

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report
for COW Meeting - 08/15/2017**

The THM Board did not meet on August 1 because of the Tontitown Grape Festival.

1. **Tontitown Grape Festival** - Many visitors at the 119th Tontitown Grape Festival enjoyed learning about Tontitown's history this year at THM and our special temporary exhibit -- *Tontitown School: A glimpse of the past gives a vision for the future*. The Old School exhibit was a huge success! (See attached photos.) It was in Mrs. Mabry's room, with one-of-a-kind hand-painted educational art, where she taught from 1969-1987. Mrs. Mabry was at the exhibit for a few hours on Thursday and Friday, which was extra special to many of her former students and for her! Grazie Mille, Mrs. Mabry!

The "glimpse of the past" portion of the exhibit included posters of classroom and school activity photos from our collections. Special thanks to Rachel Bellamy and David Peachee for gathering materials for the posters, and to Mary Gordon Cortiana Lawrenz for helping make the posters. A *Help Plant the Seed to the Future of the School* grapevine bulletin board provided a "vision for the future." Visitors shared their ideas on future uses of the Tontitown School building to save and preserve its history. A few of the over 50 ideas, some with general support to save the building are:

- Camp center for children with special needs
- A place for parents to stay with children in new AR Children's Hospital
- Gathering place, small group events, showers, birthday parties, art, music & ballet lessons.
- Upscale housing/renovate the building to house locals. Example: apartment building. Little Rock is doing this with old schools. It looks awesome.
- Wonderful building & so much history here. My husband went through lower 8 grades here. Please don't tear it down.
- The U.S. map is awesome!!! Leave it.
- Art school. Local artist coop.

THM will compile all the visitor suggestions and share them with the church and community.

The guest sign-in books showed 73 visitors at THM and 277 at the temporary exhibit, with many strolling through the exhibit without signing in. We give many thanks to volunteers Dawn Hinshaw, Dorothy Bersi Kever, and Ruth Ann Roso Ritchie for helping staff both locations this year.

The THM Board also wants to give special thanks to many who helped clean the Old School room: Blake Ceola, Bernadette Pianalto Collins, Jeff & Kay Franco, Deloris Pianalto Green, David Peachee, Richard Ptak, and Sharon Pianalto! We couldn't have done it without all these volunteers lending many hands!

2. **Polenta Smear** - Remember to mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 29** from **1:30 to 4:00 p.m.** for the 16th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear. Watch for more details next month.

The next Museum Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 21.

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

Riley Tessaro - 479-361-2607

Kyle Young - 479-619-8733

Ashlee Bailey - 563-380-0792

Tontitown Historical Museum presents
Tontitown School: A glimpse of the past gives a vision for the future

