



Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 215
Bristol, PA 19007

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Gazette



Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL 33
No. 7

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

SEPTEMBER 2014

An Active Fall Season: Trip To Cape Cod, Historic Bristol Day #38, Program on Archeology, & Harrisburg Trip

Concluding the year 2014, BCHF schedule is very active - two out-of-town bus trips (a day trip to our state's capital city, Harrisburg, and a 5-day bus trip to Cape Cod, MA including Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard), a program by local archeologist Jesse Walker with our Annual Meeting, and our Historic Bristol Day #38 on Saturday, October 18th. Much work has been involved in bringing these activities to fruition. Volunteers have been especially important for Historic Bristol Day #38. We hope that our readers have placed Historic Bristol Day on their calendars. As we highlight some of the many positive images of our historic town, it is only through the hard work of our volunteers that this special day is made possible for the community. THIS IS THE 333RD YEAR FOR BRISTOL BOROUGHS (1681 - 2014). As U.S. Senator, Joseph R. Grundy commented, "if a man doesn't take pride in his home town, he isn't likely to give a rap for his country".

Historic Bristol Day Coming Your Way on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 10-4! The Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation presents "A River in Time"

Celebrate Bristol with your family and friends. Chair, Liz Fisher and her BCHF committee wants to let you know what's lined up so far. It looks like, already, there's plenty to do for the whole gang along Radcliffe Street

The Gazebo is the Site for Music-lovers

What's that tune? Starting at 10:45 The Bracken Alumni Drum & Bugle Corp will perform, then our favorite local chorus from the "Little Mermaids" production, followed by the River Drivers, and ending with Nick and Kathy who perform Sinatra-era songs all the way to the present.

For The Children

Let's have fun! From 11 to 3, A Better Way Farm will provide wagon rides for the kiddies. Board your wagon, pulled by majestic Belgian horses, at the Riverside Theater. An annual hit is the Children's Corner along with colonial cooking demonstrations that will be held at the Friends Meetinghouse,

Chess anyone? For children and the young at heart, stop into Mr. Salerno's office on Radcliffe St. and check out the Knights Chess Club Exhibit of unique chess boards. This group welcomes children of all ages who want to learn to play chess. A children's art contest sponsored by BCHF can be enjoyed at St. Mark School. Check out the winners.

River Activities

No need to get wet! Once again, the Anchor Yacht Club

will hold a Regatta - always weather permitting. The award presentations will be at the conclusion at the Gazebo. At 1 pm under the wharf, Transformations will put on a one-hour demonstration of yoga and fitness. The Coast Guard will bring its mascot, so look for him along Radcliffe St. The Grundy Library will feature a river-themed exhibit.

Art-Lovers

Be inspired! Mr. Sagolla will, again, stage his exhibit at National Penn Bank. The Artists of Bristol Show will be held at the Community Baptist Church on Radcliffe St. And remember to go to St. Mark's to see our community's younger artists' offerings. The Grundy Museum Home will be opened to enjoy its architecture and treasured family pieces.

Car Enthusiasts

Head over to Snyder-Girotti School to our annual car show.

As Always, Enjoy . . .

the food and craft vendors, the BCHF bake sale table on Radcliffe St., our BCHF saleable table and raffle site for Mr. Sagolla's recent watercolor for HBD near Great ID's and finally our TICKETED ITEMS will be our annual TEA along the river and HOUSE TOURS. This year a lovely garden will be on display, as well as homes.

To volunteer at any of these events, please call Kathy Barniskis at 215 943-0258.

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2014

SEPTEMBER - Sat. 9/13 (rain date 9/14), noon to 8 pm. 31st Annual Italian Festival, sponsored by Bristol Lions Club, in Bristol Waterfront Park. BCHF sales and info table, noon to 5 pm; call 215 943-0258 to volunteer for a shift at our table.

