Monroe County Historical Association

2025 Annual Meeting and Award Luncheon



Sunday, February 23, 2025

Terraview at Stroudsmoor Country Inn

Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Monroe County Historical Association
103rd Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

Noon - Social Hour
1:00 p.m. - Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

I.	Call to Order, Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Memorial	Robert M. Moses
II.	Approval of February 2024 Minutes	Robert M. Moses
III.	Treasurer's Report	Patricia J. Sayler
IV.	President's Remarks	Robert M. Moses
V.	Executive Director's Remarks	Amy Leiser
VI.	Heritage Center Facilities Report	Bill Leonard
VII.	Heritage Capital Campaign Report	Bill Cramer
VIII.	Nominations for Board of Directors	John H. Abel
IX.	New Business	Robert M. Moses
X.	Adjournment	

Volunteer of the Year Award

Robert M. Moses

Presented by Amy Leiser, Executive Director

Program

Votes for Women, Roles for the Republic:
Revisiting the 19th Amendment at Its 105th Anniversary

Presented by Amy Sopcak-Joseph, PhD
Assistant Professor of History at Wilkes University
Introduced by Dr. Precie A. Schroyer, MCHA Board Secretary

Announcement of 50/50 Winner

Monroe County Historical Association
Sunday, February 25, 2024, Annual Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER: One hundred forty-three members and supporters attended the 2024 Monroe County Historical Association Annual Business Meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Russell D. Scott, III, at 1:05 pm. Anthony Stevens-Arroyo led an opening prayer, and Precie Schroyer led the memorial of departed members.

Board of Directors present for the meeting: Russell D. Scott, President; Doug Arnold, Vice President; Patricia J. Sayler, Treasurer; Precie A. Schroyer, Secretary; Bill Leonard; Ken Sandri; Anthony Stevens-Arroyo; Carrie Wetherbee; Robert M. Moses; Lois Gilroy; John LeFante; John Hartzell; and Michelle Bisbing. Also present, Amy Leiser, MCHA Executive Director.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ken Sandri, seconded by Carrie Wetherbee to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2023, Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Patricia J. Sayler presented the 2023 financial summary and 2024 budget report. The organization ended the year with a $6,712.26 positive financial position, including a positive Operating Account $116,659.25 over last year's $97,571.21. The Treasurer thanked the membership on behalf of the Board for the generous support that has been given to the organization. MCHA put $4 million in CDs of staggered lengths and raised approximately $229,600. Thanks to Bill Cramer for his guidance and for leading the Heritage Campaign, as well as MaryAnne Heeter. There has not been an Endowment Appeal this year, but any donations would be appreciated. The 2024 budget is based on actuals from 2023 and estimated income and expenses as best as can be determined. Motion by Charles Eyer, seconded by Carrie Wetherbee, to approve the 2024 General Operating Budget. Motion passed.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Russell D. Scott III acknowledged the elected officials in attendance and thanked them for their support, including a representative from State Senator Rosemary Brown's office; State Representative Maureen Madden; State Representative Tarah Probst; Monroe County Commissioners John Christy, Sharon Laverdure, and David Parker. Russ also acknowledged the MCHA Board members; David Policelli, MCHA's Heritage Center Project Manager; RLS Construction Company; and John Young of MKSD. Looking ahead to opening the Heritage Center in 10 months, the Capital Campaign continues. Russ also thanked the MCHA staff and Amy Leiser for all their work.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Amy Leiser acknowledged that, through support, the MCHA is thriving as it moves forward in sharing our area's history and reflected on the time and talent that have contributed to the building of the Heritage Center. She noted the immense work it took to pack up the offices and the Mansion since the Mansion was closed for the construction.

She thanked ESSA for the temporary office space MCHA will be using. She also thanked the wonderful volunteers who came to help pack up the Mansion, which took more than two months. Amy noted that MCHA would remain active. The Library would remain open for research at the temporary offices, the Third Thursday Lectures would be expanded to venues around Monroe County, and MCHA would continue to offer walking tours. Amy acknowledged the staff, the Board, and committees. Looking to 2024, Amy anticipated that the Heritage Center construction would be completed by the end of the year but that additional time would be needed to get the Mansion and the new building ready for opening. The Heritage Center will include new exhibit content, accessibility, an expanded library, and community space.

6. FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee Chair Bill Leonard observed that there were soil and underground issues that set back the project but that everything was moving ahead. He praised David Policelli, as well as Board members Ken Sandri and Lois Gilroy for their involvement. Bill appreciated all the help from volunteers in preparing for the Mansion to close for construction. There will be a ribbon cutting for the Heritage Center next year. The Mansion also needs work so additional funds may be needed.

7. HERITAGE CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Campaign Chair Bill Cramer marveled at the community's response to the Campaign, with approximately $78,000 left to goal. He noted that, beyond that goal, we need to sustain the work MCHA is doing.

8. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Past President John Abel, head of the Nominating Committee, acknowledged outgoing members: Russ Scott, Bill Leonard, Carrie Wetherbee, and Margot Vagliardo. Members may serve two 3-year terms and then need to have a year off before serving again. These members would also still remain active on their MCHA committees. John presented the following individuals for positions on the Board of Directors: Doug Arnold, Ray Hartzell, and Ron Kimes. Nominations were invited from the floor. No new nominees were offered. Motion to close nominations made by Ken Sandri, seconded by Carrie Wetherbee. Motion passed. Motion to accept the nominations as new members of the Board made by John LeFante, seconded by Anthony Stevens-Arroyo. Motion passed.

9. NEW BUSINESS: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Robert Moses, seconded by Michelle Bisbing, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Precie A. Schroyer

Precie A. Schroyer, Secretary

Monroe County Historical Association 2025 Budget

	Jan - Dec 2025
Income	
Charitable Revenue/Support	91,537.80
	13,500.00
Special Events/Functions	108,729.52
Programs & Services	16,512.19
Interest Income	1,963.74
Release of Restricted Funds	53,052.77
Total Income	**285,296.02**
Expense	
Salary & Wages	152,700.00
Payroll Tax Expense	12,460.69
Worker's Compensation	1,375.00
Professional Fees	11,786.63
Supplies	4,560.17
Special Events/Functions Expenses	48,016.44
Conferences & Meetings/Travel	2,717.67
Marketing	9,003.49
Equipment Maintenance/Purchases	4,949.14
Professional Dues/Licenses/Permits	908.00
Occupancy	21,863.31
Insurance	9,285.00
Bank/Safe Deposit Box Service Charges	877.50
Credit Card Fees	3,242.25
Miscellaneous	1,550.73
Total Expense	**285,296.02**

2024 Operating Budget Overview

Budget Income and Expense	Actual Income and Expense
Income: $288,759.59	Income: $282,412.53
Expense: $288,759.59	Expense: $288,449.41
	Loss: $6,036.88

The following is an unaudited summary of the Monroe County Historical Association's operating and restricted account balances as of December 31, 2022 and 2023. The audited financial statements will be available at the completion of the audit.

MCHA Accounts	2023	2024
General Operating Account	$116,659.25	$118,798.40
Acquisition Fund	$5,518.00	$4,756.27
Dunning Fund (Library)	$93,371.54	$61,526.91
Capital Project Fund	$3,934,129.20	$1,289,210.00
Pipher Estate	$90,867.51	$93,604.29
Endowment Trust	$1,330,399.56	$1,381,898.71

Endowment Distribution Report

For the 2024 fiscal year, the amount of $55,087.92 was disbursed from the Endowment Trust to the Operating Account in support of staff salaries. — Patricia J. Sayler, Treasurer

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The Monroe County Historical Association received generous grant support from the following Agencies and Foundations

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Monroe County Commissioners
MC Industrial Development Authority
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Monroe County Historical Association

Current Board of Directors

Term ending February 2025

Robert M. Moses (2nd term)
Precie Schroyer (2nd term)

Term ending February 2026

Charles Eyer (1st term)
John LeFante (1st term)
Ken Sandri (2nd term)
Patricia J. Sayler (2nd term)

Term ending February 2027

Douglas Arnold (1st term)
Raymond Hartzell (1st term)
Anthony Stevens-Arroyo (2nd term)

Nominations to the Board of Directors

Michelle Bisbing (2nd term)
Linda Post Bushkofsky (1st term)
Lois Gilroy (2nd term)
Bill Leonard (1st term)
Carrie E. Wetherbee (1st term)
Beth Yaswinski (1st term)

Heritage Center Update

Thanks to your support, the construction of the Heritage Center is progressing smoothly and is on track for completion late this winter. This milestone would not have been possible without your commitment to preserving our community's rich history and culture.



