



TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
404 PINE STREET • P.O. BOX 465 • TOWER, MN 55790

TSHS Annual Meeting

September 10, 2024

Annual Accomplishments

Train Depot Museum 2024

- 1,283 registered visitors at Train Depot Museum and train cars
- 19 Volunteer Greeters at Train Depot Museum
- 362 hours logged by greeter volunteers
- \$1,000 collected in visitor donations
- 4 volunteers rearranged the Train Depot Museum for better traffic flow and to improve artifact displays
- 12 volunteers cleaned the Train Depot Museum and its baggage/express room to clear space for future interpretive exhibits
- Train Depot Museum roof replacement, ticket office ceiling repairs, and ticket office painting completed in October 2023

Historic Fire Hall 2024

- \$1,920 Charlemagne's Attic Sales conducted over 3 days
- 550 shoppers/visitors to the Historic Fire Hall during the Charlemagne's Attic Sale
- 12 public tours of the Historic Fire Hall during 2024
- Interior masonry wall restoration completed
- Bid for the HVAC, electrical system and interior finishes issued; Work to begin in October

Volunteers 2024

- 38 TSHS volunteers to date in 2024
- 2,954 volunteer hours reported to St Louis County Historical Society in the past 12 months
- 800 hours to finalize and continue to update the new TSHS website and update the site <https://www.towersoudanhistory.com>

Community Networking, Marketing and Public Relations 2024

- 1 Main Street History Talk with total of 25 people in attendance
- 1 History video interview conducted
- 59 days during the summer that the Train Depot Museum was open to the public, staffed by volunteers
- 6 events held in Coach Car 81
- 148 Facebook posts made to TSHS, What's Up Tower and Lake Vermilion Cabin Owners Facebook pages
- TSHS Facebook posts reached 86,700 people; 7,800 content interactions
- 2,200 TSHS Facebook followers; 302 new followers the past year

TSHS Membership 2024

- 136 paid memberships

Financial Support

- \$52,390 in individual contributions made to support Historic Fire Hall restoration since 2018
- \$29,148 in pledge support received since 2018
- \$3,995 in memorials and honorariums received to support the Historic Fire Hall restoration to date
- \$693,250 grants awarded in 2024 for Historic Fire Hall restoration
- \$1,540,368 total grants TSHS received since 2019 for fire hall A/E plans and construction
- \$20,789—four-year total 2021-2024 from Charlemagne's Attic Sales
- \$14,858 from St. Louis County Historical Society affiliate stipend to support TSHS operating expenses the past 12 months
- 300 tickets sold in the 2nd annual Charlemagne's 52 Club raffle for total revenue of \$15,600
- \$5,650 in cash prizes will be awarded to 52 Charlemagne's 52 Club winners throughout 2024-2025
- Commissioned vintage items at UBetcha Antiques and Uniques in Tower; UBetcha provided TSHS with 100% commission

Administrative Accomplishments 2024

- 8 Board of Director meetings held in person and available for telephone conference
- 2 Executive Board meetings held
- Strategic Plan Excel Document updated
- Committee Roles and Responsibilities updated
- IT Policy document developed
- Bylaws updated to provide flexibility in Society operations and meet current standards
- 4 Grant applications submitted; 3 funded and 1 pending notification in November
- Administrative Assistant contractor engaged to assist the BOD
- Membership form updated
- Engaged a new videographer to film History Talks and Personal History videos
- 17 community requests made during 2024

Committee Accomplishments 2024

- Online cemetery records updated throughout the year
- 3 Train Tales events held with 10 volunteers assisting and 72 children and caretakers participating in program offered to area families
- 100 + children's books and stuffed toys collected for Train Tales program
- 3 History Happy Hour events provided 25 quarts of lemonade at the Farmers Market in appreciation for community support to TSHS
- YouTube channel was updated with 2 new videos
- Soudan Mine Miners' Memorial books compiled and the project was introduced to the public

Future Activities

Historic Train Depot Museum

- City of Tower will engage a historic architect to develop construction plans for repairs of Train Depot Museum
- City of Tower will apply for grants to repair the floor in the Train Depot Museum baggage/express room
- TSHS files and artifacts stored in the exchange room and attic will continue to be categorized and organized

Historic Fire Hall

- Restrooms in the fire hall will be completed by December 2024
- Interior finishes to be completed in 2025-26
- Exterior siding to be completed in 2025-26
- HVAC and electrical installation to start in 2025

Administrative

- Volunteer recruitment plan will be developed
- Museum collection records will be updated to a web-based operation in 2025
- Management of membership records and communications will be improved in Past Perfect software
- TSHS website will continue to be updated with new content
- Priorities in the Strategic Thinking 2022 session will be followed up
- Promote Coach Car 81 for private events

Committees

- 3 History Talks planned
- 2 Personal History "I should have asked more questions, but this is what I remember" video interviews planned
- 4 Train Tales and 3 History Happy Hour programs planned
- "Miner's Breakfast" program planned
- Charlemagne's 52 Club fundraiser will be continued
- Train cars and facility plan will be developed
- Soudan Mine Miner's Memorial spreadsheet with details on 143 miners will be added to the TSHS website