

Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING
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FROM THE TREASURER • VOLUNTEER WITH US

An Organized Society

A confession from the Society's Treasurer: when he joined the board, he thought he wasn't quite worthy. As it turned out, almost no one is — and that's the whole point.

By Aaron Underwood · Long Grove Historical Society



KIRK PLAYERS • CHRISTMAS 2014 Society Board Members **Kathy Wiberg** and **Marie Borg**, co-chairs of our Christmas event — Kirk Players' *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Use coupon code **HISTORY** at the box office, and Kirk Players donates a portion of your ticket back to the Society.

I joined the Historical Society Board several years ago as Treasurer. I remember being apprehensive about it — I liked history, but didn't know much about Long Grove history, and I wasn't sure I was worthy. This is the much-revered Long Grove, after all.

I assumed the Society would be large and in charge: deeply serious, academic, highly standardized. Turns out I was completely off base. It was just a cross section of normal residents with no special skills — just a fondness for history and a willingness to volunteer some of their time to grow and share Long Grove's past when they could.



Forty years of saving things.

The Society turned forty years old last year. In the early 1970's, local citizens watched the rapid transition of hundred-year-old farm sites being torn down and converted into subdivisions. They felt compelled to try and preserve some of Long Grove's original farm-based life. A grass-roots campaign was started – first to save an old tavern, then an old one-room school, then an old farmhouse and barn. The campaign was successful, and turned into an organized Historical Society whose mission was to look after those structures that had been saved.

As old-timers passed away, the Society became a convenient place for things their families treasured but had only sentimental local value. A school field-trip program was started, where Society docents take third graders back in time and teach them a lesson in the restored one-room school-house. In recent years, the Society has put an emphasis on public programs – specifically family events – as a way of growing interest in our history.

Three open seats. (And we'll come find you.)

We're currently in the process of forming our Society Board, which we do every two years. Usually three-fourths of the previous board are willing to do another term, but we have to beg and bribe friends of friends to round out the board and give us some fresh perspective.

How about you? Would you be willing to get involved with your local Historical Society? I know what you're thinking – *yeah, they would probably want me to be Secretary or Treasurer, you know, one of those board positions that's real work.* Good news: that doesn't have to be the case.

LOW-COMMITMENT

At-Large Director

For folks new to the board. Show up, help out as you're able, no specific portfolio. Designed exactly so you don't have to make a long-term commitment for a single responsibility.

HANDS-ON

Buildings & Maintenance

A "guy-friendly" set of jobs in our buildings – for the fellow who is handy with a screwdriver and would rather wax a barn door than count receipts.

EVENT-SIZED

Event Chair

Own one event – the holiday show, the field trips, the fall walk. A short, well-defined commitment with a clear finish line, rather than a month-in, month-out role.

FOR THE BOOKKEEPERS

Officer Roles

Yes, we still need a Secretary and a Treasurer. They are real work, but the rest of the board is honestly very good company. Ask anyone who has done it.



GET IN TOUCH

For information on any of these board roles, email [\[EMAIL PROTECTED\]](#)
· LONGGROVEHISTORY.ORG