Interior work is proceeding at a quick pace, with our talented tradespeople wrapping up painting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and flooring tasks, all aimed at creating a welcoming and functional space for our community.







Perhaps the most exciting news is that the installation of the elevator is underway, a tremendous upgrade that will ensure that all four floors of the museum are accessible to every visitor. This transformation is not just about construction; it's about creating a vibrant hub for local history and engagement that everyone can enjoy!

As soon as construction is complete, our dedicated team is prepared to embark on the significant task of moving back to our headquarters at 900 Main Street and preparing the museum and library for visitors. Our staff and volunteers are committed to creating an environment where everyone can learn, connect, and celebrate our shared history. We look forward to welcoming you to the new Heritage Center and sharing in the excitement of this remarkable achievement!

2025 Volunteer of the Year: Robert M. Moses

Robert M. Moses was born in Manchester, New York. He attended the University of Albany, receiving his BA in Sociology with minors in English and History and a Masters in Counseling and Student Personnel Services. Bob worked at the University of Albany for four years before accepting a position at East Stroudsburg University as their Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Residence Life & Housing, a position in which he served for 42 years before retiring in 2018.



Taking action to improve the lives of underserved populations, Bob is a St. Matthew's Church member, volunteering on the Pastoral Council and serving as the Coordinator of the Warrior Food Pantry for ESU students experiencing food insecurity. He established and coordinated the "Shoes That Fit" program with JM Hill Elementary School to purchase clothing for needy children.

Always an active member of the community, Bob has championed the mission work of area nonprofit organizations. In addition to serving as the President of the Monroe County Historical Association, he has also served as President of the Pocono Arts Council, American Cancer Society, and Head Start/Pocono Services. He has been the recipient of many awards, including the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education "Distinguished Service Award," the ESU President's first "Medal of Honor" recipient, and the ESU Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. Bob has also been recognized as the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce "Humanitarian of the Year" Award recipient, the NAACP "Men of Distinction" Award Honoree, and the American Cancer Society "Lifetime Achievement" Award recipient. A resident of Shawnee-on-Delaware, Bob participates in the annual Shawnee River Road Cleanup and is a member of the Shawnee Preservation Society.

Bob continues to be an active Monroe County Historical Association member, providing leadership, guidance, hard work, common-sense solutions, and always a smile. He serves as the Chair of the Auction Committee for the very popular Raise Your Glass & Support the Past wine pairing dinner and auction, raising thousands of dollars for the MCHA. Because of the endless hours he has devoted to our organization over the years and his dedication to making Monroe County a better place to live, the Monroe County Historical Association proudly presents Robert M. Moses with the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Program

Votes for Women, Roles for the Republic: Revisiting the 19th Amendment at Its 105th Anniversary

Presented by Amy Sopcak-Joseph, PhD

Assistant Professor of History at Wilkes University



In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton penned the "Declaration of Sentiments" and presented it to a relatively small assemblage of like-minded people at a meeting in Seneca Falls, New York. Modeled on the Declaration of Independence, Stanton's document not only called for women's suffrage rights but also outlined the limitations to women's opportunities and what she saw as the circumscribed role allowed for them in society.

Over the next seven decades, women and men debated not only whether women should be able to go to the polls but also *why*. Were women to be equal participants in politics, the public sphere, and their families? Or was their participation in the American republic best defined by different standards from men?

To mark the 105th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, this program will consider the historical perspectives that shaped the path to women's suffrage rights in the nineteenth century and modern echoes of those debates in the twenty-first century.

Amy Sopcak-Joseph is assistant professor of history at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where she teaches courses on the histories of early America and women and gender, as well as public history. She holds a PhD in History from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Sopcak-Joseph also serves as director of the Davida Tenenbaum Deutsch Program in Women's History at the Library Company of Philadelphia.



Thank you to the generous donors who have supported the Heritage Center construction project. Won't you join them in making a commitment that will help give Monroe County's past a bright future?

Please help us to achieve continued success!

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Mission Statement

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present.

Join us on social media and stay up-to-date on all of our events, workshops, fundraisers, and activities. Share photos, stories, videos and more with other history-minded members and friends.

www.MonroeHistorical.org