

# WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2024 Annual Report

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our community, including volunteers, businesses, organizations, and individuals who gave their time, talents, services or goods that assist us in fulfilling our mission:

- *To collect and preserve historical records of people, places, and events in Wayne County.*
- *To preserve and maintain a research library and museums of relics, books, maps, paintings, and all other articles, which further public interest in Wayne County's history.*
- *To make every effort to preserve and restore historical buildings, landmarks, and sites.*
- *To educate the population of the history of the area and its historical value.*

### Operations and Programs

The 2024 Spring Open House started a busy year. In addition to our Main Museum's permanent exhibits, Movin' Energy (including the full-sized replica of the Stourbridge Lion), Wayne County's Glass, and Faces in Clay, we opened a new exhibit Celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel. Many other exhibits are on display in the museum, including the very popular hands-on Children's History Lab. Our Research Library was busy all year with genealogy and many other types of research.

At D&H Canal Park at Lock 31, 2024 was dedicated to the restoration of the Daniels Farmhouse interior and kitchen, completed in time for the 11<sup>th</sup> Canal Festival in August. All house tours sold out, and the Farmhouse is now a great addition to the park. The Canal Festival had an attendance of 925 people. Guided tours of the park, school trips, Friends of The Park meetings, and the U-pick Christmas Tree Sale are now annual park events.

WCHS interprets history at the Main Museum, Bethel School, Old Stone Jail, Farm Museums, and D&H Canal Park, and organizes Open Houses, tours and programs at these locations each year. WCHS is active at the annual Wayne County Fair at the J. B. Park Farm Museum and the Jubinsky Building where we present the WCHS Ag Award. In 2024 the Award was given to Mark and Bonnie LaTourette. The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Historical Preservation Awards Ceremony took place in October, honoring several local projects. James K. Asselstine was presented with the 2024 Richard L.Kreitner Award for Community Service at the Annual Dinner in November.

This year marked the 195<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the running of the Stourbridge Lion, whose full-scale replica is on exhibit at the Main Museum. The anniversary is celebrated each year with an Open House and special displays.

The museum attracted 3000 visitors in 2024, including 400 who were children under the age of 18 (free admission). In addition to numerous monetary donations, we had 32 new members, 3 life memberships, and 16 sponsorships.

In 2024 WCHS received grants from the County of Wayne, PHMC, The Gruber Family Foundation, and other sources. The Endowment Fund and other Trust Funds produced interest income to support our operations. We want to thank The Gruber Family Foundation for their generous donation that funded the restoration of the Daniels Farmhouse kitchen and interior, and for their generosity during the entire year. Fundraising events were held, including the Cash Raffle, a Basket Raffle, the Annual Dinner, the Annual Appeal, 2024 Sponsorships, and NEPA Gives. The Museum Shop has an exciting inventory, and the Canal Store will reopen in 2025, both of which add to our annual income.

### Volunteer and Donor Recognition

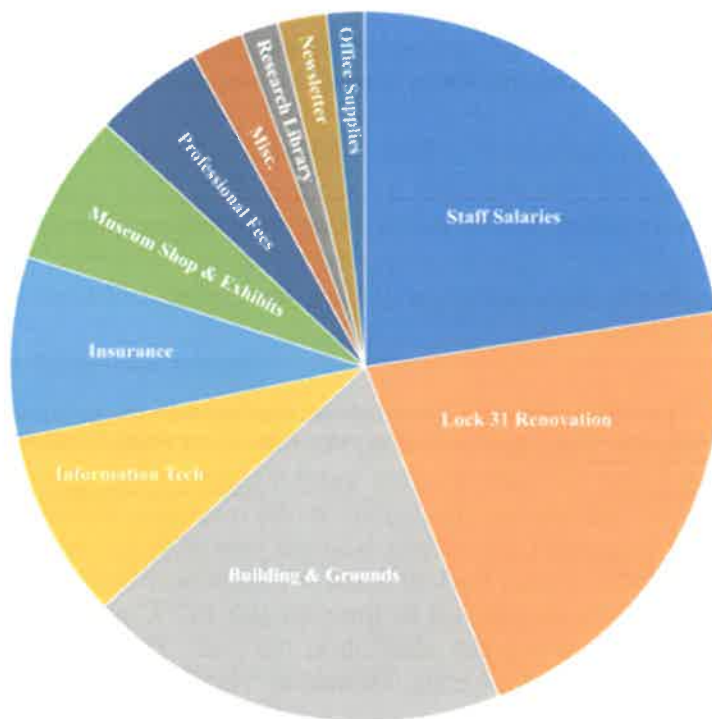
WCHS's accomplishments would not be possible without our dedicated and talented volunteers. We extend heartfelt thanks to them as well as to our members and friends, and our trustees and staff. Their dedication, deep knowledge, and quest for excellence, are the reasons we are able to fulfill our mission and provide impactful opportunities for experiencing the history of Wayne County, Pennsylvania. We look forward to a great 2025!

## The Numbers: Income and Expenses

### Expenses

Staff Salaries: \$39,000  
 Lock 31 Renovations: \$37,000  
 Building & Grounds: \$33,500  
 Information Technology: \$14,800  
 Insurance: \$14,200  
 Museum Shop & Exhibits: \$12,000  
 Professional Fees: \$8,600  
 Miscellaneous: \$4,100  
 Research Library: \$3,000  
 Newsletter: \$3,900  
 Office Supplies: \$3,000

**Total Expenses: \$173,100**



### Income

Grants: \$51,000  
 Fundraising: \$41,000  
 Endowment/Trusts: \$26,600  
 Museum Shop: \$17,000  
 Donations: \$16,300  
 Membership Dues: \$12,545  
 Other Investments: \$8,000  
 Admissions: \$7,700  
 Research Library: \$2,000

**Total Income: \$182,145**

