January 29, 2009 Meeting

Ike-The Inside Story From the Eye of the Storm

Lew Fincher - VP Hurricane Consulting Inc.

from the president…

Ronnie Richards

The past year will go down in history with Hurricane Ike, the Presidential election and all of the great accomplishments of our Society. As your new President I would like to start by recognizing some of the accomplishments under our now past President Joanna Sharp and 2008 Board. Just a few of the milestones for 2008 –

- We grew from 83 to 97 members
- We hosted some of the most successful events ever -
  - Living History Dinner with Stephen F. Austin
  - Historic Home Tour
- We moved forward to expand parking at the Museum
- We made substantial progress in the Museum artifact storage expansion
- Our grant funding efforts continued to be successful
- We adopted new By Laws
- The School House program stared Ike in the face & came out on top
- We participated in three festivals - Fig, Oak Tree & Holiday In Park
- We transitioned to upgraded accounting software
- We dodged the bullet on property damage from Ike
- The 2009 calendar & 1992 cook book were published

- We have four males serving on our 2009 board – this may be a first
- We registered 10 live oaks in 2008, making a total of 340 registered live oaks in League City.

I’m sure I missed a few things but you get the idea, 2008 was great. The question is where do we go from here? The good news is we have several great speakers lined up for our 2009 meetings (thanks to Richard Lewis,) the parking lot expansion is nearing completion, the Ghosts of the Past event set for March 7, 2009 is in motion and the Sign Shop has promised to replace our Museum sign by April 1st.

Volunteers and Committee Chairs are already coming forward for 2009 events and projects. Your new board meets for their annual retreat and planning session Saturday, January 24 to start planning for the year. We hope to set goals for the year, continue the events we hosted last year that were successful and discuss new ideas.

This months meeting topic is IKE - The Inside Story From the Eye of the Storm. Lew Fincher - VP Hurricane Consulting Inc, talks about Hurricane Ike which pounded Galveston and the Gulf Coast flattening homes and leaving millions without power. But in the history of hurricanes this is far from the worst that Galveston has seen. In 1900 the most devastating hurricane in American history destroyed the town and killed thousands. For a look at hurricanes past and present no one is more knowledgeable than Lew Fincher, a hurricane historian and the Vice President of Hurricane Consulting, Inc.

Lew is President of the Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.
He has served The Galveston County Historical Commission since 1998 as the county’s hurricane historian. Life Time Member of the Galveston Historical Foundation, and has served on its Board of Directors, Lew has been affiliated with the annual National Hurricane Conference, since 1989. You don’t want to miss this meeting.
Pictured above is the crew working on the new Museum parking lot expansion.

November 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

Joanna Sharp, our president, welcomed members and guests. She introduced Robert Bauer as the speaker. He told us about his experiences growing up in League City.

Business meeting began with the approval of last month’s secretarial minutes. Ronnie Richards made the motion to approve and Doris Teets seconded it. Vote was unanimous. Catharin Lewis said that her Museum report was printed in the newsletter. She did tell about an Eagle Scout finishing a project at the Museum.

Joanna Sharp encouraged us to sign up to work in the booth at Holiday in the Park, which will be December 5-6.

Historical Home Tour will be held December 13. We need more docents at the 5 homes and Museum, which will be featured on the home tour.

The calendar will feature the historical places in League City. It is going to the printer tomorrow. It will be on sale at the Holiday in the Park.

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following be elected to serve as officers on the board:
President—Ronnie Richards
Vice-President—Kevin Burke
Recording Secretary—Sherry Frankovich
Corresponding Secretary—Kathy Weisskopf
Treasurer—Diana Dornak
Director—Doug McKee
Nancy Richards made a motion to approve the slate of officers. Catharin Lewis seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Each year we reflect on the events and changes that occurred and refocus on plans for the New Year. Even though it seemed to be a rather quiet year in 2008, much progress was made in the care of the collection, addition of new volunteers, another Eagle Scout project and the daily operations of the Museum.

Care of the collection involved many different tasks as well as lots of additional help. The artifact storage area went through a major cleaning and reorganization process. We moved and cleaned all the items in our storage boxes, labeled some and continued to digitize each item in the collection and add it to our database. The items on exhibit also got a cleaning, some items better than others, but the dust still prevails.

