



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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VOLUME 50 NO. 4

DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014

SCHS Co-Hosting Special Feb.2 Show at Hoogland ...And You're Invited!

If actor Kevin Bacon is right, there are only six or fewer links between everyone on earth, Abe Lincoln included.

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society will be able to see that theory tested first hand on in early February in a special afternoon theatrical production designed to delight history buffs and theater goers alike.

In conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College's Community Learning Program and the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the Society is co-hosting a special, professional production of "~~Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon~~ Abe Lincoln" on Sunday, February 2 at 2 p.m.

The show, featuring Fritz Klein as Lincoln, will be held in the Center's Theatre Three. Tickets, which must be ordered through the Hoogland Center box office, will be \$16 for Society members. Tickets are now on sale, but *you must identify yourself as a Society member to get the lower rate.* General admission tickets for the production are \$18 per person. Free garage parking is available adjacent to the Hoogland Center.

Tickets can be ordered by phone by calling the box office at 523-2787 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and two hours before a performance or by ordering on-line at www.hcfta.org. The Center is located at 420 South Sixth Street.

Klein, a Springfield resident, is one of the nation's best known Lincoln re-enactors, performing as the 16th President across the country and internationally since 1981. He has appeared as Lincoln on the **History Channel**, the **Discovery Channel**, **National Geographic Television**, **C-SPAN**.

(Continued on page 6)

Blowing in January 21:

When Weather Made History

State Weather Guru, City Historian to Look How Storms, Heat Shaped County

Blizzards, rain storms, who has been researching his- floods, heat waves, tornadoes. torically-important storms,

State Climatologist Jim Angel has seen them all.

And if Mother Nature doesn't throw us a curve ball in the Sangamon County.

form of a heavy snowstorm for our next general meeting, Tuesday, January 21, you'll learn more about the area's climate patterns and how they



ANGEL



MANN

have shaped our history from a weather guru who deals with it on a daily basis.

Joining Dr. Angel in this dual expert look at "*How Weather Made History*" will be city historian Curtis Mann, manager of the city library's Sangamon Valley Collection,

The meeting, free and open to the public, begins at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street.

Underground parking is available beneath the library.

Based at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Dr. Angel has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 1997 and began work at the Illinois

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DRINK UP: The Society has new mugs perfect for a cup of java on a chilly morning. More about them on page 3.





Looking Back, Looking Ahead in 2014

Individually and as an organization, the start of the New Year usually inspires us to gather our thoughts on what has been accomplished in the previous year and what we hope to see happen ahead.

The passing year has been good to us as an organization. Our programs have been packed, our speakers spectacular, our finances solid, and our membership growing. Still, that gives us no cause to sit back.

The months ahead will provide new challenges and have not gone unnoticed by your board and officers. We still have a lot of work to do in the area of membership, education, program development, partnerships, fundraising and more.

We have been especially buoyed by the interest in our Special Projects Fund. For the committee, which oversees the grant process that goes with awarding up to \$3,000 a year, it has been a learning process coupled with tough decision making. They are learning that it isn't easy giving money away. In fact, it is very difficult to decide between a lot of very meritorious ideas for which a small amount of funding can bring big results. The process is helping shape Society policy in terms of the types of projects that make sense to fund, given the limited amount of money we have to work with.

It has also prompted a discussion—sure to continue over coming weeks—on reaching out to our members and beyond to build up and sustain the Special Projects Fund so that the monies raised nearly two years ago for this purpose in honor of the Society's 50th anni-

versary, will not evaporate in the future. The mail campaign that raised funds for Special Projects was the first of its kind in the history of the organization. The success with which its proceeds have been used is testament to how small grants can make a big difference in building community understanding of local history.

Special thanks go out to Donna Catlin, David and Virginia Scott and New Yorkers Meg and Bob Gary who in recent months have made individual and significant donations to the Society's Special Projects Fund. If a special campaign materializes this spring with that Fund in mind, we hope you will consider joining their lead in supporting what we think will become a major source of important funding for Sangamon County history organizations and individual projects in the future.

