

**FEBRUARY
2022**



Museum News

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The 2022 Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration - A Special Event

As the Omicron COVID variant subsides, the Museum is planning a very special in-person Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Our 10th Founders Hall event is a "must see" occasion. This year's honorees are 56-year Girl Scout volunteer, leader, and song aficionado, Sharon Reece, and long-time Northern Star Council volunteer and former North Star Museum Board member, Hugh Gwin.

In addition to honoring

two new inductees to the Founders Hall, we will have a special keynote speaker at this year's event. The Museum welcomes Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen. For more on Commissioner Strommen and her keynote topic, see the accompanying article in this issue of the *Museum News*.

Plan to gather in the Museum at 11:30 on April 23 with the program at noon and a delicious lunch catered by Donatelli's imme-

diately following the program. The program cost is \$25.

The Davis and Randall Founders Hall is an area of the Museum where people meet, kids learn, good work gets done, and fun is had. It is also an area of the building with almost spiritual undertones, for on the walls of the Founders Hall we recognize the men, women, and organizations that helped make Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the North Star Museum what they are today.

(Continued on Page 2)

The Museum Welcomes a Special Founders Hall Keynote Speaker - DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen



**Our 2022 Keynote Speaker
- DNR Commissioner
Sarah Strommen**

The Museum is excited to announce that our keynote address at the 2022 Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen. Commissioner Strommen plans to focus her talk on the increase in first-time users of Minnesota's park system and on how park usage connects with the important skills our citi-

zens have learned through our Scouting and Girl Scouting heritage, such as first aid, "leave no trace", safe fire building, camp cooking, and safe tool usage.

Commissioner Strommen holds a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, where she majored in biology and Latin American *(Continued on Page 2)*

The 2022 Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration - A Special Event (cont.)

For those new to the Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration, we have three honoree categories. A **Founder** is an individual who has played a substantial role in the advancement of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or the North Star Museum. A **Founder** is a visionary leader who has played a meaningful role in the creation, innovation, or direction of these institutions over a significant number of years.

Builders are the second group of persons or organizations recognized in the Davis and Randall Hall. Builders have made a meaningful impact on one of the Scouting institutions, through their financial support or gifts of influence. A **Builder** is a trans-

formative leader, persuasive and insightful in their leadership; one who helps make the Founders' vision a reality.

Finally, Founders Hall **Trailblazers** are people who have provided exceptional direct volunteer leadership to Scouting at the grass roots level. Often referred to as "Red Jacket Scouters" in Boy Scouting or "Green Bloods" in Girl Scouting, they carry out the ideas bought forth by the Founders and Builders and deliver them to youth.

The 2022 event celebrates Builder Hugh Gwin and Trailblazer Sharon Reece. There is a separate article containing a photo and more information about each recipient in this issue of the

Museum News.

Please join us on April 23 to help recognize and honor two deserving recipients for their outstanding contributions to Boy Scouting, Girl Scouting, and the Museum. Look for a postcard in March inviting your registration for the event. But you need not wait. Reserve your spot by calling or emailing Joleen Rudeen at the Museum today. The number is 651-748-2880 and the email address is jrudeen@nssm.org. See you at the Founders Hall on April 23.

The Museum Welcomes a Special Founders Hall Keynote Speaker—DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen (cont.)

studies. After graduating from college, she used a Fulbright research scholarship to do field work in Costa Rica, and subsequently earned her master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Prior to joining the Minnesota DNR in 2015, Commissioner Strommen served as assistant director at the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) before becoming acting deputy director. She previously served as policy director for Friends of the

Boundary Waters Wilderness and as associate director of the Minnesota Land Trust. She also served several terms on the Ramsey city council and as mayor from 2012-2018.

Commissioner Strommen oversees a DNR staff of approximately 2,700 located in St. Paul and around the state. The department's mission is to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, and

providing for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Commissioner Strommen's address is one of many reasons to join us at the Museum on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Once again, you can reserve your spot by calling or emailing Joleen Rudeen at the Museum. The number is 651-748-2880 and the email address is jrudeen@nssm.org.

Good Luck Diana Foss! Welcome Joleen Rudeen!

We said a fond farewell to Diana Foss in the December *Museum News*. On January 31, Diana's successor, Joleen Rudeen, began her job with two weeks of training under Diana's watchful eye.