SEPTEMBER - 9/14 through 18, 2014 - 5 day/ 4 night bus trip to Cape Cod, visiting Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Historic Sandwich and Hyannis. 4 breakfasts & 4 dinners, lodging, all taxes, meal, guide & driver tips. \$655 pp, double occupancy, \$635 pp triple occupancy, \$825 single. Call 215 788-9408 re: last minute availability.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/18, 10 am to 4 pm. 38th Historic Bristol Day. Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF web-site given below.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/19, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. BCHF headquarters. Free. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

DECEMBER - Wed., 12/10. "Harrisburg Christmas 2014" bus trip. Visit the Governor's Mansion decorated for the holidays, PA Capitol building and PA State Museum. Lunch at Rasberries Hilton Hotel. \$85 for BCHF members; \$88 for non-members. Call 215 788-4138 for info/reservations.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

Bristol Riverside Theater - 2014 Season

"39 Steps" - September 30 to October 26, 2014

"Lost In Yonkers" - November 11 to November 30, 2014

"Winter Musical" - December 11 to December 21, 2014

"Always Patsy Cline" - January 27 to February 22, 2015

"Ragtime" - March 4 to April 12, 2015

"An Enemy of the People" - May 12 to May 31, 2015

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • www.bristolhistory.org

Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by:

Helen Younglove, Kathy Barniskis, Nancy Maren, Jan Ruano, Anna Larrisey and Harold Mitchener.

Additional research by Carol Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR NOVEMBER

Letters of Self-Nomination are required for anyone wishing to be considered as a member of the Board of Directors of BCHF. These letters should be addressed to BCHF, P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007 and marked to the attention of the "Nomination Committee". The letters of self-nomination for the Board of Directors are due not later than Saturday, November 1, 2014.

A Beautiful River View - The Sagolla Painting

This year we are again pleased to offer the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for an original watercolor painting by local artist Joe Sagolla. In keeping with this year's Historic Bristol Day theme, "A River In Time", the painting depicts a view of the wharf and Samuel Clift Street from the river. The sailboat and rowboat add an additional charm to the scene. The pastel colors help to make this painting anyone would be proud to display in their home.



Tickets were recently mailed to all BCHF members. You can also purchase tickets at local events and at the tax office.

Trips Update

Cape Cod, Sept. 14 - 18. We're delighted to announce that this trip is sold out, with fifty people on the passenger list.

"Harrisburg Christmas 2014," Wednesday, December 10. As of this writing, this trip is more than half-filled. The itinerary includes a guided tour of the Capitol Building, a self-guided tour of the Governor's Mansion decorated for the holidays, lunch at Raspberries Hilton Hotel, and a self-guided tour of the PA State Museum. The all-inclusive cost is \$85 for BCHF members and \$88 for non-members. Reservations may be made by contacting Ellanna Delaney at 215 788-4138.

Our 2015 trip schedule includes:

"Philadelphia Culture & Culinary," Wednesday, April 22. This bus trip will begin with a 4 course luncheon at Philadelphia's Culinary of Arts, followed

by an afternoon visit to the Barnes Museum. Cost and reservation details have not yet been established.

"Memorable Moments in Manhattan," Friday, September 18. By popular demand, arrangements have been made for a visit to the recently opened National September 11 Memorial Museum, followed by a return visit to "Little Italy" to take in the sights, sounds and savories of the Annual San Gennaro Festival. The trip we ran last September to the 9/11 Memorial and "Little Italy" sold out in less than an hour, and we're anticipating the same response this year. Cost and reservation details will be announced in THE GAZETTE later this year. Stay tuned!

In the June GAZETTE, two other day trip possibilities for next year were mentioned. After further investigation, neither was deemed feasible for the time being.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **SEPTEMBER 1914** issues of THE BUCKS COUNTY GAZETTE

9/4 - - COOKING TO BE TAUGHT AT THE BRISTOL SCHOOLS. First Floor of Old Wood Street Building To Be Equipped. School Board President Leech stated, after the school board meeting, that he has a contribution of \$500 to start the work but would not say who the generous donor was.