Concentration on the cemetery collection papers and photos took most of the summer and fall months. Many hours were spent entering the information into the computer, verifying data and organizing the information in files for easier research use. Hurricane Ike interrupted many plans, but our Emergency Prep Plan worked well and no damage to the collection or buildings occurred. Care of the collection is an on-going process and our team of volunteers keeps the work in progress.

Volunteers contributed 2,363.9 hours and we added many new volunteer faces 2008. Cherie Miller, Elissa Giles, Alice Butler, Paula Tanner, Joyce Buchanan, and Joyce Coniglio and youth Benjamin Sun joined our group even if for a short period. We retained some of these and many other good workers, such as, Bertha Adams, Barbara Vermillion, Betty Lewis, Tommye Randolph, Carole Ragland, Kathie Nenninger, Doris and Gene Teets, Bryan Schumaat, Joanna Sharp, Diana Dornak, Deborah Gammon, Kathie Weisskopf, Sherry Frankovich, youth Alan Yang, Richard and Catharin Lewis.

I wish to extend many thanks to all those who served with their time, talents and energy. We celebrated our successes with a Volunteer Luncheon and Museum outing in June and another luncheon in December.

The Museum had another Eagle Scout project this past year by William Haechten and his team of volunteers who created lattice coverings for the openings under the Schoolhouse and Icehouse and installed them to the buildings. They worked hard and the result looks great! This has been a much needed project for many years and their help was greatly appreciated.

The daily operations of the Museum in 2008 brought in more than 4,620 school groups, scouts, senior citizens and walk-in visitors. We conducted 165 schoolhouse
sessions covering 609 hours of teaching time. Hurricane Ike affected the usual number of visitors with cancellations or delays somewhat, but we look forward to a busier spring. Classes continue to register on line or by phone and the 2009 calendar is beginning to fill. Sales in the Gift Shop helped to add to our success bringing in additional $6,389.55 to our budget.

Looking back, it was another good year with more promise to better things around the corner. Plans are in progress for exhibits, special events and building improvements.

**LCHS Finishes Year With Successful Homes Tour**

...Chairman Diana Dornak

Stories of bygone days and cattle rustling delighted visitors at the Historic Homes Tour held December 13.

"We had a steady stream of visitors at all the sites for most of the day", said Chairman Diana Dornak. "It was exciting to see how well it went and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves."

A special thanks should go to our Site Directors: Joanna Sharp, Kathy Weisskopf, Fay Dudney, Jeff Hansen, Diane Gillette, Frankie Blansit and Catharin Lewis, and also to all the docents who worked at the homes. They are truly the ones who made the tour successful with their handling of their particular home tour and the visitors that day.

"I cannot say enough about how proud I am of all of them," Dornak said. "Most of them stayed the entire day at their site and truly made the tour memorable for everyone."

Six sites were open for the tour: The Ferrell Home - 620 Third Street; The Hayes Home - 1004 Fourth Street; The Sneighr Home - 300 North Wisconsin; The Fig Factory - Ruhl Home - 495 Coryell; The Milby Butler Home - 1908 Carolina and our West Bay Common School Children’s Museum - 210 N. Kansas.

Refreshments were available at most of the homes. At the Milby Butler Home a group of students from Bay Area Community Church made cookies and popcorn to serve with apple cider. Visitors also were given the chance to actually brand a bench made by homeowner, John Dupla. That bench will be presented to West Bay Common School at this month’s meeting.

Pictured are Kathy Weisskopf and John Dupla. John is shown guiding Kathy through the process of branding a bench he made for the home tour. All guests during the tour were given the opportunity of actually brand the bench which will be presented to the League City Historical Society for use at West Bay Common School.

Nancy and Ronnie Richards enjoying the Ferrell home during the Historic Homes Tour Dec. 13.

Pictured left to right are Doris Teets and Richard Lewis at West Bay Common School the day of the Historic Homes Tour. Many visitors throughout the day enjoyed a tour of the school, purchased tickets and received information on the home tour.

Gailey dressed docents at the Sneighr Home are left to right are; Bonnie Harrill, Sharon Brown, Owner of Sneighr Home and Marsha Rose. Bonnie Harrill is Diana Dornak’s daughter.
Pictured is a student from Bay Area Community Church making cookies. Young people ranging in age from junior high to college from the church helped at the Milby Butler Home as a special Community Christmas Project. Students made cookies and popcorn and served these with apple cider to guests on the home tour. Popcorn was strung and decorated the Christmas Tree. These activities added to the family fun atmosphere of the Butler Home Tour.

