased a lot of new merchandise and redid all the displays, including the art walls, to start the new season. The old floor got stripped waxed as well. Mike Throne was elected to continue his role in the 2023 calendar year, with Angela young serving as our 1<sup>st</sup> vice president and Stephen Steele our 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. Jade Berry continues her role as secretary as does Dave Rieder our treasurer. Yearly, we have a representative join us from the Chillicothe Art League. This year, Dawn Zarbakhsh joins us to sit on the board, replacing Lisa Humphrey, who served for 2022.

Our next show is already started. We have a lot of prep work to do for each show, The Pioneer Art Show, to help bring awareness for Disabled Disabilities Month. Our sponsor will be Sutherland's Radiator and Auto Repair. Tim Sutherland has been a great supporter. He and his dog stop in regularly to see the show and he has purchased many art pieces the last couple of years. He also contributed a large unsolicited donation last year for our cause. No questions asked. When I approached him about being a show sponsor he did not hesitate. It is good to have such a friend for the Pump House.

Our April show, the Chillicothe Art League Open, is also almost ready to go. The Art League has graciously taken over hanging all their shows, so this one is an easy one for us. They even make their own art labels! The sponsor for this show is Betsy Parker, a longtime supporter of the Pump House and the Art League. She herself has a show of photography at the North Annex library branch this month. Very talented and generous as well.

Going into each show is a post card we continue to mail to our members. Jarrod Depue, board member and owner of Metropolis Designs, has been doing these for over two years. He his clever and talented with his designs. This is a big task and probably doesn't get enough

recognition for his efforts. He also keeps our web page updated. He does this without compensation, just another way to give back to the community. It makes for a nice, professional, card to over 350 patrons every month!

We are headed into the 2023 season with a lot on our plates. We hope to have the plans for our capital campaign to fix our deteriorating brick and stonework completed soon. We need to raise upwards of \$175,000 to fully fund this project, which replaces over 300 bricks and every brick mortar joint, as well as 17 stone lintels along with landscaping the entire area. This preservation effort will see us well through the next 75 years. But this is an 1883 building, so there is always work to be done. But it DOES make a lovely art venue and is a wonderful anchor in the park. Chillicothe is so fortunate to have saved it.

Stop in for a visit every month for a visit and enjoy the artwork in YOUR Pump House!