Joleen's career provides an excellent background for her duties at the Museum. Most recently she was a donor relations associate, event planner, and office manager for the non-profit Amicus. In addition, she served as banquet manager at the St. Paul Hotel and catering director at both Marquette Cater-

ing and the Minnesota Club. She also owned and operated her own catering business. Joleen has an associate's degree from Cambridge School of Liberal Arts in Cambridge, MA.

Joleen's schedule will be Tuesday through Friday of each week from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Her email address is jrudeen@nssm.org. Be sure to give Joleen a big welcome whether your first contact is in person at the Museum, by phone, or by email.



An unknown winter camper in our winter camping exhibit welcomes Joleen Rudeen (right) and wishes Diana Foss the best on a cold February afternoon

Renewing Members

- Dan Kuntz
- Mitzi Karl
- Virginia Turba
- Mike Aeling
- Pat Frankenfield
- Robert Gwinn
- Dennis & Nancy Hebrink
- Robert & Carol Oldowski
- Gerald & Beth Voermans
- Jack Nessen
- Nancy Dana Randall

Know of anyone
interested in joining?

Contact:

Joleen Rudeen
651-748-2880 or
jrudeen@nssm.org

Escape Room Test Run Is Successful



These four young men are in the first chamber of the Escape Room. Don't worry, they made it out.

On January 5, a crew of five volunteers set up the Museum's much anticipated Escape Room in preparation for a test run with groups of boys and girls who are active in Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts of America units. The Escape Room actually consists of four rooms using an ancient Egyptian theme. Visitors must work together to decipher the

clues necessary to escape from each room into the next room. A successful escape from room four allows the visitors to return to the modern world.

Two brave groups of kids went through the Escape Room on January 6. They all returned to the modern world with much fanfare and without any harm. Each group took about 55 minutes to get through the four rooms and they stayed to complete an evaluation. The reviews were favorable. Only minor enhancements are necessary for the Escape Room to open for the enjoyment of the general public. Due to the design of the rooms, everything can be set up and broken down in a relatively short time. The complex of rooms fits comfortably inside the Founders Hall.

The official public grand opening of the Escape Room was scheduled for the last weekend of Jan-



These three young women have made it to the second chamber of the Escape Room and are trying to get to room three.

uary and the first weekend of February. However, the dates were cancelled due to the Omicron COVID surge. We are looking at the calendar so the Escape Room can be made available to groups of kids and adults alike. The anticipated pricing is \$15 per person. Check out future issues of the Museum News and the Museum's website for the latest information on Escape Room dates and how to register.

Eagle Project Proves Timely

The Museum has benefitted from a number of Eagle Scout projects over the years. The latest could not be timelier. For his project, Aiden Mashaal decided to build a gateway to the Museum's Campcraft Exhibit, also known as the hands-on history center. Aiden's beautiful wooden structure happens to have been fashioned from buckthorn. As many are aware, buckthorn is an invasive bush that many communities are trying to remove.

Thus, in addition to benefitting the Museum, Aiden's project benefitted the communities from where he cleared the buckthorn used in the project.

Why was Aiden's Eagle project so timely? Well, Museology just added the final module to the exhibit. The exhibit is now complete and ready for the public to return as COVID-19 subsides. Next time you visit the Museum, you will enjoy the



Aiden Mashaal stands proudly with the gateway to the Campcraft Exhibit that he constructed for his Eagle project

Campcraft Exhibit even more when you enter through the sturdy gateway built by Aiden Mashaal. Thank you, Aiden.

Sharon Reece: A True Trailblazer

Sharon Reece is entering the Founders Hall as a Trailblazer, and what a Trailblazer she is. She has been a Girl Scout member for 56 years and a troop leader for over 40 years. Her roles have included “cookie mom”, service unit manager, outdoor trainer, and 40-year volunteer on the Lakamaga Adult Leadership Conference Planning Committee. She has also served as a Cub Scout den leader for her son and grandsons and outdoor trainer as a Boy Scout volunteer.

Sharon always has a song ready to teach and lead. During her

56 years of Girl Scout membership, she has become known as a “go-to” person around the country due to her encyclopedic knowledge of Girl Scout songs. She has studied the history of music and song in the Girl Scouts and she has followed her interest in Girl Scout history through her involvement in the Heritage Committee and the Friends Forever alumnae group.

Sharon has been recognized for her contributions to the Girl Scouts with the Appreciation Pin, Outstanding Volunteer Award, Helping Hand Pin, Adult Gold Award, Thanks Badge, and



Sharon Reece

Thanks Badge II. Welcome to the Founders Hall, Sharon Reece!