PLAN FOR A SUBURBAN IMPROVEMENT DAY HERE. On Tuesday evening in the Bristol Borough council chambers, a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a preliminary organization which proposes to have what will be known as a Suburban Improvement Day in Bristol. Burgess Thomas Scott stated that the object was to have a big day in Bristol some date in October when officials of all the neighboring towns and townships could be invited. It is proposed to have prominent speakers here upon the occasion.

BIG THREE-RING CIRCUS AND WILD WEST SHOW, SEPTEMBER 7th. Will Have Two-Mile Parade. Animal acts of all descriptions will be presented at the Kit Carson's Buffalo Bill Ranch. Each performance will end with the superb, spectacular, historical fantasy, "Battle of Wounded Knee."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

Walter F. Leedom took his employees to Willow Grove last evening, making the trip in his auto.

There were eight deaths in Bristol Borough during the month of August, two by accidental drowning, two by infantile convulsions, and one each of railroad accident and tuberculosis.

"FOR RENT. \$9 a month. 328 Wood Street."

"Fall and Winter Suits. Built to measure from the world's best fabrics. \$15.00 Up. LA POLLA BROS., Up-to-date Tailors, 215 Mill St."

"Up the Hudson to West Point or Newburgh. Round-trip from Bristol - \$2.50. Special train, Thursday, September 10, connecting with day line steamer. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD."

9/11 - BRISTOL GIRL AMONG NOVICES AT CORNWELLS. Thursday of last week, St. Elizabeth's Convent, the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, was the scene of the impressive ceremonies of profession and reception. Among the novices professed was Sister Mary Charles Borromeo, formerly Miss Clara Waide, of Bristol.

SUFFRAGE MEETING AT BRISTOL. There will be a meeting of those interested in woman suffrage next Monday afternoon at 3:15 at the home of Mrs. Gledhill. Tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock, there will be an open air meeting at the corner of Mill and Wood Streets.

MOOSE LAWN FETE TONIGHT. The members of the Moose Lodge of Bristol will hold a lawn fete on the grounds of their home on the riverbank this and tomorrow evening. New concrete steps have been erected leading from the river's edge up the embankment, and gangs of men worked all night in order to complete these steps in time for the lawn fete.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Colonial Theatre has closed for a few weeks on account of the slim attendance.

A stranger came to Bristol Wednesday with a dozen boxes of fine cigars which he disposed of to individuals at \$1.50 a box and then quickly left town.

George Quicksall surprised two boys stealing grapes from his truck patch. After an exciting chase, he caught and spanked one of the boys. Both were glad enough to escape.

More automobiles passed up and down the Pike on Monday, Labor Day, than on any Sunday this summer. All who live along the Pike received their fair share of dust on that day.

"Ice Cream, Soda Water at CLARK'S RESTAURANT, 500 Bath Street. Public waiting room for trolley patrons."

"Oysters - The Best In Town! Our 35¢ Dinner Is the Talk of the Town. Meals at all hours. TOWNSEND'S RESTAURANT, 227-229 Mill Street."

"Taxi Cab Service. Meets all P.R.R. trains. Day and Night. Cars

may be engaged for touring parties and other special trips. CLAUDE HARRIS, 202 Mill Street."

9/18 - - BIG MEETING AT RIVERSIDE THEATRE. A large and enthusiastic audience filled the Riverside Theatre last Monday evening to hear the nominees on the Democratic State ticket.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The Bristol Academy of Dance will open in Pythian Hall on September 26th.

Charles Waters, the huckster, found a large tarantula in a bunch of bananas one day this week and says he is shivering yet over what might have been.

The Bristol Dramatic Association has begun rehearsals on a new four-act drama which will be presented at a future date not yet decided upon.

The Guarantee Clothing Company is remodeling the store recently occupied by Herbert V. Trelease at 240 Mill Street and will soon open it in connection with their present store at 238 Mill Street.

A crowd of moving picture actors and actresses attracted a large audience at the corner of Mill and Radcliffe Streets on Tuesday afternoon. The scene being enacted was that of an elopement in an auto.

