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**Be a Part of Our Annual Meeting 2016 -  
Shining a Light on Membership**

The Museum’s staff and volunteers are busy putting the final touches on this year’s Annual Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, July 12 at 6:30. We hope you will join us for this extra-special celebration as we observe our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the unveiling of a very special commemorative item. The evening will include a “summer picnic” dinner of fried chicken and all the fixings, as well as a “State of the Museum” address, and the presentation of the Annual Report for 2015.

This year, we are requesting some special assistance from all of our members. Bring a friend or two with you to the Annual Meeting. Why? We want more people to know about who we are and all the great things we have and do. Please help us grow the institution and get the word out about our fantastic organization.

Do you have a friend, neighbor or colleague who is/was in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting? Or, perhaps you have a friend who is a local history buff? Maybe your friend is the leader of a Scout Troop and doesn’t know about our Troop Memberships (with discounts on Merit Badge Workshops). **PLEASE BRING THESE FOLKS WITH YOU** to the Annual Meeting! The Annual Meeting program includes guided tours or you can take your friends

on a tour yourself. And, if your guest signs up as a new member of the Museum **THAT NIGHT** we will have a special gift for you.

Be sure to RSVP for yourself and your guests to Diana Foss at [dfoss@nssm.org](mailto:dfoss@nssm.org) or call the Museum at 651-748-2880. **The North Star Museum – You Belong!**



## Call to History 2016 Revisited – A Celebration of Giving



**John Pederson entertained the crowd with his Scouting stories.**

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 was a momentous day for the Museum. Our second annual “Call to History” fundraiser showed some real momentum. By growing from one to two program sessions, the North Star Museum rang with laughter and bugle calls all day long.

The morning program kicked off with Will Sulzbach sounding his bugle for the first time and the festivities began. The morning session had a Girl Scout flavor as emcee Beth Voermans welcomed guests and kept the program

humming along. Keynote Speaker Jon Pederson delighted the crowd with his vivid stories and reflections on the importance of preserving our Boy Scout and Girl Scout history. Executive Director Claudia Nicholson presented a recently discovered artifact that truly held the essence of what the North Star Museum is all about and why the work we do is so important. Nancy Randall Dana again served as our closing speaker, bringing a sense of joy, family, and tradition to our event.

The afternoon session equaled the morning session. After the bugle call, Emcee Tom Alt took the helm. Throughout the event Tom regaled our luncheon guests with his charm and humor.

At the end of the day we raised just over \$28,000. But, a surprise announcement at the day’s events most certainly contributed to the tally: an anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 match on all new gifts at Call to History, pushing our total to nearly \$40,000!

Thanks to your contributions, the 2016 Call to History was a success. We made many new friends



**Claudia Nicholson read from a special artifact during her presentation.**



**Beth Voermans presided over the morning event.**

and enjoyed a marvelous day. An extra “thank you” goes to all our volunteers, table hosts, speakers, and guests for making this *the best* Call to History.



**Ron Phillippo, Nancy Dana, and Chuck Dietz paused for a photo after the Call to History morning event.**



**Those attending the Call to History enjoyed great food and fellowship in addition to the Museum’s great story.**

## One Less Heart Attack

On December 17, 2011, 13-year-old Jayden Alstad received his Citizenship in the World merit badge at one of the Museum's Merit Badge Workshops. He turns 18 in June 2016. As he prepared to submit the necessary paperwork for his Eagle badge, Jayden discovered that all record of completing Citizenship in the World was lost. On the eve of getting his Eagle or aging out of Scouting, Jayden faced the prospect of repeating an Eagle-required merit badge at the last minute. He was about to become (gasp) another Heart Attack Eagle.

On the bottom of the Counselor's Record portion of the blue merit badge card, it says: "It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least one year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award." Well, five years had passed. All record of completing the badge was surely gone. So, Jayden dug out the merit badge requirements and completed a Citizenship in the World workbook. He then called his North Star Museum merit badge counselor from 2011.

When the call came, Jayden asked if he could make an appointment to present his knowledge of the requirements and redo the merit badge. The counselor agreed, but stated, "before we complete all of that work, I will look to see if I have the Counselor's Record for your badge." Sure enough, the counselor had the documentation and mailed it to Jayden. As the counselor said when he delivered the good news to Jayden, "It pays to be a pack rat." In the case of Jayden Alstad, Northern Star Council has one less heart attack Eagle. For future Eagle recipients, perhaps getting your merit badges at the Museum will save you some grief down the road.

## Don't Get Left Out in the Cold - Super Merit Badge Weeks are Heating Up the Summer

The Museum's oldest educational program is the summer Super Merit Badge Week program. Perhaps you have heard our motto: "North Star Museum has the perfect antidote for Boy Scouts in fear of getting bitten by the dog days of summer—Super Merit Badge Weeks." True to form, the June offerings sold out quickly this year.

Our 2016 curriculum includes over fifteen workshops and twelve separate merit badges. We are still adding merit badges to the list. Many of the merit badges are Eagle-required. The July and August workshop registration will be announced about a month before each of the weeks. Here is a preview of the badges you can expect to be available: Citizenship in the Community; Citizenship in the Nation; Citizenship in the World; Collections; Personal Fitness; Bugling; Family Life; Medicine; Communications; Personal Management; and Cooking.

