

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report
for COW Meeting - 11/21/2017**

The THM Board did not meet in November because of the Polenta Smear on October 29.

1. **Polenta Smear** - The **16th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear** on October 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. was a great success! We had a nice turnout, and several commented that the earlier time was preferred. We will discuss continuing it next year. The special exhibits were all very well received. Two special guests were A.J. and Marjorie Pianalto Horinek from Atwood, Kansas. Marjorie is a daughter of George and Clara Barenberg Pianalto, who were featured in one of the special exhibits.

We want to share many thanks. First, a huge "Grazie Mille" to Kathy Pianalto Miller for being Master Chef and again directing the kitchen activity with volunteers Blake Ceola, David Peachee, and Brenda Pianalto. The polenta and umedo were delicious as always! We greatly appreciate help from St. Joseph staff including David Burkemper and St. Joseph youth. A special thank you to Richard Ptak for setting up the tables and chairs so we can easily decorate. Also, we thank Chris Ranalli for loaning us tiny pumpkins and gourds for beautiful table decorations. This event goes smoothly because of all the wonderful volunteer help that we receive from these special folks and others.

We received a very special artifact donation this year during the event. Rick Ardemagni brought the hand-crocheted jacket and hat, with matching shoes, that the Bastianelli sisters made for him to be taken home from the hospital at birth. See photos below. We know there are other gems like this one yet to be gathered! Many thanks to Rick!

2. **Budget Request for Weekend Staff** - We appreciate the City Council's consideration for an additional employee to help cover the weekend open hours. Again, general qualifications for this position will include a history/museum studies background or interest so that this person will be able to assist with projects, help progress our collection, and assist with expansion option ideas while covering open times.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! And in this holiday spirit, we are especially grateful to all for your support!

The next THM Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4.

Board Members:

Heather Ranalli Peachee, President - 479-361-8700
Jennifer De Martino, Vice-President - 479-435-6320
Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer - 479-361-2609
Caroline Franco, Secretary - 479-200-9980
Carol Walker, Membership - 479-361-2363

Roger Pianalto - 479-361-2207
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