



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

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It Was a Virtual Annual Meeting

Following on the heels of our first virtual Founders Hall Celebration, the Museum held its first-ever virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 29. Twenty-Eight members attended the meeting. During the meeting, our 2019 Annual Report was distributed. For members who missed the meeting, the Annual Report will be sent separately. Thank you to Terri Anderson for designing and assembling the Annual Report.

During the meeting, Board Chair Lorena Palm outlined our challenges and successes, including the fact that the Museum is about to complete two consecutive years of running budgets in the black. Another highlight of the meeting was announcement of the results of our Board of Directors and Officers election. Congratulations to our re-elected officers, Board Chair Lorena Palm, Vice Chair Sandy Craighead, Secretary Barb Herrmann, and Treasurer Jim Stevenson. Congratulations are

also extended to newly elected Board members Dave Novy and Gary Gorman and re-elected Board members John Guthmann and Emily White.

The best was saved for last—recognition of three key volunteers who truly drive the Museum’s success. Nell Nere was honored for her contributions the Museum programming. Her creativity and resourcefulness is incredible. Judy Johnson was recognized for her creative work painting the beautiful winter murals adorning the Museum’s new winter camping exhibit. The Museum’s highest volunteer honor, The Venerable Order of Polaris Award, was given to Dan Kuntz. These excerpts from the award inscription say it all:

Just as Polaris, the North Star, has served as an unerring guide to navigators, Dan Kuntz has pointed the way for the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting;

....



Board Chair Lorena Palm is shown presiding over October 29th’s Annual Meeting.

WHEREAS, Dan Kuntz has been a life saver to the museum for the last four years in the development, installation, and design of the current wireless technology system. During this time, he analyzed what we currently had and then designed a plan that would lead to a totally interconnected wireless system. He . . . went on to purchase and pay for the necessary additional components and necessary wiring. He developed a process for unlinking back up to the Cloud and made sure that the museum had the most current operating system and the most current version of Microsoft Office along with security. [H]e [also] provided

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It Was a Virtual Annual Meeting (Continued)

a new printer and projection system that enabled users to access the equipment without using a long pole to bring the plug down to an outlet. The museum also has a new cabinet that houses all the peripheral equipment for the Founder's Hall. Dan has made himself available to answer He has volunteered for over 21 years with the Central Minnesota Council Boy Scouts of America. He has served as a Den Leader, Webelos Den Lender, Assistant Cub Master, Assistant Scout Master, Committee Chair, Order of the Arrow Treasurer Advisor, Order of the Arrow Associate Advisor, Crew Advisor, District Vice-Chair, and numerous one-time event chairs. Dan received the District Award of Merit in 2006, Vigil honor OA member from Nagounabe

Lodge #31 and Silver Beaver in 2012. Currently he is a Council Member-at-Large in Central Minnesota Council #295, based in Sartell, MN.

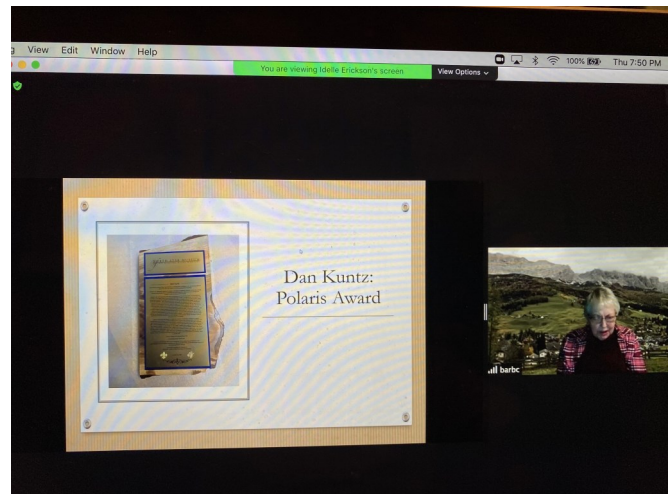
Let it be resolved that the awarding of the VENERABLE ORDER OF POLARIS

is hereby conferred upon Dan Kuntz in recognition of his outstanding contributions and in acknowledgement of the tireless dedication and significant commitment to the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting.