Get the word out about Super Merit Badge Weeks at the Museum. Encourage all you know to sign up early as space is limited. The base cost for each session is \$15 per youth, or \$12 for Museum members. Some merit badges may carry a slightly higher cost due to material or lunch expenses—these additional costs will be listed on the page for sign-up. We are now using online registration, so you can go directly to eventbrite.com and search on North Star Museum to find our workshops. Sign up as soon as you can. Don't be left out in the cold during the heat of summer!

### New Members

#### Since April 2016

- Gene & Kathy Johnson
- Gary Klonecz
- Robert Gwinn



## 2016 Skunk Reunion – A Gloriously Aromatic Event



**Russ Edlund presiding over the Reunion.**

Saturday, June 4, the Order of the Odor held its annual reunion. For the second year in a row, we met, celebrated, and happily held our noses in each other's company at the wonderful cabin of Good Medicine at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp. Attendance was high, with Skunks from both Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting enjoying fellowship, good food, and fun. Russ Edlund called the meeting

to order while Charlie Opp was busy in the kitchen preparing a fabulous lunch. Barb Herrmann helped the group "Count the Years" of Scouting in the room—a whopping 1,369 stinking years! North Star Museum Executive Director Claudia Nicholson then presented "The State of the Museum", reminding everyone in the room that they are the successors to the founders of the Museum. Our keynote speaker was Jim Rupert – the "head Skunk" himself. The suspense ended when David Novy presented the "Skunk of the Year" award to...(drum roll)...Joe Reding! A well-deserved accolade for so many years of service to Scouting. [See Joe and his award profiled below.]

The program then took a solemn turn as everyone saluted two very special Skunks who had "gone Home" this past year: Fred Boulay and Don Engle. The program wrapped up with Scout Vespers, sung by all. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed lunch, more fellowship, and memories. All in all, it was a wonderful day, celebrating glorious stinkers.



**Charlie Opp in the kitchen whipping up another great Skunk Reunion lunch.**

## Your 2016 Skunk of the Year – Joe Reding!

By Dave Novy

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is adapted from the induction speech delivered at the Skunk Reunion by Dave Novy]

This year's recipient of the coveted "Skunk of the Year" went to none other than the invincible Joseph Reding. Joe has been a registered Scout for years, and has been a tremendous asset to his community, to Scouting, and to the Museum. His many achievements include Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver Award, OA Vigil Honor, and the Venturing Leadership Award.

Joe currently serves his troop (T 113 in Bayport) as Treasurer and is a Venture Crew Advisor. In the past, he has served as Scoutmaster and in a variety of leadership positions in his district, including Roundtable District Commissioner. On top of these accomplishments and contributions, Joe has served as Chairman of the Board for the North Star Museum and has volunteered for a wide variety of projects. On at least two occasions, he has transported the Peace Light flame from JFK Airport to Minnesota. He has also



**Skunk of the Year Joe Reding with his Award.**

hiked the U.S. Grant Trail in Illinois at least two dozen times. Joe Reding is a Boy Scout through and through. He is a leader, a mentor, and a vital part of our Scouting community, and beyond. Congratulations, Joe!!!!

## Thank You North Star Volunteers



Gary Gorman presided over a packed house at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

On June 13, twenty-seven Museum volunteers were regaled, entertained, and thanked by Executive Director Claudia Nicholson, her staff, and a few key volunteers. Yes, it was time for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Following a fine fried chicken dinner, Volunteer Coordinator Gary Gorman kicked things off with a welcome and Shirley De la Torre presented a slide show of great Museum moments over the past year. Thanks to modern technology, there were a few surprises on

the screen (and you know who you are).

A special part of the evening was the presentation of a constellation pin to four of the Museum's newest volunteers: Jim Lindfors, Steve Young, Jon Carlson, and Sherrill Carlson. Even those with the longest volunteer tenure appreciated the fine contributions of these dedicated volunteers.

For the evening's entertainment, the group was divided three ways for a round of "North Star Museum Jeopardy." Emceed by Claudia "Alex Trebek" Nicholson, the group wrestled with such topics as Artifacts, History Makers, Order of the Arrow, JGL, Good Times, and Bruce the Moose. It was a friendly and lively competition that everyone enjoyed. Some might even have learned a few things.



One of the many reasons you don't want to miss a future Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is "North Star Museum Jeopardy." Here is a picture of the game board.

After the game concluded, the evening was topped with the perfect finish—ice cream. All in all, it was a great opportunity for a show of appreciation to the Museum's volunteers, while giving our volunteers a chance to get to know each other better and have a different kind of fun.



Sometimes the power of two is needed when it comes to Museum volunteering. Here, Gary Gorman bestows the constellation pin on Jon and Sherrill Carlson.



Jim Lindfors is pictured receiving his constellation pin from Gary Gorman.



Gary Gorman presents Steve Young with his constellation pin.



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JUNE 2016

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## Skunk Reunion Memory



**John Andrews and Paul Bartyzal in the lunch line at the 2016 Skunk Reunion.**

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Shirley De la Torre, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, and John Raymond.

*North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.*

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