"MINSTER'S GROCERY, the store for particular people. Strictly fresh eggs. Highest grade creamery butter, fresh twice weekly. Fresh fruits and vegetables. Salt and smoked meats. Prices no higher than elsewhere. WM. G. MINSTER, successor to Edward H. Foster Estate, 213 Dorrance Street."

"Re-opening of School. Next door to Old Presbyterian Church, Radcliffe Street, Wednesday, September 9. Morning class, 9 to 12. Advanced classes and private lessons, afternoons. Evening classes after September 21. MISS ESTHER LAWRENCE, 233 Cedar St."

9/25 - - MISS MINSTER, A BRIDE. Miss Marie E. Minster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Minster, and William H. Fine were united in marriage Monday morning at 11 o'clock in the Third Presbyterian Church, Warren Street, Trenton, by the Rev. Charles E. Burns of the Bristol Presbyterian Church. The ceremony was witnessed only by the members of the immediate families, after the ceremony, the bride and groom departed for a wedding tour. Upon their return, they will reside at the home of the bride's parents on Jefferson Avenue. The bride has a wide circle of friends in Bristol; the groom holds a responsible position in the Farmer's National Bank, is secretary of No.1 Fire Company and is an active member of the Masons and Elks.

BRISTOLA.A. LOST IN NINTH. The strong Bristol A.A. baseball team journeyed to Beverly on Saturday and was defeated by the Loyal 13 of that town by a score of 8 to 7. Playing for our local team were: Pierson, Sagolla, Wilson, White, McGeehan, Hibbs, Elmer, Mulholland and Allen.

MOCK BIRTHDAY PARTY. Don't forget the mock birthday party vaudeville entertainment and dance for the benefit of St. Ann's parish, Friday evening, September 25, in St. Mark's hall. The charge of admission will be as many cents as you are old.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The old Edgely railroad station presents a neat appearance since it has been fixed up for inspection. Now it is open for trains to stop and everyone will be happy.

The Wilson Band of Bristol will give a benefit vaudeville and moving picture entertainment in the Riverside Theatre on Oct. 1.

The police officers were kept on the move on Tuesday night between looking for midnight prowlers and the arrest of five persons for intoxication.

Dr. Edward Laing, the veterinarian, has purchased an automobile.

A glee club has been organized among the members of the Bristol Elks, under the direction of Thomas Snelson.

"How Much Bread Do You Eat? It has been figured that in a year's time you consume 60 feet. It is necessary, therefore, that it should be good bread! GRATZ'S BREAD is the best. Prompt delivery. Also ice cream, confectionery, cakes, etc. Cor. Dorrance and Wood Streets."

Don't Miss It!

The 38th annual Historic Bristol Day

Saturday, October 18 - on Radcliffe Street

Food - Fun - Music - History - House Tours & More!

First Ladies Challenge

There have been 43 men to occupy the office of President of the United States. Only one of those men was not married (James Buchanan); however, single or widowed, all had a lady serve as "First Lady". It was George Washington's wife Martha who had the duty to set the precedent of how the First Lady would help the President. Martha Washington was urged by her husband to hold drawing room receptions every Friday to host distinguished guests. This she did when the capital was in New York City and Philadelphia. When George Washington became President, Martha Washington was known as "Lady Washington". Mrs. Washington was very much aware that her role was a public one of political importance. Even Bristol's Priscilla Tyler Cooper, daughter-in-law of President Tyler, (10th President) served as hostess (First Lady). Based on a visit by Martha Washington to

one of the Fairs in Bristol, the present Historic Bristol Day was influenced by the visit.

Over the next several issues, there will be a continued article of questions and answers about First Ladies. It is hoped that you will take the challenge and try to answer as many as possible. As an example,

1. Called "the Boss" by her husband and joined his office as a paid staff member.

2. Used her influence to work for charities, worked to have women admitted to John Hopkins Medical School, became president of the D.A.R., established the White House china collection, and was a skilled china painter.

