



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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## *Election Day Special*

# Host Mark McDonald to Share the Secrets that Make "Illinois Stories" Must-See TV

November 6 may be Election Day, but it's also the date of the next Sangamon County Historical Society meeting, one that, like voting, you want to be sure not to miss.

Popular television host Mark McDonald, producer of public television's Emmy award-winning *Illinois Stories* will be guest speaker for the 5:30 p.m. meeting in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street. The free program is open both to members and non-members.

An engaging speaker, McDonald will be taking us

behind the camera as he shares what's involved in putting together an Emmy award-winning television show that chronicles life in Central and West Central Illinois. His show is aired locally on public television station WSEC in Springfield, on WQEC in Quincy and WMEC in Macomb.

McDonald has worked in television and media relations for 30 years as a news reporter and anchor, public affairs specialist.



McDonald

## *Great Food, Re-Gifting, and Entertainment Too!*

### Annual Holiday Party December 11 at the Old State Capitol

Remember that Elvis Presley oil-on-velvet painting an old friend gave you for Christmas six years ago?

You know, the one stashed in the basement...under the stairs...next to the hot water heater?

Tired of hiding it?

Just wrap it up and bring it with you to the Society's annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 11, starting at 5:30 p.m.. We're having a "re-gifting" grab bag as part of the evening's festivities.

Of course, you'll have to bring

home someone else's beautifully-packaged-but-otherwise-unidentified cast off. But who knows? What you get in exchange may be just what you're really looking for. You may even learn to love it!

Our re-gifting grab bag, all in good fun, will be part of the holiday party on the seasonally-decorated main floor of the Old State Capitol when members-only gather with their Old State Capitol Foundation counterparts for sumptuous hors d'oeuvres (created by Carol Jean Fraase), wine and des-

serts as well as entertainment from the Old State Capitol Chorale.

Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, will be \$15 per person for Society members (as usual, the Society partially underwrites part of the actual cost for its members). An order form is on page 7. You can also make a paid reservation on-line by going to the Society's website, [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org). Underground parking will be available at its standard fee as will be on-street parking near the Old State Capitol site.

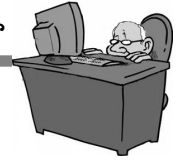
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### **Capturing History**



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## Mark Your Calendars. We've Lots of Plans Ahead

Hope you've set aside next Tuesday, not just to vote, but also to hear Mark McDonald give us the inside scoop on putting together his popular public television series, *Illinois Stories*.

We've watched Mark at work (he did a piece on the Society's entry in the Festival of Trees two years ago when it landed at the Executive Mansion for its holiday display, thanks to the generosity of Life Member Tony Leone, owner and innkeeper of Pasfield House who received the tree after the Festival was over).

Incidentally, Tony has not one, but two of our trees, the one featured in McDonald's *Illinois Stories* piece that focused on famous Springfield sites and individuals of a bygone era, and our more recent Barns of Sangamon County tree that was a popular stopping point for many of the 40,000 visitors who were at the Festival last year. This year we're going Victorian, with handmade ornaments that capture the spirit of the decorations found on Christmas trees in homes here during the American Victorian era. The designs are based on research culled from illustrations and descriptions from the Sangamon Valley Collection and through other sources.

Don't forget to sign up for our annual Holiday Party that will be coming up fast on December 11. We're teaming with the Old State Capitol Foundation, our partner for our recent Sangamon County History Through the Arts Celebration for this event, but many of their members should be no strangers to you. Our past president, David Scott, serves on their board as does our Secretary, Mary Alice

Davis, and if you've been to our other jointly-sponsored events, you're sure to recognize additional faces!

If you haven't done so and use e-mail, send our executive coordinator, Sam Wheeler, your e-mail address. Our website makes it easy to sign-up for coming events, even buying tickets on-line as is the case with the holiday party. Plus, there are those great reminders about coming meetings that Sam sends out to keep us on our toes!

You'll read more about this in the December issue of *Historico*, but we already have some exciting programs on tap for 2013. In January, we're planning a meeting at the Abraham Lincoln National Museum of Surveying. Exec director Bob Church will take us for a tour of this wonderful new addition to the County's network of historic sites, this one with some unique displays and features you won't see anywhere else.

In February, we hope to meet at the Military Museum, fulfilling a goal of last year's program committee to bring the Society a program that incorporates some of the experiences of veterans of major conflicts and how their lives and those of their loved ones here at home were impacted by these international conflicts. Plus we have a very special event on the planning board for March! We'll leave you to guess about that, but you may want to bone up on local history. It could bring you a prize!

