So Sorry for such short notice! You are invited! Please join us at this meeting!

March 22\textsuperscript{nd} Meeting

Ruth Ann Rugg

“Shaking the Crystal Ball: What is the Future of Small Museums”

A small museum's day-to-day work requires all hands on deck and all the dollars we can squeeze out of our budgets. Often it takes every bit of time and energy we've got to handle the responsibilities of NOW, much less anticipate what will come TOMORROW. So how can we possibly envision the potential growth-and developmental gaps-of our organizations months and years into the FUTURE? Learn how to look at your museum's health and vitality on multiple levels to consider challenges such as leadership development, succession planning, financial sustainability, audience development, and community engagement.

Ruth Ann Rugg is Director of Special Projects, Texas Association of Museums (TAM), Fort Worth. An established professional with almost four decades of leadership and museum experience, she is well versed in the challenges facing museums today. Rugg is an advocate for collaboration and productive partnerships within the cultural heritage and museum community. Her primary focus is on sustainability and relevance. In her role with TAM, she secures support and funding for major initiatives that create opportunities for substantive growth. Currently she is involved in a two-year project in the Houston area called Finding Alternative Futures: Sustainability Through Coaching.

A native Texan, Rugg received her education at Texas Christian University. Her museum career includes posts at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth; the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth; and The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Dallas. She joined the staff of TAM as Executive Director in 2008 and served in that capacity until 2016 when she assumed her present role.
Doug McKee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Catharin Lewis reported that the museum was chugging along as usual and that the Society will have a yard sale in April. Catharin and Richard will hold any donations made until the day of the sale.

Steph McDougal announced that our speaker for March, Ruth Ann Rugg, will discuss challenges and funding of the small museum. In April, our speaker, Michael Bailey, will discuss the equipment and weapons used during WWI. In May, we will hear from Mark Lardas regarding Texas shipwrecks, followed by Abra Schnur in June speaking about oral histories. Plans are in the works for a cemetery workshop and for bringing in story-teller Elizabeth Ellis and having a story-telling workshop. Possible future fieldtrips include a trip to the Lone Star Flight Museum and a trip to the Houston funeral museum.

Steph introduced our speaker, Vic Maceo, recently-retired Lifeguard Supervisor for the Galveston Island Beach Patrol (the “GIPB”). Lifesaving efforts first began in 1800 with the United States Life Saving Service, located on the West End of Galveston and whose mission was to save mariners after shipwrecks, caused by the West End’s shallow water. The Federal government got involved in Galveston’s program after it became apparent that much more was needed because of the large number of ships coming into Galveston. When the Union came through in 1862, the lifesaving equipment was destroyed. Galveston had already had two large ships catch fire, killing all seamen aboard, so after the war, Congress gave Galveston the needed money to start a proper lifesaving service.

It wasn’t until after the seawall was built that swimming became popular in Galveston. In the 1920’s, women became lifeguards. Leroy Colombo was a Galveston lifeguard who saved over 900 lives, becoming a Guinness record holder. At one time, Galveston had a black beach with black lifeguards. From the 1950’s until 2007, the lifeguard program came under and was funded by the Sheriff’s Department, and even the Hotel Occupancy Tax has been used for Galveston’s lifeguards. Now there are 100 employees working for the GIPB, including lifeguards, supervisors, peace officers, and dispatchers, and the program is now under the Park Board Police Department. Five to seven million visitors come to Galveston each year, with 200 rescues made annually. The GIBP serves 32 miles of the beach with 24 lifeguard towers, usually located near the rip tide-causing jetties. The area around a jetty is dangerous because
Historical Society Meeting Minutes
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Meeting adjourned.

WEST BAY COMMON SCHOOL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

Curator’s Corner
Catharin Lewis

I ask and you come. Thanks. We want to welcome our newest volunteers to the museum, Karen McNamara, Beverly Morrison, Stephanie Dorsey and Catherine Gill who have contributed many hours of service helping with the collection, making copybooks, cleaning, and making gift shop kits. We have missed Barbara who has been needing a break for various reasons.

In the short month of February, we held eleven classes and brought in 385 visitors coming from Kingwood, Pasadena and various parts of Houston. Registrations continue to set dates in our calendar for the spring months.

We are truly delighted to have on loan from the Helen Hall Library the red cross flag carried in a League City Parade during WWI. If you haven’t been by to see the exhibit, now would be a good time to see this exciting piece of our town’s past. Of course there are many pictures of this town during WWI of interest also. Bring your family and friends. Again, we thank Helen Hall Library for loaning this item from the Caroline D’Etchegoyen collection. It will be on site until November.