Answers: 1. Bess Truman (1945-1953), 2. Caroline Harrison (1889 - 1892).

Seeing The Road At Night

One of the foods that helped drivers see the rural roads at night, especially on a night when the moon was bright, were oysters. The phosphorescent light being almost equal to moonlight.

In 1903, oysters were a very important food in the Bristol area. Boats would come to the wharf and unload oysters especially on Friday. (At that time, the Catholic Church had restrictions on the consumption of meat on Friday). Oyster delivery trucks brought the sea life to the doors of customers. Farmers also came into town to buy oysters. Bristol had a couple of restaurants that sold primarily oysters. With the demand for oysters, it would be easy to see how there were many oyster shells in the area.

In Bristol Township, there was an oyster-paved road between Grundy's corner and the farm of Samuel Hulme. This road was parallel to the

Neshaminy Creek. It was recommended that a road, especially if it were soft, have a one foot thickness of oyster shells. These would become hard as cement and if kept in good repair would most likely last for several years.

Looking at old banquet menus in the Bristol area one can see that oysters were often served as the appetizer before the main entrees. Usually there were six (raw) oysters served.

Porcelain companies made special individual serving dishes to be set at each place. Silver companies also made special forks for eating the oysters.

Oysters are still served as appetizers in restaurants but the cost remains rather high. Many people close to the Atlantic east coast enjoy eating the oysters when visiting the "seashore" areas. Oysters no longer serve as a paving material in Lower Bucks County.

Properties Open On Bristol Day

As of this writing the following properties will be open for Tours on Bristol Day. (This is a ticketed event.)

256 Radcliffe St. - Built in 1815 by Joseph Head, now occupied by Peter and Mary Jo D'Agostino. The first occupant was Major Kneas of the United States Army. Captain George Breck purchased the property from Major Kneas and occupied it until his death. Another owner was Caleb N. Taylor. It was this time that Miss Merriam conducted a private school for

girls at this location. As the school enrollment grew, she moved up the street to 921 Radcliffe St.

800 Radcliffe St. - Built in 1821 by Thomas Cooper. Now occupied by Louis and Cissi Quattrocchi. Thomas Cooper was a famous English actor who had the home built as an abode for his children and their governess.

621 Radcliffe St. - Built in 1994, a "newly" constructed Victorian style home occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D'Emidio. Rear garden only is open.

Improving The Town's Sanitation

In September, 1911, at the corner of Bath and Buckley Streets, a very important event occurred that helped improve sanitation in Bristol Borough. Following speeches by town officials, the first spade of earth was overturned to signify the beginning of the laying of the sewer line pipes throughout the town. On that day, the company that was to complete the project had an interesting event occur on Otter Street at the bridge over the Otter Creek. Officials from the company had come to Bristol from Philadelphia by automobile for the opening ceremony. With them, they brought silver spades to use in the ceremony. When the car reached the Otter Creek Bridge, they were unable to cross, due to a recent storm that caused flooding and had destroyed part of the structure. Even the electric trolley line that used Otter Street on their route from Philadelphia to Bristol was halted.

The officials parked their automobile and "hiked" up Otter Street to Bath Street and then to Buckley carrying their shiny spades. They arrived a little after the appointed time but were pleased to be part of the activities.

Starting in March of 1893, the Borough Council, inspired by many voters' signatures, petitioned the State Legislature to allow the raising of the debt limit for the town so that there would be sufficient funds to pay for the sewer pipes. The town's physicians were unanimous in their backing of the project. They were

the ones that had to try and help patients that had become ill from cholera, typhoid and other serious diseases caused by poor sanitation.

In their petition to the Legislature, the town government officials explained how they were absolutely without any means of carrying off the drainage of years of accumulated filth. As an example, the sewers on Radcliffe Street emptied directly into the Delaware River above and below the water intake pipe. The ebb and flow of the tide, carrying the refuse each way, was a constant menace to the health of the community. All houses in the town had an "outhouse" for waste and as the population of the town grew, this became more of a problem. In 1893, there were between seven and eight thousand inhabitants of which seventeen hundred were voters. (Women were not given the right to vote until the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed in 1920).

