

Porterville Historical Museum

257 North "D" Street
Porterville, California 93257
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March 2023 Newsletter

Greetings Friends and Sponsors,

Our 2023 membership drive is underway, and we are thrilled with the number of membership renewals, new memberships, and generous other contributions we have received so far this year. Our ability to pay our basic operational costs (utilities, insurance, postage, maintenance, repairs, etc.) and to make improvements to our museum is wholly dependent on the support of our community. So, we thank you for your continued support!

*We are excited to announce that our annual "**Wine and Dine**" and silent auction event is slated for the evening of **Saturday, April 22**. Tickets for individual seats, or for tables of 8, are now available. Tickets are going fast, so please contact Susan Uptain at 559-359-4325 to make your reservations!*

Through the generosity of our friends and sponsors, the Porterville Historical Museum has seen a flurry of activity in the early months of 2023. Installation of our long-awaited new fire alarm system is nearly complete, and the system should be fully operational by the time you receive this newsletter. Primary funding for this special project came from the sale of approximately 250 "In Honor Of" bricks which are now being installed in the walkways in front of the museum.

We especially want to thank Dean Craig and technicians at Porterville Electric Company (PECO), as well as Anthony Castillo and technicians at S.T.O.P. Alarm for their contributions toward this project. The new system includes wall-mounted fire alarm pull stations, smoke detectors, emergency warning lights, and other mandated components. Both companies went above and beyond to work with each other, and us, to minimize the visual impacts of this modern system in our historic old building. The system will now be monitored 24/7 by S.T.O.P. Alarm and will greatly reduce the risk of a major fire developing in the museum before it is detected.

On another modernization note, we also want to recognize Dr. Don Stover for bringing our computer system out of the dark ages. He recently donated two new computers to replace our slow and antiquated old ones and enlisted a computer technician to configure and get them running smoothly for us. Thank you, Dr. Don!

Besides recently refreshing several of our permanent exhibits, and planning the Wine and Dine evening, our Volunteers have been busy preparing for a variety of other events. The Porterville Garden Club's Bunco Night on February 11 was very well attended, and we are grateful for the donations we received as a result.

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In a new partnership with the Tulare County Office of Education, our exhibit hall is currently hosting a month-long “Museum Masterpieces” children’s art exhibit. This exhibit is allowing us to introduce the museum to many children and families who have not visited before. We encourage you to come see the 150+ pieces of art created by students from the small rural schools in the Porterville area.

On April 1, the Chamber of Commerce will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new neighbors at “Collective 288”, a beauty salon/barber shop now open in the old Brey House across the street from the museum. As part of the festivities, we will host a museum display there and a related outdoor event here on the museum grounds.

Planning is also underway for other events, including a model railroad workshop/swap meet at the museum in May. Our 38th annual Holiday Train Show is also on the calendar and will open the day after Thanksgiving. We hope to expand its days and hours this year.

As 2023 moves forward we will continue seeking opportunities to host events at the museum. Events draw visitors and increase awareness of the museum and help build the continued community support we need to collect, maintain, and share the history of the Porterville area.

Thanks again to each of you for supporting our efforts!

Porterville Historical Museum - Board of Directors

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