* * *

We hope you will join us on February 2 at the Hoogland Center for *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon Abe Lincoln*. It's not that we have anything against Kevin Bacon. He's a fine actor, but Abraham Lincoln sounds so much better in this fun and informative bit of theatre. We're pleased Lincoln Land Community College asked us to partner with them on this and are equally delighted that the Hoogland Center sees the value in this special program.

We have lots of other projects in the works, not the least of which is our annual History Trivia Night coming up on March 22. We'll tell you more about that and other events in February. Until then, Happy New Year!

Roger



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, 2013 Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

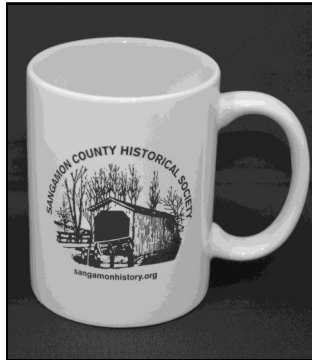
You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, sangamon-history.org or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, Photographer

Society Mugs Make Debut This Month

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society will be able to sip their morning brew in something familiar starting this month: a sturdy, dishwasher and microwave safe mug carrying the Society's logo. The mugs will be available for sale at meetings starting this month, at \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members, and on-line for an additional postage and handling fee.

"The mugs, purchased locally, are well made," noted vice-president Ruth Slottag, head of the Society's marketing and communications committee. "As a promotional tool, we have long wanted something to give to speakers and others, something that carried our name and message. The mugs serve that purpose well and the design—our logo with the lovely covered bridge at Sugar Creek—is an attractive reminder of our organization and the efforts of our members to preserve and support local history."



Historic Rochester Pictorial Back in Print

Copies of the *Orange Judd Farmer Pictorial Community Album of Rochester Township and Village*, a point-in-time book that includes 67 pages of street-by-street photos of virtually every home and farm in Rochester and their occupants as of 1918, has been reproduced anew by the Rochester Historical Preservation Society.

The pictorial look at the community and its people is the version updated and copyrighted in 1995 by Compass Point Productions which has given the Society permission to reproduce the document to which it added a 1894 Rochester Township Plat Map, 1990s maps, and an index.

The book is available through Carol Strick, a Rochester Historical Preservation Society and SCHS member who is overseeing the project. The Rochester Historical Preservation Society is an institutional member of SCHS.

The original album, unique for its time, is hard to find. And like its predecessor, there were few copies to be found of the version reproduced in 1995, says

Strick. The reproduced 1995 edition is priced at \$30 plus postage where applicable and can be ordered by calling 494-9212.

Even when published in 1918, Orange Judd and Company, a Chicago-based agricultural and scientific book and journal publishing company, recognized its historical potential. In the *Forward*, also reproduced in the later edition, it foresaw that "as time rolls on, bearing with the many changes in scenes and destiny, this work will be of priceless value to those who have sentiment for the old homestead, the scenes of childhood, and the homes of relatives, friends and neighbors."

By the late 1800s, Orange Judd and Company was a major publisher of agricultural and scientific books. Its owner, Orange Judd (1822-1892) spent much of his professional life turning scientific jargon into readable material for the ordinary farmer. In 1888, Judd purchased a rival agricultural journal, *The Farmer*, renaming it the *Orange Judd Farmer*.

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Ken Belton, Daniel Borowic, Cecilia Cornell, Mark R. DePue, Su Youn DePue, Joseph Dombrowski, Rebecca Dombrowski, Bernie Goulet, Jerry Jacobson, Robert Patterson, Valerie Patterson, Carole Strick, Daniel Strick, and institutional member, the Tri City Public Library, **Chet Brandt, Director.**

And offers thanks to these Special Projects Fund donors:

**Meg and Robert Gary (in honor of Roger and Vicky Whitaker)
David and Virginia Scott**



OFFICERS

President.....Roger Whitaker
Vice-President.....Ruth Slottag
Secretary.....Elaine Hoff
Treasurer.....Richard Herndon

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 2014

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 Kathy Hoffmann
 Brenda Holmes
 Doug Polite
 Vicky Whitaker

