



Gouverneur Historical Association

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TO: Members and Hopefully New Members
From: Joe Laurenza, President

Another year has passed since our last newsletter. This has probably been the busiest year for me since my involvement in the Gouverneur Historical Association. We started out the year with the development of our website, gouverneurmuseum.org. If you haven't checked it out, we think you will be impressed. If you haven't checked it out recently, more has been added, such as the annex (more about that later).

We continue to have Shari Barnhart of Rainbowtech Designs, our website designer, add new information as we feed it to her. Her company, www.rainbowtechdesigns.com, also designed our brochures and bookmarks. She has done an outstanding job and we are getting hits from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries, lately over 600 a week.

In February, we had an historic art show for 5th graders. We were disappointed that more Gouverneur Central students did not participate, but all 5th graders at St. James entered. We expect better participation next year.

Last year the Gouverneur Fair offered us a building. Thanks to BOCES students and Aaron Fuller and his crew, we opened July 5. It was also open during fair week. We moved hundred items in the spring, most will remain there. The Gouverneur Museum Annex was a huge success. Over 80 people visited it before the fireworks on the 5th, and over 960 went through fair week. Many of those visitors have since been to the museum for the first time. The Annex will be open whenever there is any activity at the fair grounds.

This year, the board also has implemented some new ideas to get more people interested in, and to visit the museum. All elementary students in Gouverneur received pencils at the beginning of the school year that have Gouverneur Museum, address and website,

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gouverneurmuseum.org. on them. The bookmarks have also been distributed to local and school libraries. The third advertising initiative we undertook was the development of a brochure that has been distributed to over 30 locations around our area and to area museums.

We have two new board members, Sandy Wyman and Ron Taylor. We lost Jack Phillips to cancer and Beverly Dalton resigned due to health problems.

The website has brought in more requests for information about previous Gouverneur residents and not only have I been able to use our facilities, but also the website has access to past newspapers. While I often have problems retrieving some of that information, I have an excellent digger of electronic information, Lea Dickson, who saves my butt and finds just what the researchers requested.

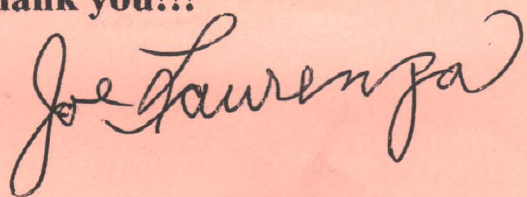
Our fourth Riverside Cemetery tour brought out almost local citizens again, on September 25. We all had a informative day and raised over \$1000 for the cemetery. The previous three tours brought in about \$500 each year.

We hope you will continue to support the Gouverneur Museum so that the 4000 plus people who visited the website, and the almost 2000 people that walked through the annex or museum doors, will continue to learn of Gouverneur's history. We still are able to provide this wonderful facility and the annex free to visitors. To my knowledge, we have never had to charge admission, thanks to memberships, donations, grants, etc.

In September, we picked up the deed to the Town of Gouverneur from West Lake Conservators. This historic documented was sent down in the spring and has been preserved to last another, hopefully, 200 years. This is the same company we used to have the original Norman Rockwell sketch of Nelson Winters framed and hermetically sealed. While these types of projects are very costly, the board feels it is important to protect and preserve our most significant artifacts.

The board appreciates the 40-plus volunteers we have and all of our members. We would not have the opportunity for people to "revisit Gouverneur's history", without you.

Thank you!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Laurenza". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Thank you!!!" text.