Pictured are Diane Gillette, Director for the Hayes Home Tour and Home Owner, Christa Parker.

Pictured are left to right: Sarah Von Dran, Frenchie Fletchal, Frankie Blansit and Willie Crawford. Frankie directed the activities the Fig Factory-Ruhl Home tour.

Pictured left to right are docents Deborah Gammon, Phyllis White, Melody Hauch, and Joanna Sharp. Joanna was Director for the Ferrell Home Tour.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Phyllis White
Danny R. Holmes
The Honorable Neil and Stephanie Baron

THE GREATEST GENERATION
The Veterans of WWII
GHOSTS OF THE PAST TOUR
...Deborah Gammon Co-Chairman

The Ghosts of the Past tour has been rescheduled for March 7, 2009. The ghost tour originally scheduled for October 25, 2008 had to be rescheduled due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Ike on our county. Eight costumed ghosts will tell the stories of men and women interred on the banks of Clear Creek in Fairview Cemetery. There will be 8 scheduled tours running every 1/2-hour beginning at 1 p.m. and the last tour will begin at 4:30 p.m. The cost of the tour is $10.00 for adults and $5.00 for seniors over 60 years and $5.00 for students ages 4-18. Come join us for a day of history.
Deborah C. Gammon, co-chairperson 281-334-4950

League City Historic District
Commission Report to the
League City Historical Society
Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

November 20, 2008
The Historic District Architectural Guidelines and Materials list were approved by the Commission members. This was submitted and approved by City Council December 9th.

Granted approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness to Interfaith Caring Ministries to construct a 5,000 square foot building at 149 Park Ave.

Approved an Operations Permit to Interfaith Caring Ministries to operate a food pantry at 149 Ark Ave.

Granted approval for an Operations Permit for a restaurant (Dinner Any Thyme) at 812 East Main St.

Discussed suitable plants, shrubs and trees to screen the L.C. Animal Shelter and the League City Fire Training Facility along the east side of Kansas Ave.
Approved the Proposed Schedule of HDC meetings for 2009.

Administratively approved a name change for the “Generations Tea Room” to the “Queen’s Quirky Kitchen” located at 1301 East Main Street.

December 11, 2008:
No meeting was held in December.

January 15, 2009:
Approved a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the exterior of a building at 219 Michigan Ave. (New paint colors)

Granted approval of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the exterior of a building at 149 Park Ave. (New siding colors of brick and trim.)

Tabled a request from the One Room School House to extend the north side of the Barn Museum building to add a storage room at 210 North Kansas.

The “Queen’s Quirky Kitchen” was granted approval to repaint the exterior and trim of the building at 1013 East Main St.

The Historic District Commission meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. The meetings are open to the public.

This month, the Museum electricity bill was covered by a donation from Dr. Bill and Lori High and Ms. Ann Hacker. During the spring, summer and fall, we have donation opportunities to cover grounds keeping expenses.

If you would like to help support the Museum in this tangible way, please feel free to contact Catharin Lewis at 281-554-2994.

Calendar

January 29, 2009: LCHS Meeting Program:
Hurricane Consultant, Lew Fincher
The Inside Story From the Eye of the Storm

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas, League City
Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

February 26, 2009 — Judy Alton — Rice Farmers to Astronauts: Stories from the Webster Community

March 7, 2009 — THE GREATEST GENERATION: Ghosts of the Past

March 26, 2009 — Susan Fineman — Saving our Legacy, Through Restoration

Galveston, A City on Stilts, a new book by Galveston Historical Foundation curators Jodi Wright-Gidley and Jennifer Marines, is the story of the city’s reconstruction after the Great Storm of September 8, 1900, a hurricane that killed 6,000 people and remains the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The book contains 200 vintage photographs from the Zeva B. Edworthy collection that document the rebuilding of the port city and life around Galveston in the early 1900s.

The book’s title comes from an exhibit of the same name that was held in 2007 at the Galveston County Historical Museum and curated by Wright-Gidley and Marines. The exhibit was the most popular ever held at the museum. All publisher profits will be donated to Galveston Historical Foundation to support their historic preservation and community service efforts in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

To order a personalized copy, call GHF at 409-765-7834.

2009 LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards  President
Kevin Burke   Vice-President
Diana Dornak  Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich  Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf  Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen  Board Member
Diane Gillette  Board Member
Richard Lewis  Board Member
Doug McKee  Board Member
Carole Ragland  Board Member
Joanna Sharp  Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director