There will be six society members attending the annual Texas Association of Museums Convention (TAM) in Houston next month. Richard and I will be joined by Katie Benoit Hake, Joan Peeples, Linda Michael, and Steve Jones. Katie, Joan, Linda, and Steve will be working with eleven other museums in a pioneer program entitled, “Finding Alternative Futures: Sustainability through Coaching” being offered by TAM. They are making a commitment to support this program until next May. We are excited about having a team to work on the project and hope you will give them the encouragement and support they need to do this program.

We have been collecting a community survey and we are asking for your help. Copy the form on the next page, complete it and either mail it to the museum or drop it off in the museum mail box slot. Make copies for your neighbors and get them to complete a form too. We are trying to reach as many people as possible and with your help, we can do this.

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.
- Mother Teresa
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
Community Survey

“We are conducting a study about how people in League City spend their time; learn about events to attend and about giving to non-profits. We need your help. Please take time to participate in our survey. Your input will help us to further our mission and improve our services throughout the community. We want to hear from you.”

Copy the form. Check the box or fill in when needed. Then mail it or bring it to the museum.

1. Do you tend to visit museums while you travel? □ Yes □ No
2. Have you visited any local museums? □ Yes □ No
3. What attracted you to visit there?
   □ A specific exhibit
   □ A current membership with a discount ticket
   □ A friend who wanted you to come
   □ Other ______________________________
4. Why was this museum important to you?
   □ Learned something new
   □ Shared the place with someone special
   □ Enjoyed the quiet time without interruptions
   □ Found a unique gift in the gift shop
   □ Other ______________________________
5. What type of program would attract you to the museum?
   □ A Speaker
   □ A special exhibit
   □ A Bag Lunch Discussion
   □ A Fashion Show
   □ A Hands-on Workshop
   □ A Work Day to Help
   □ A Field Trip
   □ Other ______________________________
6. What type of special workshop would attract you to visit a museum?
   □ A workshop about preservation of houses or buildings
   □ A workshop about restoring furniture
   □ A workshop about handwriting
   □ A workshop about preservation of photographs, quilts or clothing
   □ A workshop about genealogy
   □ A workshop about ___________________________
7. Would you prefer a Saturday workshop or a weekday or evening workshop?
   □ Saturday
   □ Monday □ Tuesday □ Wednesday □ Thursday
   □ Evening
8. What would be the best way for you to learn about the workshop or event?
   □ An Ad in the Newspaper
   □ On Facebook
   □ A flyer in the mail
   □ A flyer in a local business or library
9. Where do you learn about events in the community? ______________________________
10. What kinds of information would you like to receive while visiting a museum?
    □ Local History
    □ Issues in the community
    □ Issues in the nation
    □ Can you be specific? ______________________________

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.

- Mother Teresa
The League City Historical Society
is having a fund raiser
“YARD SALE”

Saturday April 21st
1518 East Walker Street
8am to 4pm

Start your Spring Cleaning early! Bring the good stuff…
the clean and gently used things that you are no longer using
to support the LCHS Yard Sale. Share your treasures to help
raise funds for projects of the League City Historical Society.

Bring your items to 1518 East Walker beginning now. If you
want, you can even put a price on the item to help save us
time, but it is not necessary.

Then be sure to Come on April 21st
“you might find a treasure that someone else is letting go”.

If you want to help, we welcome the extra hands to make
the day more fun. Come and see for yourself.

“Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.”
The League City Historical Commission meeting on January 18, 2018, included one Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application, for the repair/replacement of a roof and siding at 324 North Iowa Avenue, which was approved. Planning staff provided updates on infrastructure projects within and around the historic district, an update on the current historic resources survey, and the upcoming project to revise the historic district ordinance. The commission did not meet in February, as no COA had been submitted.

WEST BAY COMMON SCHOOL
CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

One - Room Schoolhouse

“Remembering Our Teachers of the Past and the Present”

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Join us for Music, Refreshments and Teacher Gift Bags

1894 Clear Creek School

April 28, 2018

10:00 – 4:00

Located at 210 North Kansas
League City, TX 77573

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you driven down East Wilkins Avenue and seen the progress on the tear-down of League City Elementary School?
Have you driven to Fairview Cemetery and seen the progress of road construction on North Kansas?

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”
-Dr. Seuss