Next time you see Dan, do not forget to offer your congratulations. Less than a handful of people have received this award. Following the awards, Chair Lorena Palm adjourned the meeting. See you at next year's Annual Meeting. We hope to see you person.



You can be surprised even on Zoom. Judy Johnson reacts to the announcement of her volunteer recognition at the Annual Meeting.



This reporter could not get a good shot of Dan Kuntz receiving his Venerable Order of Polaris Award but we did get a good shot of the award and Barb Herrmann presenting it.

Our New Home Away from Home

In 1999, the Museum was homeless with our collections residing in a member's basement. Then, through the generosity of 3M we secured the use of about 7500 square feet of warehouse space at the 3M Case Street facility on the East Side of St. Paul. The terms? We were given a one-year renewable lease for \$1 per year. At the time, the space was valued by 3M at over \$100,000 per year! It proved to be the largest gift-in-kind in the history of the Museum.

The facility was not perfect. Although there was plenty of room for our collections and Board meetings, the warehouse was a secured facility that did not permit children on site. Public gallery space was a no-go. So, our search for suitable museum space continued. In the meantime, we developed a valuable relationship with the what is now the Girl Scouts River Valley's Council. They also used the space for archival storage and exhibit staging.

Case Street was the Museum's only home until our North St. Paul headquarters was purchased in 2006. However, even after moving our operation to North St. Paul, the Museum continued its relationship with 3M, relying heavily on the storage and working space at Case Street.

This past Spring, 3M advised us that it needed the Case Street space. A search for new space began and, its generosity continuing, 3M agreed to provide over 40 pallets to hold

the collections, shrink wrap the pallets, and truck those pallets to our new warehouse space. In September, the Museum signed a five-year lease for Robert's Properties warehouse space located at 1815 Buerkle Road, White Bear Lake. It is right next door to Grandma's Bakery and closer to the Museum than the Case Street facility. We have 5,000 square feet of space, which includes an office and a large work room, plus 3,800 square feet of open warehouse.

Our partnership with the Girl Scouts also continues. The Council will continue to store and stage its collection in our warehouse space.

So, thank you, 3M and thank you, Girl Scouts River Valleys. We look forward to a strong relationship with our new landlord, Roberts Properties. Once Minnesota recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to visit us at the new warehouse space. We are even considering a welcome event for Museum members and friends at our new facility. The new space is handicap accessible with door-side parking. Watch our website and the *Museum News* for announcements.

New Members

- **Brigit Pace**
- **Sarah Keller**
- **Howard Mooers**
- **Lynae & John Olson**
- **Bob Gagner**

Tribute in Honor of Cal Stampfle

- **Bob Gagner**

Tribute in Honor of Kurt & Karen Leichtle's 50th Wedding Anniversary

- **Bonna Sherer**

Memorial in Honor of Bob Rosene

- **Brian Nordling**

Memorial in Honor of Elsie Mooers

- **Howard Mooers**

Memorials in Honor of Donald Brick

- **Ann Marino**
- **Terry Tvieta**
- **Donald Jordan**
- **Jenny Levernier**
- **Grant & Betty Lubin**

Know of anyone interested in joining?

Contact:

Diana Foss

651-748-2880 or

dfoss@nssm.org

In Memoriam: A Museum Trailblazer - Dan Knuth

In 2014, Dan Knuth entered the Museum's Founders Hall as a Trailblazer along with Wife Joann and Daughter Kate. On October 5, 2020, Dan passed away peacefully due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. The following is excerpted from Dan's *Minneapolis Star Tribune* obituary.

