

Wolf Laurel Historical Society
Annual Meeting
September 6, 2023
Wolf Laurel Community Center Pavilion

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:16 PM by President Warren Johnson
2. Minutes of the August 3, 2022, Annual Meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Reports of Officers
 - a. President Warren Johnson reported that the state of the society was healthy. He reviewed the three programs for the year and reported excellent attendance of near 60 for each. He explained the Society's obtaining the inventory and the copyright for *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky* into its publication offerings. He previewed the planning for 2024.
 - b. Secretary-Treasurer Jim Klumpp reported that the membership and the budget of the society were healthy. Over the last three years membership has averaged near 100 members. Current membership for 2023 is 83. Sale of the Society's publications continues healthy. The Society continues to operate within its budget. (See Appendix A)
4. 2023 Special Program Reports
 - a. Board member Brenda Whitt praised the response to the Wolf Laurel Stories initiative in which residents' stories of life in our mountains before and after Wolf Laurel have their stories published on our website. Certificates of appreciation were distributed to authors of the stories.
 - b. Board member Jim Klumpp reported on the archives initiative. He reviewed the central place of the archive in the purposes of the Society: to preserve the history of Wolf Laurel. During 2023, the Society purchased preservation supplies to protect the items contained in the Society archives, and the preservation status of the archives will be upgraded with these supplies.
5. Election of the 2023 Board of Directors
 - a. Report of the Nominating Committee. Chair Ron Anselmo reported five nominations for the 2023 Board: Taylor Barnhill, Warren Johnson, Jim Klumpp, Brenda Whitt, and Steve Wilcox.
 - b. No additional nominations received, the report of the Committee was accepted and the nominees elected unanimously to the 2024 Board.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Klumpp, Secretary-Treasurer, 2023

Appendix A

Wolf Laurel Historical Society Annual Meeting Report of the Secretary-Treasurer, September 6, 2023

1. **Membership.** Membership in the Society remains the envy of other historical societies in our area including many that are county wide. We finished 2022 with 95 members. This year's membership on the day before the annual meeting was 81, identical to a similar point last year. Our thanks, congratulations, and celebration go out to our members.
2. **2022-23 Activities.** Although the Society's expenditures continue to focus on sites, speakers, and promotional costs of our programming, our recent robust membership has permitted us to attend to our broader mission – defined at our founding – to preserve the history of Wolf Laurel. At the founding, a key purpose was to preserve the records of people and organizations that marked the progress of Wolf Laurel. Over the years that has produced an archive of information. One important recent addition courtesy of the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association was meeting minutes and correspondence from their early years. Another was Warren Johnson and Jim Klumpp's gift of their research archive for *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky*. This year we have made an important investment: purchase of materials that will allow us to preserve the entirety of our archive into the extended future.
3. **Publications.** Another important function of the Society beyond programming is making available histories and decorative items celebrating Wolf Laurel's history and making it available to residents and others interested in our past. This year we added *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina* to our publications. Authors Warren Johnson and Jim Klumpp gifted the remaining copies of their second printing and assigned their copyright to the Society. That book and the newest printing of *Upper Laurel and Her People* continue to sell briskly and add to the resources of the Society as well as enhancing knowledge of Wolf Laurel's history.
4. **Financial Condition.** The Society remains in a firm financial condition. Our income for 2022 was \$2620 and expenditures were \$1841.64. The surplus allowed us to invest in supplies to preserve our archives in 2023. We finished 2022 with a balance of \$4,848.08. Our balance on September 5, 2023, is \$5,937.62 with acknowledgment that this is a partial year figure with significant additional expenditures to come. In short, the financial condition of the Society is excellent.
5. **Our tax-exempt status.** Our tax-exempt status was renewed by the Internal Revenue Service in the fall of 2022. The Society is appropriately classified within IRS 501(c)3 categories as a public charity. Your dues and contributions to the non-profit Society are deductible to the extent permitted by federal law.
6. **Thank you for your support.** Your support for the Society helps us program outside presenters each year and provide our thanks to you in our annual picnic, as well as additional activities such as our publications and the celebration of Wolf Laurel's history in extras such as the Wolf Laurel Stories and archival projects. 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.