Term Ending 2015

Donna Catlin
 Les Eastep
 David Grimm
 Mary Alice Davis
 Francie Staggs

Term Ending 2016

Rebecca Cisco
 Kathy Dehen
 Sue Massie
 Cathy Mosley
 David Scott

Presidential Appointees To Board

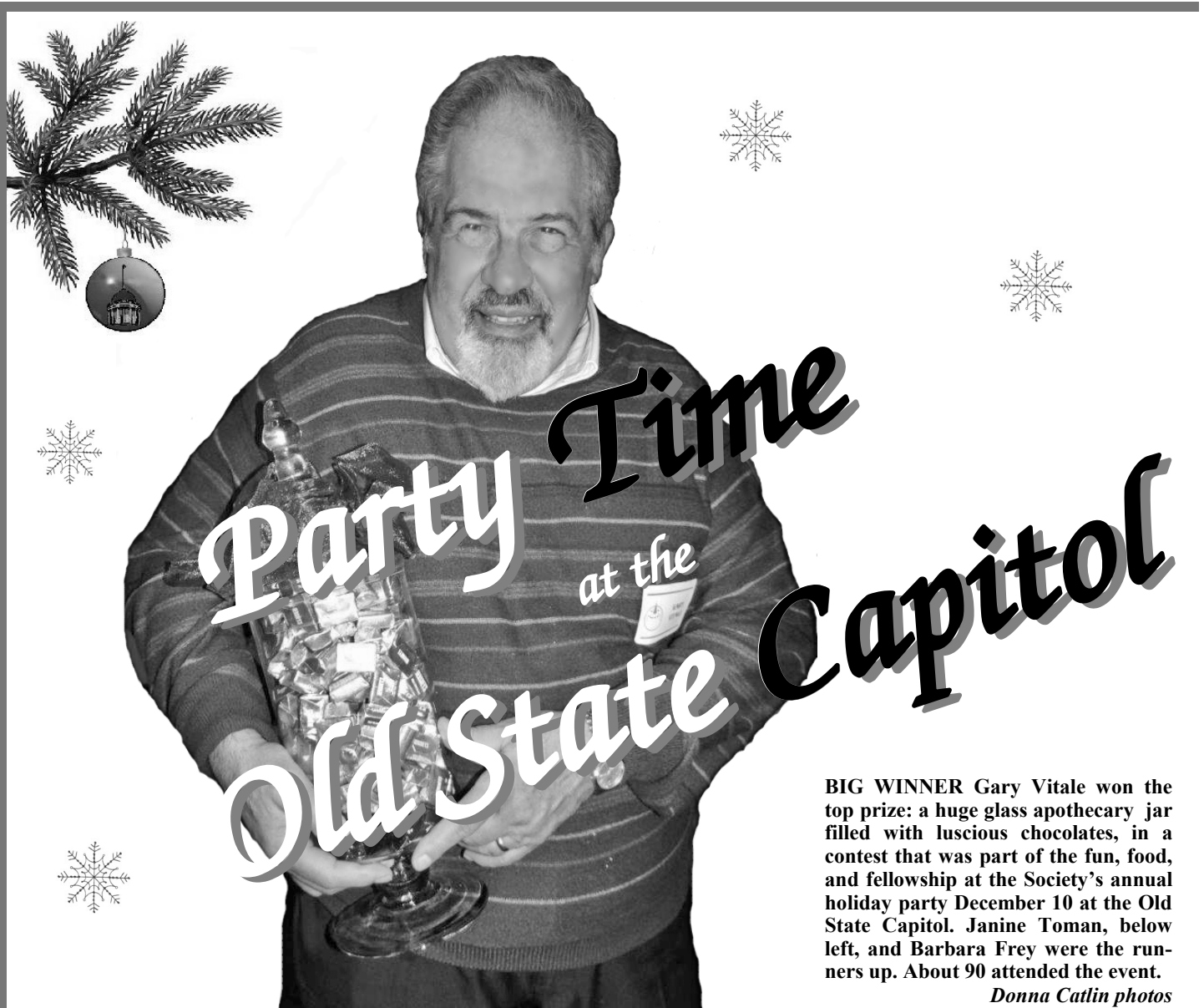
Marion Leach,
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 Bruce Beeman
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Membership Chair

SCHS Executive Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS
 Box 9744
 Springfield, Illinois,
 62791-9744



BIG WINNER Gary Vitale won the top prize: a huge glass apothecary jar filled with luscious chocolates, in a contest that was part of the fun, food, and fellowship at the Society's annual holiday party December 10 at the Old State Capitol. Janine Toman, below left, and Barbara Frey were the runners up. About 90 attended the event.