Raised by a single mother, Lois, and several aunts after his father died young, Dan was a feminist who worked for Planned Parenthood while in graduate school. He was an environmentalist who participated in the first Earth Day. Dan graduated from Mabel High School, earned a BA from Mankato State and a PhD in Physical Geography and Geology from Indiana University. He started his career in Minnesota, working as a hydrologist at the MPCA, a professor at Macalester, and as an environmental consultant. Dan served in the Minnesota House of Representatives, representing the cities of New Brighton and Mounds View from 1982-1987. He was proud to have helped secure ongoing treatment for New Brighton's water that was polluted by activities at TCAAP. He authored legislation creating the Office of Pipeline Safety. Dan was the di-

rector of the Office of Solid Waste Management and he worked in public affairs at 3M for many years. He finished his career as a lobbyist, working for criminal justice reform and the promotion of transit and biking before retiring in 2014. Dan always thought of himself as a "boy from Mabel" while living a big life of adventure and travel.

Dan and Joann traveled to all seven continents and also loved family trips to the North Shore of Lake Superior and the Minnesota Driftless Area he considered home. Dan was an Eagle Scout and a lifelong Scouter. He worked at Camp Hok-si-la in Lake City and at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Dan helped start a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, and Venturing Crew in New Brighton. He served on the Board of Northern Star Council and was a Council Commissioner. He also served on the Museum's Board. He valued serving on the Metropolitan State Foundation Board. Dan loved connecting with people. He knew people everywhere and joked that he was "on the streets" door knocking every year for local campaigns. One of Dan's great joys was helping



Dan Knuth

young people. He served many kids in Scouting. Dan was a mentor to young lobbyists at the state capitol, where he was known for being kind, ethical, and good-humored.

His legacy lives on through his impact on countless community leaders across Minnesota and beyond. Most of all, Dan loved his family. He and Joann shared a loving and affectionate marriage of 45 years. He was deeply proud of his children, John and Kate, and was a hands-on dad. He enthusiastically supported his children's careers, working on Kate's campaigns and becoming an avid collector of John's artwork. Dan was a true Trailblazer and he will be deeply missed.

We Do NOT Offer Drive-In Service

The last week of November we were surprised to find that a car lost course and drove through our front entrance. The police are investigating how this occurred and our insurance com-

pany is handling the repairs. In the meantime, rest assured, drive-in programming is not part of our future plans.



In Memoriam: Richard M. Cisek

The Museum remembers Richard M. Cisek, who passed away on November 18. He and his wife, Kay Fredericks, are long-time Museum supporters. The following is excerpted from Dick's *Minneapolis Star Tribune* obituary.

Dick was born on November 11, 1928 in Buffalo, NY, to Helen and Bruno Cieslinski. Dick graduated from Canisius College, served in the armed forces in Korea, and received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. During his 32-year tenure with the Minnesota Orchestra, Dick held various positions, eventually becoming president. Following his retirement, he was Interim Managing Director at the Minnesota Children's Theater, and began a consulting career. Dick spent

the last 25 years advising orchestras worldwide. An ambassador of music and the arts, he welcomed these opportunities for life-long learning and developed deep friendships everywhere he went. As an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, Dick enjoyed his hours of service on the Vestry, highlighted by the search for and hiring of The Very Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund. His family and friends appreciated Dick's intelligence, wry sense of humor, and commitment to serving them and his community. Dick was elegant and principled. He valued manners and protocol and instilled that in his grandchildren. They remember being taught to greet others with a direct gaze and firm handshake, a practice they learned from their beloved Dzia Dzia.



Richard M. Cisek

Preceded in death by parents and brother, Eugene, Dick is survived by wife, Kay Fredericks; children, Michael (Corey) Cisek, Melanie (Michael) Hougo, Maria (Paul Anderson) Cisek; grandchildren, Lucas, Mae, Jeffrey Hougo, Axel, Elsa Anderson; brother, Robert (Bonnie) Cisek; sister-in-law, Ruth Cisek. Dick's family looks forward to gathering in his memory at a later date.

Reach for the Stars at the Museum

The Museum is pleased to announce two new programs. These programs are geared towards anyone interested in reaching for the stars.