*Roger*



*Historico*, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org).

Event updates also can be found on our **Facebook** page ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) and **Twitter** ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)). Log in and search for *Sangamon County Historical Society*.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor

## Society's 2012 Festival of Trees Entry to Accent Sangamon County's Victorian Era Decorations

The Sangamon County Historical Society will be putting up its entry in the 2012 Festival of Trees this coming weekend, "Set-Up Saturday and Sunday" at the Orr Building on the State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

This year's tree will feature hand-crafted, history-based ornaments that were typically found on Christmas trees in Sangamon County in the Victorian era that ran from the 1860s through 1901. The tree will be one of near 200 decorated by community organizations that will be on display in the Orr Building during the Festival that offi-



**THE SOCIETY's tree topper, at left, is executed in maroon and gold, the hand-crafted tree topper for this year's Sangamon County Historical Society entry in the 2012 Festival of Trees features a Victorian Mansion on a snowy hill, surrounded by sparkling trees. The windows are mirrored. At right, one of about 40 handmade ornaments that capture the flavor of the decorations that appeared on Christmas trees in this era during the Victorian period.**

cially opens Saturday, November 17 and runs through Sunday, November 25.

Some 40,000 visitors are expected during the Festival, a nine-day charitable event whose proceeds help support medical outreach and education in the area.

The event, the largest family-oriented celebration of its kind in Central Illinois, is sponsored by the Memorial Medical Foundation.

This is the fourth year the Society has participated in the event, providing a history lesson as well as holiday cheer to Festival goers.

Previous trees have focused on Springfield's past, historic figures, historic sites, and barns.



### OFFICERS

**President.....**Roger Whitaker  
**Vice-President.....**Claire Eberle  
**Secretary.....**Mary Alice Davis  
**Treasurer.....**Richard Herndon

### DIRECTORS

#### Term Ending June 2013

Linda Bee  
 Bruce Beeman  
 Elaine Hoff  
 Logan McMinn

#### Term Ending 2014

Patricia Davis  
 Kathy Hoffmann  
 Brenda Holmes  
 Doug Polite  
 Vicky Whitaker

#### Term Ending 2014

Donna Catlin  
 Les Eastep  
 David Grimm  
 Ruth Slottag  
 Francie Staggs

#### Presidential Appointees To Board

Marion Leach,  
 Membership Relations Chair  
 David Scott,  
 Special Projects Chair

#### SCHS Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

### Register Now to Get Society's e-mail Notices, Alerts

The Sangamon County Historical Society currently has e-mail addresses on file for about 60 percent of its membership

From time to time, the Society sends e-mail reminders and alerts about upcoming programs to its members.

To register your e-mail with the Society, contact Executive Coordinator Samuel Wheeler at [swheeler.schs@gmail.com](mailto:swheeler.schs@gmail.com) or call the office at 525-1961.

#### NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP/DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes a new member and also extends very special thanks to the donor listed below:

