

# Portage Community Historical Society News

October General Meeting Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm is also our election meeting. We have a slate of candidates willing to be on the 2016 Board of Directors.

## 2015 Board

President—Valeria Roach

Vice President—Anne Koehler

Secretary—Donna Smith

Treasurer— Barb Borg-Jenkins

Board of Directors:

Patti Coppess

Sue Cowsert

Jim Franzen

Lois Mollick

Wanda Samuelson

Richard Turnak

Eva Udick

President—Valeria Roach

Vice President—Anne Koehler

Secretary— Donna Smith

Treasurer—Barb Borg-Jenkins

Board of directors: Patti Coppess, Sue Cowsert, Jim Franzen, Lois Mollick, Wanda Samuelson, Richard Turnak and Lisa Garcia

## You're Invited

Installation Dinner to install our 2016 board members will be at Woodland Park, Wednesday, November 18 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to Lois at 762-4218 so we can order enough meat. The society provides the meat and beverages and each member is asked to bring a dish to share and a dessert. Lois will need help setting up for the dinner at 10 a.m. on that Wednesday; contact her if you are willing to help.

Donations to the Portage Food Pantry will be accepted the night of the dinner.

This is the only notice you will receive so please  
put it on your calendar.

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## Thank You

*We want to thank the Tri Kappa Portage Zeta Mu Sorority for their kind donation to our society. It will come in handy with the barn move and some projects we have started and need to finish.*

**Update: The museum phone and internet have not been working since before the festival. If you need to contact us, call us at home or by email.**

**Lois 762-4218 landj.mollick1@frontier.com  
Kathy 771-9233 KHeckman50@aol.com**

## SOCIETY NEWS

Member News

Sad news to report, Sue Cowser's mother, Aldene M. (Howard) Smith, 90, passed away on Monday, August 31. She descends from an early Portage family (Nicholson) and lived in Crisman for many years. Our thoughts are with the family at this time.

Memories Along the South Shore, The Early Years

The Times Media Co. is proud to partner with Portage Community Historical Society, Calumet Regional Archives, Merrillville/Ross Township Historical Society, Hebron Historical Society, Westchester Township History Museum, Munster Historical Society, Dyer Historical Society, Hammond Historical Society and Library, Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, Porter County Museum and our readers on a new hardcover pictorial history book, "Memories Along the South Shore: The Early Years."

This heirloom-quality coffee-table book offers a glimpse of Northwest Indiana from the early years to 1939 through stunning and historic photos. In addition, we are thrilled to include photographic memories of years gone by from our readers.

Portage Historical Society was part of the scanning sessions from which they will pick over 100 photos to be published in their upcoming book. Right now it can be ordered for \$29.95 plus \$2.10 shipping at [SouthShore.PictorialBook.com](http://SouthShore.PictorialBook.com), or you can find forms in the Times newspaper and we will have some forms at the museum.

Porter County Museum Tour

*Saturday, November 7, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.* the Porter County Museum from Valparaiso will be sponsoring a tour of our Trager Farmhouse. Watch the newspaper for more details and come out and show your support for our society. We are so proud to partner with Porter County Museum for this tour. Our thanks to Kevin Pazour and his staff for their help in getting the word out about our museums.

*Christmas on the Farm*

*Saturday, December 5, 10 am—4 pm and  
Sunday, December 6, 12 noon until 4:00 pm  
Our favorite Santa and Mrs. Claus will be greeting the  
children, pictures, kids crafts, cookies and punch  
We will have the farmhouse and new museum decorated  
for the holiday. Contact Val Roach or Lois Mollick  
if you'd like to help.*

## Charles Herman Harper

We were not going to accept anything until after the move to the barn is complete but some things we just had to take. Some of you might know who Charlie Harper was, he's the guy riding all over town the last dozen years or so, on his 3 wheel bike. When he retired from the Portage Street Department, the guys he worked with bought him the bike. Charlie was legally blind and depended on others for transportation. He was so happy and proud of that bike. We have a picture of him on his bike and a copy of an article written about him years ago.

When Charlie passed away a little over a month ago, his family found that his insurance policy had lapsed in just the recent year. Charlie had fallen at home and broke his femur about two years ago. After surgery and rehab he was able to return home but was never back to his old self. He tried to ride his bike but the pain was too bad and then this past spring he injured his leg again and they had to do surgery as he was in so much pain. He was at the nursing home for rehab when he started with other health issues which he could not overcome.

This is when his sister learned about his insurance policy. Word got out and the Portage community all came together and collected the money needed to pay for the expenses. So many came to his funeral, and Father Corona from Nativity paid him a great tribute at the funeral service.

After the service, Bill Mesich acquired his bike from the family and had it brought to the museum. We have it on display and already two different times people had come in that didn't know Charlie and right away remembered seeing him around town on the bike.

Services were held for Charlie at the Rees Funeral Home, Olson Chapel, and he was buried next to his wife, Dorothy, in Calumet Park Cemetery.

We will keep his spirit alive at the Portage Historical Society Museum in Countryside Park with his bike and picture on display. It's not just an ordinary bike, he has added several things to



it like the license plate given to him for his many years of service to the Portage Street Department.

Thanks Charlie for the memories.

We are on the web  
<http://www.inpchs.com>



**PORTAGE  
COMMUNITY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY,  
INC.**

P.O. Box 305  
Portage, IN 46368

Phone: (219) 762-8349  
E-mail: [info@inpchs.com](mailto:info@inpchs.com)  
<http://www.inpchs.com/>  
[http://www.facebook.com/  
pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)  
Memberships: Yearly Single  
\$20, Family \$50, Business \$60  
and Lifetime \$100

## **Portage Community Historical Society Bi-monthly meeting**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**Woodland Park 7:00 pm**

**Public is invited  
Refreshments**

**Speaker: Pat Wisniewski, Video Producer**

**Topic: "Everglades of the North" PBS documentary  
about the Kankakee River**

**[www.facebook.com/pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)**

### **Calendar**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015-6:30 pm**  
**board meeting at the public library**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015- 7:00 pm**  
**Bi-monthly Meeting—Voting meeting  
Woodland Park**

**Saturday, November 7, 2015-2:00 p.m.**  
**Trager Farmhouse Tour—presented by  
the Porter County Museum**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015-6:30 pm**  
**Installation Dinner Woodland Park**

**Saturday & Sunday December 5 & 6,**  
**2015—Christmas on the Farm Open**  
**House**

**If you are on the internet but have not signed up to be our Facebook friend, you are missing some great memories and pictures. Debbie Parker is doing a wonderful job of posting old pictures and museum artifacts along with a history on some of the items.**

**Next year is the State of Indiana Bicentennial and we plan to have several new displays about Portage Township during the upcoming year. Ideas are welcomed. We have a few ideas but they will take a lot of planning and time to put together by our opening next spring. Did you know we work all winter long two days a week in the museum?**