Hugh H. Gwin: A Real Builder

During his long career as a lawyer, community, and Scouting volunteer, Hugh H. Gwin has demonstrated the attributes of his upcoming Builder designation in the Founders Hall. Hugh grew up in Scouting and reached the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, followed by the University of North Dakota School of Law. Hugh received his Juris Doctor degree in 1973. Since 1973, Hugh has practiced law in the Hudson, Wisconsin area.

In addition to his legal career, Hugh supported Scouting in Northern Star Council and its legacy council. He became Scoutmaster of Troop 140 in 1974 and was later the Post Ad-

viser for Post 140. He has been honored with the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award. Hugh currently serves on the Northern Star Council President's Cabinet.

Hugh is also a long-time supporter of the North Star Museum. His term on the board of directors occurred at a pivotal time shortly after the Museum purchased its building and hired its first full-time staff. The Museum's programs expanded significantly during Hugh's years on the Board.

Hugh's community service includes being a director of The Boys Camp of Hudson, Inc. The non-profit provides recreational land for activities that support



Hugh H. Gwin

Scouting programs within the greater Hudson area as well as financial support to Scout units to encourage their participation in high adventure opportunities. Be sure to attend the Founders Hall event on April 23 to welcome the addition of a new Builder.

Becoming a Museum Member Is Easy - And Has Its Privileges

Our members are the foundation of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. It has never been easier to become a member of the Museum. Becoming a new member or renewing your membership means you will continue to receive free admission, discounts on merit badge workshops and other educational programming, eNewsletters, invitations to special events, and invitations to private "members only" events. Members receive first notice of programs, events, and new opportunities at the Museum.

The Museum offers several membership levels. Just choose the one that works best for you. The current membership levels for your annual membership include the benefits listed in the first paragraph of this article plus those listed below with each level:

- Individual (\$50): 2 bring a friend passes and 10% gift

shop discount.

- Seniors (\$45): 2 bring a friend passes and 10% gift shop discount.
- Family (\$65): 4 bring a friend passes and 10% gift shop discount.
- History Keeper (formerly Sustaining Membership) (Minimum of \$10 per month automatically withdrawn from your bank EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) or charged to your credit card. It can also be a single payment of \$120 or more by check, charge, or as part of the required minimum distribution from your IRA or 401-K): 4 bring a friend passes and 10% gift shop discount.

The easiest way to join or renew is online. Just go to the website at www.nssm.org and scroll down the home page until you get to *Interested in becoming a member or donating*. Click on your selection and follow the prompts. Or, if you do not want

to pay on line, simply return your check or credit card information to the Museum. Thank you for supporting the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting and for supporting the preservation of the history of Girl Scouting and Boy Scouting.

Now, for you Skunks out there. The Order of the Odor, or Skunks, are veterans of the Scouting USA or Girl Scouts USA organizations who are members of the Museum. Many serve as volunteers at the Museum. In 2021, the Skunks instituted a \$5 yearly fee to help offset events and mailings. If you are a History Keeper member of the Museum, you do not have to pay the \$5. You are automatically a member of this smelly group. **To all those who believe they are Skunks, your North Star Museum membership dues must be currently paid before you are officially a Skunk.**



The Skunks have been volunteering recently as COVID subsides (we hope). One of their projects is the accession of objects into the collection. Pictured here are Gary Gorman (left) and Russ Edlund working on accession.



JUNE 17, 2022

FEAST BY FIRELIGHT

CAMPFIRE FONDUE COOKING CLASS

Members: \$35/person*

Non-Members: \$40/person*

Starter

Grilled Salad
Classic Cheese Fondue

Main

Classic Beef Bourguignonne (Oil Fondue)
Shrimp in Garlic Broth Fondue

Dessert

Chocolate Fondue

**Includes one beer or wine with meal; This is a 21+ event.*

Space is limited. Register at nssm.org.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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and Girl Scouting
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We're on the web
www.nssm.org

Save the Date for the Skunk Reunion

Head Stinker Russ Edlund recently put out the call to all Skunks in the Order of the Oder to save the date for the 2022 Skunk Reunion. The annual Skunk Reunion is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 in the Training Building at Fred C. Andersen Camp.

In the coming weeks, your Patrol Leaders Council will create the sign-up form, Skunk of the Year nomination form, and discuss the menu and guest speaker options. We are hopeful there will be a lessening of COVID-19 restrictions and concerns by June. If COVID prevents a June 4 event, we will shift forward to August. Stay safe and fragrant!



Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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