#### NEW MEMBER

Debbie Greene

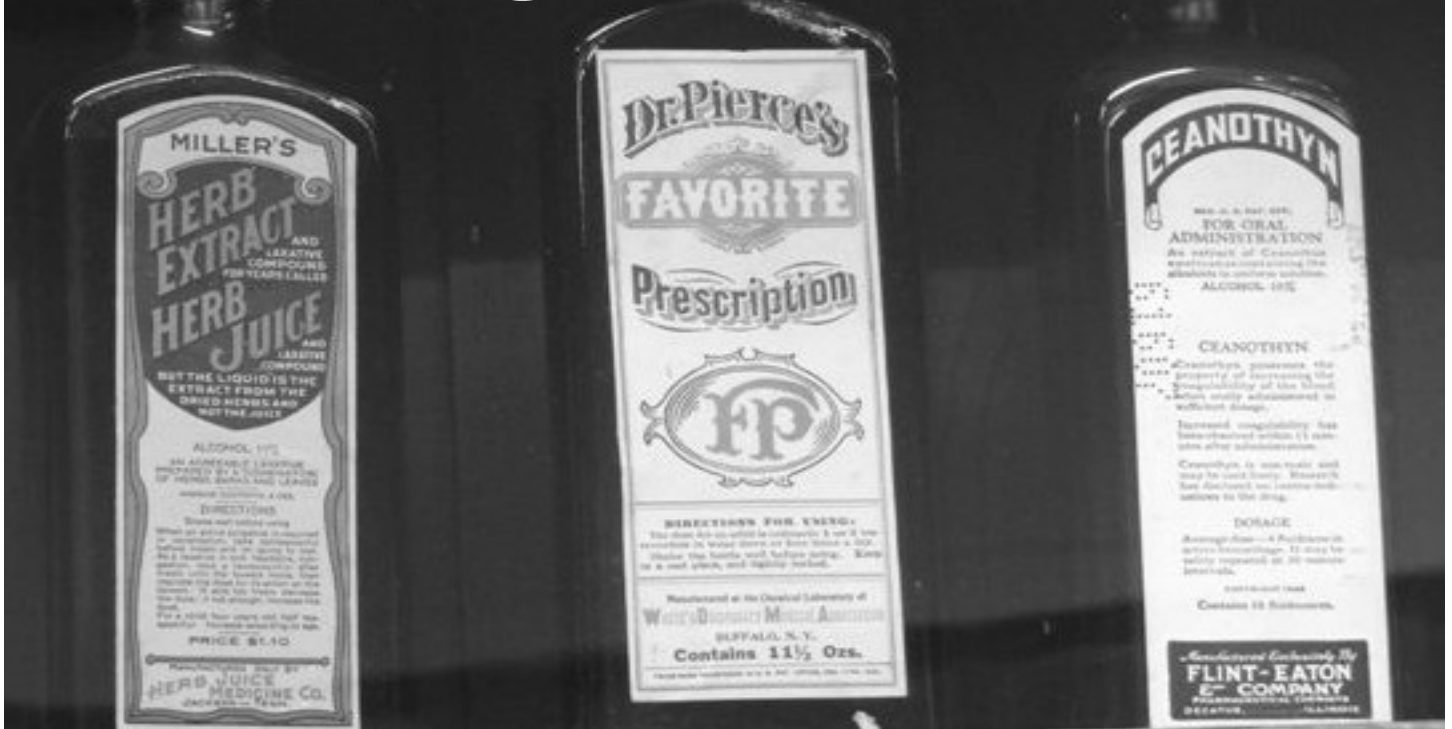
#### DONOR

Phyllis Brisseden for her donation marking member Dan Buck's 90th birthday.

Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS  
 Box 9744  
 Springfield, Illinois,  
 62791-9744

# Peering into the Past



## Pearson Museum Tour Takes Members on a Medical Journey

Nearly 50 members of the Society got an exclusive look at one of the county's most history-packed sites October 16, taking a guided tour of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Pearson Medical Museum in Springfield.

The tour goes, divided into two groups, spent nearly an hour each at the "jewel-box" museum whose components include a 19<sup>th</sup> century physicians desk built for, but fortunately never delivered to Chicago just before the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 and a down-to-the-last-detail Depression-era pharmacy from Canton, Illinois. Museum's Director Phil Davis, Research Associate Professor and Deputy Chair of the SIU School of Medicine's Department of Medical Humanities, led the tours.

While one group took the 45 minute walk-through, the other had time to enjoy refreshments and socialize

