



251 E. Henri de Tonti Blvd., P.O. Box 144, Tontitown, AR 72770 ~ 479.361.9800

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

The THM Board of Directors met April 7, 2025 at Masco Conference Room Bentonville, AR.

- 1. Arkansas Museum Association Conference March 31-April 3:** Emily and Juli attended the AMA conference. A workshop on fake food display making was presented by Emily and was well received by all that attended. Staff had the opportunity to learn from other museum professionals in Arkansas and network to grow THM's reach within the state through partner exhibitions and programming with other Arkansas museums.
- 2. AMA Volunteer of the Year Award:** Bev Cortiana-McEuen was awarded the Volunteer of the Year at the AMA Banquet, due to the chaotic weather Bev could not make it to the ceremony but we presented the award to her at Peel Compton Museum and Botanical Gardens. This award could not have gone to a more deserving person, Bev has been part of THM board for 22 years, acting as Treasurer and President during her tenure on the board. She has been a lifeline for the museum staff and we are thrilled she was recognized by the association for the donation of her time and talents. See photos attached.
- 3. Digitization Project:** Juli is continuing her work with digitization, currently CatalogIt has 1455 entries input. We are working with CatalogIt to move forward with online publication of our catalog, this will take a little time to ensure the entries are prepared for online use and that any sensitive information is kept for internal use only.
- 4. Original City Documents:** As we work through the collection in boxes, we have had the opportunity to view and begin digitizing the original city documents from 1910. These include the first city ordinances written by Father Pietro Bandini as well as the Marshals logbook on the first arrests in Tontitown. Keep an eye on our Facebook and social media pages as we will be sharing some of these pages in the coming weeks. We hope to be able to properly digitize these fragile pages for use in exhibits and in the future police station.
- 5. Visitors:** 87 visitors for March; Rollins Elementary came to the museum (62) and we had the EAST students of Shaw Elementary in to learn about Tontitown history for an upcoming project. In 2024 we had 26.
- 6. Committees:** As discussed last month, committees were discussed and approved this past meeting. Please see the attached list for who is on which committee.
- 7. Co-Treasurer:** As the museum works towards expansion of the museum space as well as expanding our gift shop, the board determined having a second set of eyes on the financials is necessary to ensure transparency and accuracy. Chelsea Stewart was elected unanimously to the Co-Treasurer position, Chelsea is the Museum Manager of Peel

Compton Museum and Botanical Gardens, she is in charge of the museums financial reports and is a great fit for this position.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday & Saturday 1pm-4pm

The next THM Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 5th at City Hall.

Board of Directors

Misty Piazza President	Heather Ranalli-Peachee Member
Kara Jo Engle Vice President	Daxton Peachee Member
Megan Taldo McAfee Treasurer	Torrie Pianalto Member
Chelsea Stewart Co-Treasurer	Brittany Berry Member
Allyson Bowen Secretary	Kevin Maestri Member
	Chris Taldo Member
	Billy Morgan Member
	Ashlyn Bowen Jr. Member

Committees: All Committees have a 1 Year Rotation

HR Committee – 3 board members: Kara, Allyson, & Megan

Food Committee- 3 board members: Misty, Allyson, & Ashlyn

Volunteers Committee – 3 board members: Misty Piazza, Kara Engle, Chris Taldo

Newsletter Committee – 3 board members: Torrie Pianalto, Heather Ranali Peachee, Ashlyn Bowen

Expansion Committee – 3 board members: Kevin Maestri, Billy Morgan, Megan McAfee

Collections Committee – 2-3 board members: Chelsea Stewart, Brittany Berry

Fundraising Committee – 2 board members: Misty Piazza, (If approved to board in July), Rachel Pianalto-Strickland

Education Committee – 2 board members: Dax Peachee, Brittany Berry



