

Wolf Laurel Historical Society
Annual Meeting
June 5, 2024
Wolf Laurel Community Center Pavilion

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:48 PM by President Warren Johnson
2. Minutes of the September 6, 2023, Annual Meeting were approved as posted and distributed.
3. Reports of Officers
 - a. President Warren Johnson reported on the state of the Society. He noted that this was Wolf Laurel's Diamond Anniversary Year. He thanked the Board for their work over the last year with a special thanks to Brenda Whitt who will be retiring from the Board. (See Appendix A)
 - b. Secretary-Treasurer Jim Klumpp reported that the membership and the budget of the society were healthy. Membership for 2023 was 81. The Society continues to operate within its budget. He appealed to members to help acquaint new residents to the activities of the Society. (See Appendix B)
 - c. Vice-President Steve Wilcox previewed the planned programs for 2024. These include the History of Appalachian Music in July, Reminiscences of Early Wolf Laurel, and the History of Skiing at Wolf Laurel.
4. Report on 2023 Special Programs.
 - a. Webmaster Jim Klumpp called attention to the successful enhancement of the Wolf Laurel Stories feature on the website including several new stories by Wolf Laurel residents in 2023.
 - b. Brenda Whitt reported on the beginnings of the new Oral History project and urged members to suggest people to interview for the project.
 - c. Warren Johnson reported on the project to restore and mount the c1965 picture of the Village area in the Wolf Laurel Community Center.
5. Election of the 2024-25 Board of Directors
 - a. Report of the Nominating Committee. Chair Tim Finley reported five nominations for the 2024-25 Board: Taylor Barnhill, Terry Deal, Warren Johnson, Jim Klumpp, and Steve Wilcox.
 - b. No additional nominations received, the report of the Committee was accepted and the nominees elected unanimously to the 2024-25 Board.
6. New Business
 - a. Jim Klumpp reported on the public deliberations of the Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security Board on the Willis Cabin near the gate.
 - b. Jim Klumpp introduced the possibility of the Society selling note cards featuring historic Wolf Laurel scenes and requested input by members on their interest in such cards.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Klumpp, Secretary-Treasurer, 2024

Wolf Laurel Historical Society Annual Meeting President's report June 5th, 2024

Welcome to our first program of 2024. We had excellent programs in 2023; and, look forward to equally good ones in 2024. This year is special as it is Wolf Laurel's 60th Anniversary. In June 1964, Bud Edwards of Kingsport, TN completed the purchase of nearly 7,000 acres, which became the Wolf Laurel Boundary, the forerunner of today's Wolf Laurel. We are celebrating our diamond anniversary today and will be throughout 2024.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their great input and attention, during last year and into this year. The Board consists of Taylor Barnhill, Jim Klumpp, Brenda Whitt and Steve Wilcox. A special thank you to Brenda, who will be leaving the Board this year. Thank you so much for your service, Brenda. Terry Deal has agreed to serve on the Board when Brenda departs.

As you will learn next from Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Klumpp, our finances are solid and continue to grow. The Historical Society holds the copyrights to two books: "*Upper Laurel and her People*" by Delia Tipton Brittain (2002, 2021) and "*A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky, A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, NC*" by James F. Klumpp and Warren H. Johnson. The "*Treasure*" will soon be in its third printing. Proceeds of both books will go directly to the Historical Society.

Membership remains nearly 100. So for those of you who are currently members, we thank you. For those of you who are not, we encourage your joining. The annual cost is \$20.00 (single) and \$35 (family).

Appendix B

Wolf Laurel Historical Society Annual Meeting Report of the Secretary-Treasurer, June 5, 2024

1. **Membership.** Membership in the Society remains the envy of other historical societies in our area including many that are county wide. We finished 2023 with 85 members, a decrease of ten from 2022 but still a signal of our members' dedication to Wolf Laurel history. Analysis indicates that this small decrease is due to members who have sold their homes and left Wolf Laurel.
2. **Financial Condition.** The Society remains in a solid financial condition. Our income for 2023 was \$2370, exceeding our budgeted income by \$599. Our expenditures for 2023 were \$1359, under budget by \$421. With these figures, we finished 2023 with a balance of \$5,906.02. This was just over \$1,057.94 increase over 2022 final balance.
3. **2024 Budget.** The Board approved a budget for 2024 at their April 10th meeting increasing income and expenditures by \$300 over the 2023 budget. The increase in expenditures is largely a result of increased cost for our guest speaker program at the Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center. We believe the quality of that program this year and the opportunity to connect with our neighbors in Upper Laurel is worth the additional expense. Our 2023 financials indicate that this budget is within our capacity as a Society.
4. **Publications.** Another important function of the Society beyond programming is making available books and decorative items celebrating Wolf Laurel history. Our publications continue to be popular. Sales of *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina* have continued to contribute to our revenue. In fact, sales of the paperback have reduced the inventory donated by Warren Johnson and Jim Klumpp to only 18 copies. At the rate of sales in 2023, this inventory will be gone by the end of 2024. Upon inquiry we found that costs for a third printing of the book will be higher than for the second printing. The Board is seeking a way to meet that cost without increasing the price of the book.
5. **Very Special Thanks.** I wish to announce with gratitude, that two weeks ago we received in the mail an anonymous donation of \$1000 with a note: "To assist in the various programs and other work that WLHS does for the community." Such generosity swells our pride in the work we do. We average nearly \$100 in donations each year from our members. We thank all for their extra support. Contributions we have received so far this year will lead the way toward the third printing of *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky*. Investing donations into publications gives those donations a multiplier, that is, they generate additional income for us as that inventory is sold in coming years.
6. **Thank you for your support.** Your support for the Society helps us program outside presenters, as well as additional activities such as our publications, and the celebration of Wolf Laurel history in extras such as the Wolf Laurel Stories and archival projects and our new oral history project. Your memberships, as well as your purchase of our art, maps, and books, makes it possible for us to fulfill our motto: Sharing our past to enhance our present. Thank you for your continued support.