Donna Catlin photos





COUNT ON former SCHS president Kathryn Harris (right) to don a holiday headdress to the delight of admiring party goers. As last year, the party was co-sponsored with the Old State Capitol Foundation.



January 21 Meeting

Experts to Eye Role of Weather in History Here

(Continued from page 1)

State Water Survey in 1984. He holds a Ph. D. in Climatology from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree from the University of Missouri.

With a broad interest in all things related to weather and climate, Dr. Angel has worked on a number of research projects looking at drought, extreme rainfall events, Great Lakes storms, 19th and 20th century climate change, potential future climate change, as well as the impacts of weather and climate extremes.

Besides research, he works with a wide range of users and stakeholders, including students, teachers, homeowners, engineers, other scientists, farmers, as well as federal, state, and local officials on issues related to climate.

Mann, a past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society, has authored and co-authored numerous books about Springfield history. Originally from southern Illinois, Mann studied history at several Illinois universities and received his

master's degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois. He frequently speaks to community organizations about local history. Mann served as president of Sangamon County Historical Society from 2000-2001 and over the years, has held several positions on the executive board.

What If? The Society's Bad Weather Protocol

We don't like to mess with Mother Nature.

That's why the Society set up a formal procedure last year to deal with announcing meeting cancellations in case of bad weather.

To make sure that our members stay safe under such circumstances, the Society will post cancellation or postponement notices by 3 p.m. of the day of the meeting on our websites (www.sangamonhistory.org, www.sancohis.org) and on our phone, 217-525-1961. Where possible, we will also post any cancellation notices on media websites and other media outlets.

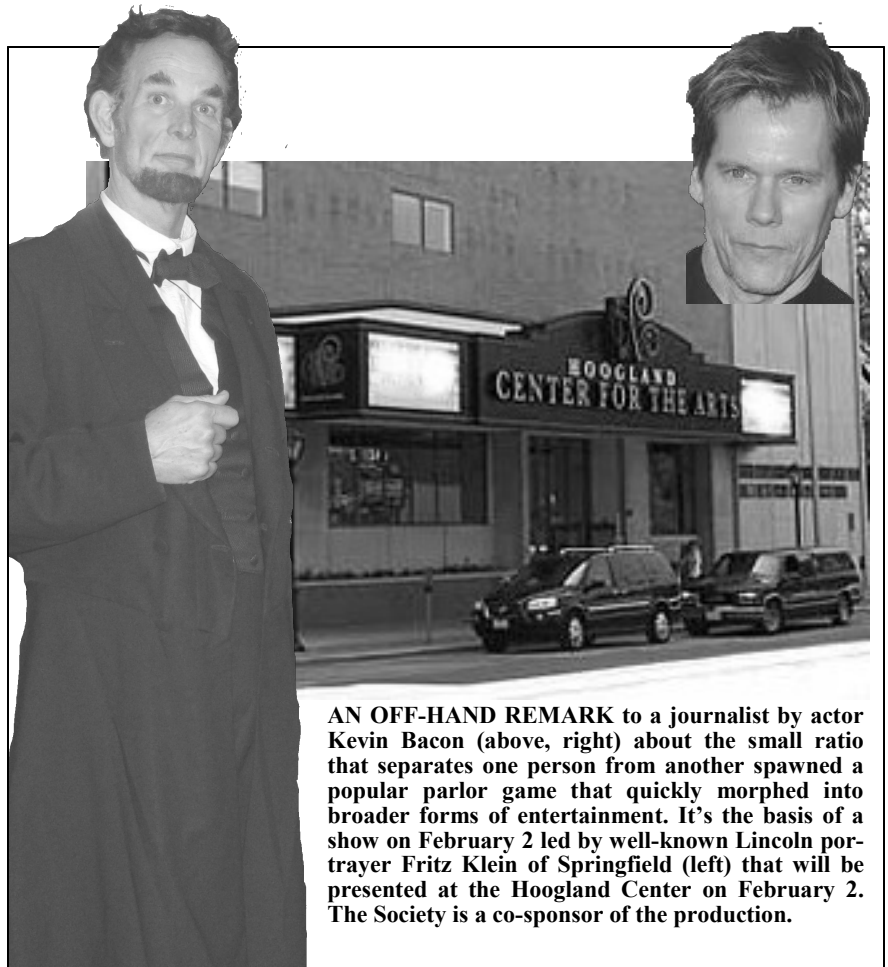
Tickets Now on Sale For Show Featuring Historical Characters