At that time (1893), the estimated cost of the project was given at \$50,000. The limit of indebtedness allowed by law was the sum of \$10,000 which was not enough to complete the project. The Council assured the State Legislature that the tax payers who had to pay the largest amount of taxes were all in favor of the project. Most everyone could see the health advantage. The project did not begin until 18 years after the original request to raise the funds.

2014 MEMBERSHIP

In the June GAZETTE we listed all members in good standing. Since that time, the following individuals have renewed their membership in BCHF. If you have not yet paid your dues, we urge you to use the membership form below so that you will continue to get the GAZETTE in the mail with all of this interesting information and will also be able to take advantage of member discounts on trips and events.

Valerie & Michael Albertson
Carol L. Braun
Joan David
Helen Dmytryk
Jane Hems Dugan
Sonia & John Foderaro
Barbara Fordham

Timmy & Liz Giranda
Tom & Carolyn Hankerson
Mary Lou Leedom
Rita Marie Mathias
Regina McHugh
Deborah Pinney
Kathryn Saldan

Joyce Sabatini
JoAnna & Rich Schneyder
Josette Mazzanti Sierpuloski
Alyssa O'Brien & Sean Smith
Paul & Veronica Swift
Sidney L. Taylor
Joyce & Andrew Thompson

2014 Membership Form

2014 Membership Dues: _____ Individual \$12.00 _____ Family \$24.00 _____ Business \$50.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to B.C.H. F. Mail to: B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

A Busy Spring & Summer for B.C.H.F.



June 20th - Bus trip to Winterthur, featuring "the costumes of Downton Abbey" Exhibit & Museum Tour



Photo Below: June 29th - Annual Celtic Day at Bristol Waterfront Park. Left to right: Janice Rhodes, Kathy Barniskis and Ellen Levy at our Ways & Means table.



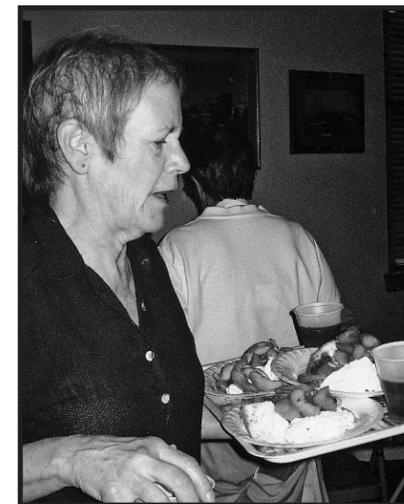
Photo Above: June 20th - Delaware Canal Festival at Bristol Lagoon Park. Left to right: Debbie Pinney, Ellanna Delaney, Mary Megill and Sue Watkins at our Ways & Means table.



August 3rd - 20th Annual Peach Social



Above: Volunteers peeling & slicing 175 lbs. of peaches.
Below: Chairlady Debbie Pinney delivering a dessert order



Below: Kathy Barniskis (left) and Ceil Graff (right) arranging the baked goods table



The smiling faces of pleased patrons



Graduation Award Money

During the summer, BCHF received thank you notes from the recipients of the special award money given at the time of Bristol High School Graduation in June.

We provide funds for four five-hundred dollar awards, to be decided by the high school faculty and administration. Awards are given in the four areas stated in our mission statement (art, literature, history and music). We have announced that the award in the area of history will be called the Matilda B. VanAken History Award. (Matilda Brown VanAken was a valedictorian of Bristol High School class of

1942 and a past president of BCHF). Graduating Senior Recipients were:

- Coilena Malone - Literature
- Courtney Wallace - Music
- Brenna Stephenson - Art
- Rose Marie Scalzo - Matilda B. VanAken History Award

All of the profit made at our Annual Peach Social, plus money added to make up the balance, is how the annual award money is achieved. Thank you to all who attended and helped with this endeavor.