

“LET’S DEVELOP OUR CENTER”

February 2018

Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development

Last month the Board of Directors approved establishing a new Director of Development position for the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center (SCHRC). This position is responsible for all organizational fundraising activities, including grant solicitation, community outreach, marketing, publicity, and donor development.

Our great executive director, Beth Dippel, and the Board approved my appointment shortly thereafter, and I couldn’t be more excited or happier to be here! I have known Beth and many of the Center’s members through the annual Lincoln Seminar I have taught in October for the last six years. I am a life-long resident of Racine and come to the Center with a passion for history and a rather extensive background in non-profit management. Currently, I serve as Chairman of the Board for the Racine Heritage Museum and as President of Preservation Racine, Inc.

When I began my duties as your new Director of Development on January 3, I was immediately impressed by the widespread support that the Center has in Sheboygan County. It becomes quickly obvious to even a new person in the area that the community is immensely proud of the organization, its activities, and its people.

The quality of its community outreach, public programs, and visibility is substantial. While our supporters may be aware of the numerous ways SCHRC engages the communities around the greater Sheboygan area, it is always useful to remind ourselves that the Center is responsible for educating individuals about regional history in many unique and distinctive ways.

The Library/Archive. Over 4,000 people come into the facility annually to conduct research, ask questions, or visit the bookstore. Other individuals – in Wisconsin, outside of Wisconsin, and even outside of the United States - submit

queries for investigation by email, phone, or regular mail to the Library/Archives for processing.

Public Programs. The Center has a wide variety of lecture series, classes, and outreach programs that bring the history of Sheboygan County alive in an enthralling manner. These include “Second Saturdays Speaker Series,” “History on the Move,” “Celtic Christmas Tea,” “The Lincoln Seminar,” and genealogy classes.

New Programs. As we launch forward into 2018, I want to announce two new initiatives that I think you will find exciting. First, the Center will be hosting a 2-day *historical symposium* on August 16 & 17. Numerous historians and scholars will be educating and entertaining attendees on a wide range of subjects that are associated with a central theme. Second, a 4-day *bus trip* is being planned for the greater Springfield, Illinois, area for September. I will be coming along as the “traveling Lincoln historian,” to provide insights and mini-lectures about what we will be seeing. I think it will be great fun!

The SCHRC will soon be starting its annual fundraising campaign, and I encourage you to make a contribution as a commitment to support this organization’s mission and activities. Perhaps you are an existing member, who has supported this organization for years. Maybe you are just getting acquainted with the Center and the valuable work it does. Whatever your tenure is with the SCHRC, please renew your gift - increase your contribution if possible - and join the effort to promote the organization as we shift into overdrive for 2018!

I am looking forward to meeting with staff, volunteers, members, community organizations, businesses, and corporate donors this year in an effort to maintain sustainability, while looking for funding opportunities to propel us forward in many different ways. Exciting things are happening at the SCHRC!

As we prepare for the 2018 Annual Campaign, please know that your gift will make a considerable impact on future programs and events. You can help by renewing your membership, considering becoming a Legacy Member, contemplating sponsoring a new member in 2018, encouraging others to join the SCHRC, arranging a bequeath on behalf of the Center, financially sponsoring events and programs, and volunteering. Share your passion for the Center with family and friends!

A Useful Factoid

If every SCHRC member sponsored a new member for *one* year at the \$40.00 level, the Center would raise \$34,000 just during just its Annual Campaign! Imagine what new programs and projects could be realized with just that one small effort.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations for enhancing our fundraising efforts. You can contact me at 920-467-4667, or email me at steverogstad@schrc.org.

I look forward to working with you in 2018 – a year that will be educational, rewarding, exciting, and fun!