For Scouts who are reaching for the stars, the Museum recently added Astronomy to its Merit Badge Workshop offerings. Using a combination of Slooh remote telescopes, Stellarium, and other astronomy tools, the Museum can help your Scouts earn the Astronomy Merit Badge. Astronomy Merit Badge will be offered periodically and spots are limited so watch your

email alerts and the Museum's website for dates and times.

Here's another star-gazing opportunity. Are you looking for a fun virtual activity or get together for your group? Arrange a North Star Museum Star Party. During your Star Party, we will stream live telescope feeds from the Canary Islands and Chile to your home over Zoom with fun facts and stories about our universe. Imagine the sights you might see! The cost for a Star Party is only \$15 per person and \$12 for Museum members. To schedule a Star Party for

adults, Scouts, or Girl Scouts, just contact Diana Foss (dfoss@nssm.org) and give her your contact information so we can get back to you and get your Star Party scheduled.

Speaking of stars and planets, Jupiter and Saturn will be in conjunction on Dec 21 and visible in a way that has not been seen on Earth for nearly 400 years. Just look to the southwestern sky shortly after sunset. Reach for the Stars at the Museum!

Think of the Museum for Your Year-End Giving

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, one of just a few of its kind in the nation, has been a staple of the North St. Paul community for years; providing expert curation of uniforms, photos, guidebooks, camping equipment, and other historical artifacts from the two programs. In this time of uncertainty and constant change, the Museum needs your help more than ever.

The Museum wants 2020 to end quickly just like everyone else. As the year draws to a close, we celebrate that the Museum is still here, it remains strong, it operates in the black, and we continue to offer programming despite an international pandemic. We were forced to close twice this year due to COVID. The opening of our new Winter Camping exhibit was delayed

due to these closures as was the opening of our new Escape Room program. In the midst of the pandemic, 3M advised us that they were no longer able to offer us free warehouse space at the Case Street facility. Then, our furnace went out and a car crashed into our building, which produced thousands of dollars in unanticipated expenses. How is that for a bummer of a year?

Nevertheless, the Museum persevered. Our popular Merit Badge Workshop programs continued remotely via Zoom and, when possible, in person. We held our Founders Hall Celebration on Facebook in August, honoring Tisha Bolger, CEO of Girl Scouts of River Valleys and Jon Pederson, a Board member and a longtime supporter of the Museum and Scouting who died unexpectedly in 2019. In Sep-

tember, we secured new warehouse space in White Bear Lake and confirmed that our partnership at the warehouse with Girl Scouts River Valleys will continue. In October, we held our Annual Meeting remotely and hosted Jamboree on the Air in person for a scheduled and socially distanced audience.

We will re-open the doors and our live programming as soon as the pandemic permits. In the meantime, the Museum remains strong and we will stay strong with your financial support. Please include the Museum in your year-end giving plans. You can donate through our website at nssm.org or by mail to 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North Saint Paul, MN 55109. Happy Holidays!

Year-End Merit Badges Zoom Forward

Rain, sleet, snow, or pandemic, the Museum's Merit Badge Workshop program forges ahead. Our Thanksgiving schedule switched from in-person to Zoom due to the latest COVID restrictions and our year-end offerings are also Zoom sessions. Here is the schedule.

Counselor Will Sulzbach will lead two Personal Management sessions (limited to four Scouts each session) on Monday, December 28 and on Wednesday, December 30. Those classes

were announced in October and they are full.

Due to our waiting list for Personal Management, Counselor Mike Fratto is leading a Personal Management session at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 2. Mike is also teaching Citizenship in the Nation at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 29. Up to 10 Scouts may register for each session.

Finally, Counselor John Guthmann will lead a session of Citizenship in the World. The class

has a limit of 10 Scouts and it is set for Tuesday, December 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Scouts may register for the open sessions on the Museum's website at nssm.org. The cost is \$15 or \$12 for Museum members. Act fast because these sessions normally sell out.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2020

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Year-End Merit Badges Zoom Forward



Looks of concentration prevailed during the Citizenship in the World workshop on November 28 via Zoom. More Zoom workshops are scheduled for the last week of the year.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Diana Foss, 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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