

# The Port Norris Historical Society

June 13, 2023

**Members Present:** E. Bernhardt, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, Nancy Garrison, George Garrison, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, K. Kincaid, L. Kincaid, J. Lacotte, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. Maddox, J. Massey, M. Moore, D. Pettit, H. Ricci, S. Ricci, D. Smith, P. Smith, M. Tortorici; **Guests:** J. Dagastine, G. Dagastine, D. McCarthy

**Guest Speaker:** At 7:05 p.m., Rachel Cobb, President, introduced guest speaker, Dave McCarthy, Millville Army Airfield Museum volunteer, presented the history of the historic WWII airport and its impact to both the local community and the country. The P-47 Thunderbolt was the main fighter plane used at the Millville facility. On August 2, 1941, government officials named the Millville Airport as "America's First Defense Airport. During the next year, construction began on the military base facilities and by January 1943 the Millville Army Airfield became a gunnery school for fighter pilots. Within a few weeks, P-40 "Warhawk" aircraft were replaced by the Republic P-47 "thunderbolt. Approximately 1,500 pilots received advanced fighter training in the "Thunderbolt" during the three years the training facility existed. Following the presentation, refreshments were served.

After the special presentation, the regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society, held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, commenced at 8:25p.m. in the society's headquarters, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present.

**June Meeting:** Minutes of the May 2023 meeting and the June agenda were emailed to active members on June 12, 2023. The Treasurer's Reports for both April 2023, May 2023 and the Legends Final Report were emailed to Executive officers on June 12, 2023.

**Review of Minutes:** A motion was made by Joyce Massey and seconded by Sam Ricci to approve the minutes of the May 2023 meeting, as emailed to members. Members present unanimously approved the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the treasurer's report, donations received from the Legends Awards were included in the general ledger. A motion to accept the April 2023 and May 2023 Treasurer's reports as revised and emailed to all PNHS Board members on June 12, 2023, was made by Gloria Guidera and seconded by Eileen Bernhardt. The motion was unanimously approved, and the Treasurer's reports will be filed for audit.

**Donations:** - No donations were reported for the month of May 2023.

**Eighth Grade Graduation Award:** Rachel Cobb and Liz Hoffman represented the Port Norris Historical Society at the Commercial Township Eighth Grade Commencement Program on June 12, 2023. This year's awards, named in memoriam of PNHS member Alvina Baum, were presented to Jayna Burns and Malachi Gilman for Outstanding Efforts in History for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Each recipient received a \$50.00 cash award plus one of the PNHS history books.

**Committee Reports:** Due to limited time, President Rachel Cobb dispensed with committee reports.

**PNHS Annual Picnic:** Rachel Cobb announced this year's annual picnic would be a combined event with the Mauricetown Historical Society on their grounds July 22, 2023. Food and other details will be coordinated Judy Moore, President of the Mauricetown Historical Society and Mary Linda Lacotte. Details and sign-up lists for food will be emailed to members soon.

**July Meeting:** The main purpose of the July meeting will be to discuss details of the Soup Dinner and to distribute sale tickets. There will be no meeting for the month of August.

**Commercial Township:** Heather Miller, municipal clerk of the Commercial Township, contacted Rachel Cobb to inform the historical society of the township's intention to participate in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States in the year 2026. Towns and cities are asked to begin the process of planning activities for the celebration. More information to follow.

**Soup Dinner:** Dick Smith reported he has volunteers for all soups, except for a two gallon batch chicken corn chowder. Dick collected (5) five checks totaling \$1200.00 from sponsors to Treasurer, Joyce Massey. He has possibilities of six (6) or eight (8) additional sponsors.

**Building Clean-Up:** Dick Smith stated the clean-up day is postponed until a later date. Four or five volunteers are needed to clean the rooms upstairs. It was suggested to first clean the front room and the large side room which are empty. Stored items can then be moved out to the empty rooms, to clean the storage rooms. Mary Linda Lacotte will send out an email asking for suggested dates to clean.

**Collections:** Pat reported we are obtaining more items to catalog and add to our collection.

Announcement: Rachel Cobb will be out of town until June 24, 2023.  
Rachel Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary  
Corrections:

Date \_\_\_\_\_