

Greene County Historical & Genealogical Society
Long Range Plan
2016 to 2021

Mission of the Society

The mission of the Society shall be:

- To research, collect, care for, exhibit, and interpret items that illustrate the history of Greene County from settlement to the present time, and place it in the context of the history of the State of Illinois.
- To assist in historical and genealogical research for educational and patriotic purposes.
- To provide for the preservation of research material and its accessibility to all who wish to examine or study it.
- To encourage the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markers.
- To disseminate historical information by publicizing such material in appropriate media, by developing educational programs, and by operating a museum for the benefit of the public.
- To receive and hold gifts and devises of real and personal estate from any source for the benefit of the Society and to dispose of any real estate, chattel, and personal property not needed, this in accord with any written agreements executed at the time of acquisition. Also, to use solely for the purpose of the Society any funds derived there from, or from gifts generally, and do all things incident to the perpetuation of the Society.

All the foregoing statements are intended (as a guide) for carrying on the work of the Society for educational, patriotic, and historical purposes as provided in *Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954*. The Society's mission shall guide all efforts, including research, collections, exhibits, public programs, and sponsorship of earned income activities. Every effort shall be made to document accurately and to interpret impartially the contribution of all groups who are a part of the historical record of Greene County.

The following are goals and strategies of the Society for the next three years:

Goal 1: Maintain a quality newsletter and an expanded website that is user friendly.

Strategies:

- A. Expand the website to provide an avenue for data collection and information access for Society membership and those doing genealogical and historical research.
- B. Continue producing the quarterly newsletter; promote distribution through group e-mail versus regular mail for those who want an electronic copy.

C. All gifts and donations received shall become the sole property of the Society and donors shall receive written receipts. Every effort will be made to provide a safe and secure environment for keeping all donated items intact.

D. Use existing and new technology to meet increasing demand for information and efficiently preserve documented information for general use.

E. Continue with regular meetings; some programs will be held off-site to promote more participation and historical interpretation.

Goal 2: Maintain and expand the museum and research library to provide space for rotating displays and allow for additional research/information opportunities on the history and genealogy of Greene County.

Strategies:

A. Add displays as developed or available and have rooms and displays associated with themes such as military items, doctor or dentist's office, grocery, bank lobby, lawyer's office, retail store, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Develop rotating displays in various rooms to provide for new exhibits each year.

B. Utilize a continued funding drive to obtain finances for display cases, mannequins, other items or equipment needed. Rooms can be named in memory of a person(s) for a specified donation to the Society to cover associated costs.

C. Obtain volunteers to help staff the library/museum and enable the building to be open more than two days per week; provide training to new volunteers on Society policies and procedures.

D. Begin collecting research material in electronic format, as well as hard copy, to meet the changing needs of the membership desiring data and information.

E. Encourage members and local residents to donate items to the Society for display in the museum or for inclusion in the research library.

F. Maintain updates of the scanned research and genealogical files in an electronic format to provide for preservation of the information and to make it available to researchers.

G. Maintain the computer inventory system for items donated in the museum, keeping track of who donated the item, what it is, history of the item and specify expected ultimate use and storage location.

H. Develop policies and procedures for handling copyrighted materials, inventorying donated items, accepting donated items on loan, scanning and storing research/file documents, etc. Implement a catalog and receipt procedure, listing donor information and items received; a copy may be provided to the donor upon request.

I. Participate in sharing appropriate information with researchers and other domestic historical societies.

J. Develop a self-guided tour brochure for the museum outlining key items featured in each room.

Goal 3: Adequate funding and volunteer resources to carry out the long range needs and provide for sustained operations of the Society.

Strategies:

A. Promote the opportunity for donations to be made for room dedications and the options for recognition of the contribution. Prepare annual fundraising letter to all members as needed.

B. Submit grant applications for applicable projects and needs relating to the building, museum, library and technology acquisitions.

C. Develop a new membership brochure or packet to highlight long-range goals and outline the need for financial resources and volunteers to staff the office.

D. Develop a technology budget and seek technology grants.

E. Explore opportunities to expand facilities and presence county-wide by establishing an “Annex” in another community. Seek donation opportunities for obtaining a building in another location if maintenance considerations permit such a move.

F. Develop plan to recruit volunteers county-wide to carry out the activities of the Society and expand staffing and membership.

Goal 4: Develop and implement special projects to meet member and community needs and objectives.

Strategies:

A. Sponsor an annual historical essay contest in each of the grade schools to encourage students to write an essay on some aspect of county history.

- B. Continue to support Greene County Days with a special exhibit that relates to the theme of the event. Invite school classes to visit the museum during the event.
- C. Continue to support special events at the Hodges Building such as ghost hunts and other activities.
- D. Maintain the Veteran's Record Project to gather service information on county residents who served in the military. The database will include both living and deceased veterans who have resided in Greene County.
- E. Investigate options to have special demonstrations, craftsmen, or other historically significant exhibits at the Hodges Building during Greene County Days or at other special events in the community.
- F. Hold special events and conduct activities to commemorate Greene County veterans of all wars, and begin preparation to recognize WW I veterans in 2017 and 2018.
- G. Complete the Greene County Family History book in cooperation with publisher and sell remaining books. Develop an unveiling program for maximum impact and to show gratitude to Society staff members and all volunteers.
- H. Room is at a premium when holding meetings; develop alternate meeting sites. Room is also a problem for accepting donated items; develop plans for off-site storage and be alert for acquiring storage facilities.
- I. Publicize regular meetings to encourage attendance by all people in the community. Feature topics with broad interest within the community and that relate to historic and cultural aspects of the county.

Revised 04/27/2016

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