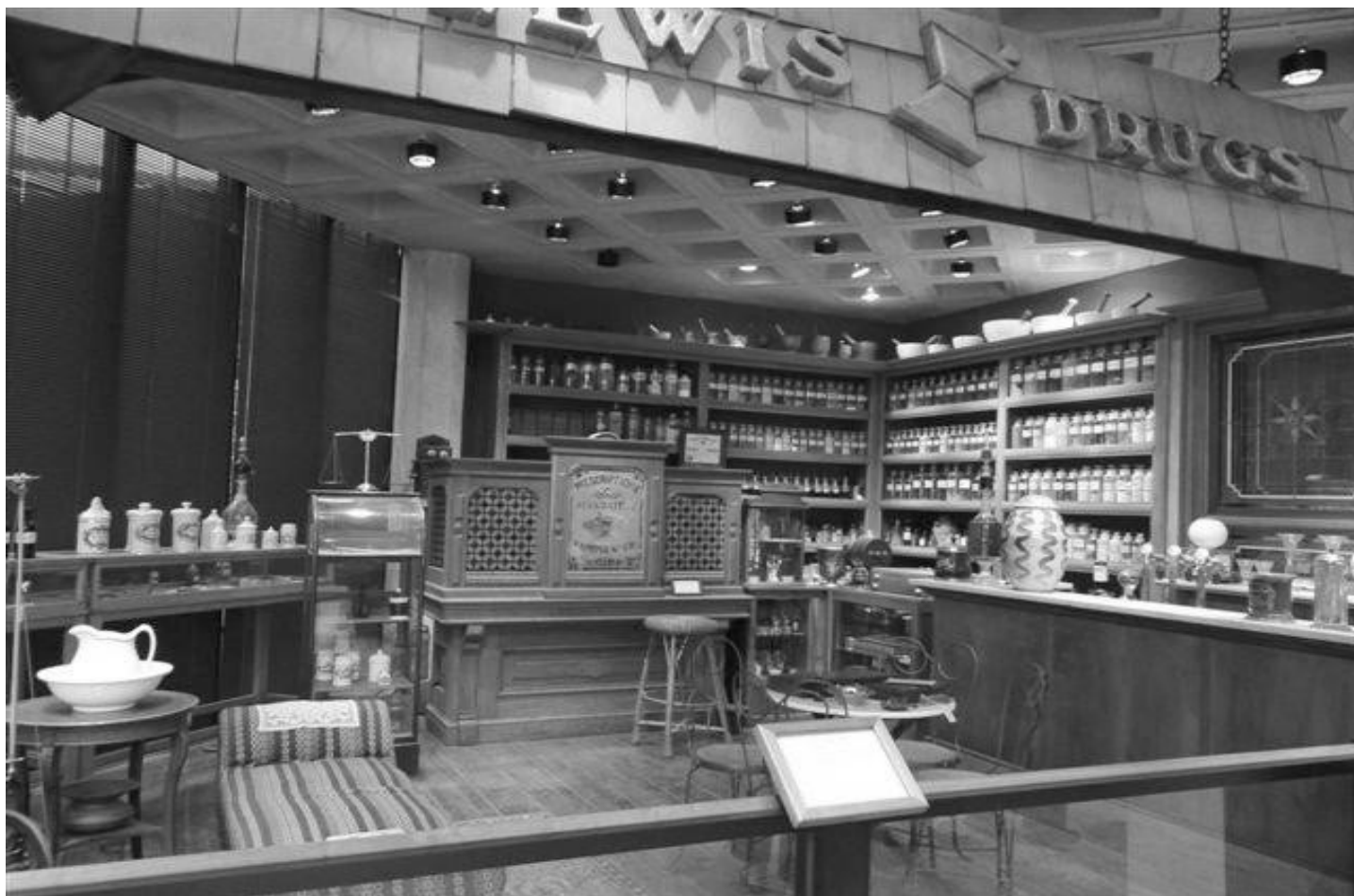
over cookies, cheese and crackers, cider and more in SIU's handsome Dean's lounge, across from the park-like entryway that links both sections of the complex.

The museum, which is not regularly open to the public, provides a remarkable record of the history of healing in the Mississippi River Basin. Dr. Davis, who was presented with a one-year honorary Family Membership in the Society in appreciation for providing and leading the tour, has been responsible for the development of a medical history series that has brought leading medical historians and other scholars interested in the history of medicine to the campus.

He holds a baccalaureate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana, a master's degree from Duke University, and completed his doctoral studies in health education at

Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

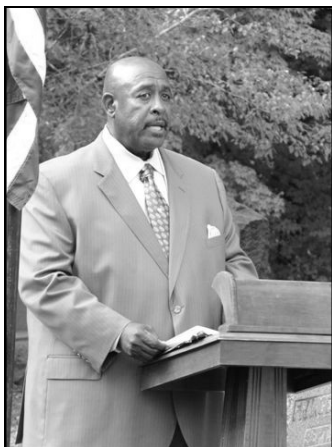
The medical history museum has been an integral part of the School of Medicine since its inception. Active collecting and temporary exhibits characterized the early years. In January of 1977, the collection moved to its current location at 801 N. Rutledge—permanent space designed specifically for use as a teaching museum. In 1980, the Museum was named in honor of Dr. Emmet F. Pearson in recognition of his generous contributions in building the nucleus of the collection and his continuing patronage. Dr. Pearson, who served as president of the Sangamon County Historical Society from 1966 to 1967, was a Springfield physician and student of medical history. A professor emeritus in the internal medicine and medical humanities departments at SIU, he died in 1996.



**JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED:** The Pearson Medical Museum at Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine includes this fully equipped Depression era drug store, moved from Canton, Illinois and a Chicago physician's elaborate new desk (in background below) that by lucky timing, was saved from delivery just before the start of the Great Chicago Fire. They're among the museum's prized features that captivated the interest of Society members last month.

*Donna Catlin photos*





**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:** Willis Logan (above) provides the historical background for the Jenkins monument rededication ceremony that drew reps from several history organizations.