(Continued from page 1)

The cast will also include Jeannie Alexander, Kathryn Harris, Doug Kamholz, Ellis Brian, Linda Schneider, Don Schneider, and Tom Irwin.

"We're just delighted to be able to partner with the Society for this production," noted Judy Wagenblast, director of LLCC's Lifelong Learning Program and a member of the Society. "It is a unique opportunity to combine an interest in history with theatre that is both educational and entertaining."

"*Six Degrees of ~~Kevin Bacon~~ Abe Lincoln*" has its roots in comments made by then rising young actor, Kevin Bacon, in an interview in 1994 in *Premiere* magazine in which he said he had worked with everybody in Hollywood or someone who's worked with them. His popularity at "the center of the entertainment universe" inspired three college students to create a new parlor game that since then has morphed into commercials, comedy quips, even the internet...and a theatrical production.



AN OFF-HAND REMARK to a journalist by actor Kevin Bacon (above, right) about the small ratio that separates one person from another spawned a popular parlor game that quickly morphed into broader forms of entertainment. It's the basis of a show on February 2 led by well-known Lincoln portrayer Fritz Klein of Springfield (left) that will be presented at the Hoogland Center on February 2. The Society is a co-sponsor of the production.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 21: Sangamon County Historical Society General Meeting, "When Weather Made History," 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield. Free. (See story, page 1).

Sunday, February 2: Six Degrees of Kevin-Bacon Abe Lincoln, 2 p.m., Hoogland Center, Springfield. Tickets \$16 per person. (See story, page 1).

Tuesday, February 11: Courting Couch Reveal, 5 p.m., historic Edwards Place, 700 North Fourth Street. Edwards Place,

in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln Association, unveils the newly restored 1830s "courting couch" that was present in the home of Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards when the Lincolns courted and were married. The couch was restored by the Conservation Center, Chicago. Free.

Tuesday, February 18: Sangamon County Historical Society General Meeting, "Courtships and Weddings During the Lincoln Era," 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library. Erica Holst, curator of historic Edwards Place discusses courtship and

weddings in the Lincoln era, providing a fuller picture of life in 19th century Springfield and a greater understanding of Lincoln's social world.

Saturday, March 22: Second Annual History Trivia Night, 6 p.m., Foundation Hall, Old State Capitol, Springfield. Sponsored by area history organizations including the Sangamon County Historical Society for benefit of the Lincoln Troubadours. Well-known Trivia master Al Gietl will be handling the evening's competition. Details and ticket information in the February issue of *Historico*.

sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors

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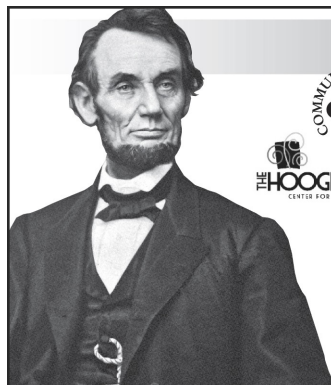


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SIX DEGREES OF KEVIN-BACON ABE LINCOLN

An entertaining afternoon of interpretive culture – history and personalities!

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014 • 2 p.m. • Hoogland Center for the Arts, Theater 3

\$18, \$16 for seniors and students • Call 217.523.2787 for ticket information.

Co-sponsored by LLCC Community Education, Sangamon County Historical Society and Hoogland Center for the Arts.



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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. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Status

___ New Member

___ Renewal

___ Gift of Membership from:

Phone _____

Membership Levels

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700