## History Groups Unite at Oak Ridge to Honor Memory of Jenkins

Representatives of the Sangamon County Historical Society joined their counterparts from several area history organizations on September 30 for a ceremony re-dedicating a grave marker for Jamieson Jenkins, an early African-American Springfield resident, friend, and neighbor of Abraham Lincoln. About 40 people attended the ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield.

The Society was one of five history organizations that contributed to the project spearheaded by the Abraham Lincoln Association. The others were the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Oak Ridge Cemetery Association, and the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Arnold Monument Company of Springfield restored the grave marker and Oak Ridge Cemetery poured the grave marker foundation and assisted in the rededication of the obelisk that had been damaged. The ceremony, coordinated by former ALA president Richard Hart, included a portrayal of Jenkins and his wife by Historical Society members Robert and Patricia Davis.



**PORTRAYING** Jenkins and his wife, Elizabeth, were Robert and SCHS board member Patricia Davis. *Donna Catlin photos.*

In his remarks to the gathering and speaking on behalf of Springfield Mayor J. Michael Houston, Willis Logan—the Mayor’s Executive Assistant—provided the historical perspective. “We have come together to tell the story and pay homage to a courageous and bold mixed-American whose tale dwells in as romantic a place in the narrative of freedom, than the story of Abraham Lincoln himself.”

Jenkins, multi-racial in a country that saw black and white, was a wagon master by day and by night, a conductor for the Underground Railroad. “It is no surprise to me that Jenkins was a close neighbor of Abraham Lincoln, living just south of the Lincolns on Eighth Street,” Logan said.

After Lincoln’s election, it was Jenkins who held the reins for President-elect Lincoln on his last carriage ride in Springfield from his hotel room at Chenery House to his train at the Great Western Railroad depot. Speculated Logan, “It is not unreasonable to think in that final ride out of Springfield that his neighbor, a man of faith, an abolitionist, an underground conductor, gave the President-elect some motivation to carry on and the inspiration, through either a few words or simply his presence, for Lincoln’s famous “Farewell to Springfield” speech that observers described as “full of simple and touching eloquence, so exactly adopted to the occasion, so worthy of the man and the hour.”

Though technically a “freeman,” Jenkins—a mulatto born in North Carolina in 1810—had to obtain a travel permit that in 1835 got him to Guilford County, North Carolina, a Quaker settlement and an important Underground Railroad station for southern runaway slaves. From there, he headed north to Indiana, eventually marrying Elizabeth Pelham and having a daughter, Nancy. In the mid-1840s, the Jenkins family moved to Springfield, where he earned a living as a drayman. In 1848, the family moved to a house on the east side of Eighth Street, between Jackson and Edwards Streets, a half block south of the Lincoln home where they lived until at least 1864. Jenkins died on February 3, 1873 at age 65.

# HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION FORM



*Tickets: \$15 per person*

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ tickets to the members-only  
December 11, 2012 Holiday Party.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must be received by Monday, December 3. Mail this form  
and your check made payable to SCHS to SCHS, Box 9744, Spring-  
field, IL 62791-9744 or register and pay on-line at  
[www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org).

## CALENDAR OF SOCIETY EVENTS

*All events are open to members and non-members unless otherwise specified. Some events may require a reservation and /or a fee. All board and executive board meetings are open to everyone.*

**Tuesday, November 6** Mark McDonald, *Illinois Stories*, 5:30 p.m., *ing* 6 p.m. Carnegie Room South.  
Carnegie Room, Carnegie Room, City of Springfield Lincoln Library,  
326 South 7th Street, Springfield.

**Wednesday, November 14:** *Exec Board Meeting*, 5 p.m., *Board Meet-* **Tuesday, December 11:** *Annual Holiday Party*, Old State Capitol, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

## sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors



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Our names are Jilly and Duncan  
And We Love History

The Community Learning program at Lincoln Land Community College offers a non-credit curriculum related to interpretation about people, animals, nature, and cultural artifacts. Fall 2012 programs:

- Tickets remaining for LLCC trip to Conner Prairie Interactive History Park in Fishers, Indiana, November 10-11.  
**Special Experience:** "Follow The North Star" and Behind-The-Scenes presentation and tour.

Call 217-786-2432 for information!



Other offerings, including those leading to certification follow, in association with the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). For information, call 217-786-2432.



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**Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form**

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Gift of Membership from:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

- 01--Student Membership - \$15. Must show proof of student status.
- 02--Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 . Must show proof of non-profit status.
- 03--Regular Membership - \$25
- 04--Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 05--Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 06--Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 07--Lifetime Membership - \$700