



Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters:

First off, happy new year! The Seymour Historical Society's Board of Directors wishes you and your family health, happiness and success throughout 2020.

Second, thank you very much for your support during 2019. Your attendance at our programs, your membership dues, your generous donations and everything else you might have done to help us is truly appreciated.

We don't spend much time asking our supporters for money. We pride ourselves on being self-sufficient and resourceful. However, because we accept zero taxpayer dollars, we do need a little help from history buffs to make ends meet.

But before you decide whether to become a member or make a tax-deductible donation, you deserve to know what we do for the community. Here are the highlights:

- ▶ **Entertaining programs:** Each year, we bring in about a half dozen guest speakers for presentations on local, state and U.S. history. Our first program for 2020, scheduled for March, will be about Clara Barton, the famous Civil War nurse. One major benefit of joining the society is that you get FREE admission to all of our programs.
- ▶ **Adventurous bus trips.** In 2019, we sponsored our first two historical road trips, featuring visits to the Mark Twain House in Hartford and the famous mansions in Newport, R.I. By joining the society, you'll get first crack at spots for future trips.
- ▶ **Supporting schools.** For the past six years, we've hosted field trips for all of Seymour's third-grade students. This year, we're expanding our educational program, and will bring in the town's sixth-graders as well.
- ▶ **Rewarding excellence.** In 2019, we established a scholarship program that provides college funds for a Seymour High School graduate who is planning a career in education or public service. We're looking forward to handing out our second \$500 check this spring.
- ▶ **Celebrating our people.** For the past few years, we've been video recording interviews with town residents as part of an oral history project. In 2020, we plan to have several programs ready for broadcast on the Comcast public access channel.
- ▶ **Preserving the past.** At the heart of the Seymour Historical Society is a museum that holds artifacts and documents that chronicle several centuries of local history. In 2020, we're launching an ambitious project to upgrade our exhibits.

We know that you don't have unlimited funds to give to non-profit groups, so we want to promise that we'll work hard to make every dollar count. But donating money isn't the only way to participate in our organization. We'd love to see you at our programs or spending time with us as a volunteer.

Thank you again for your support.

Paul Sussman

President
Seymour Historical Society

P.S. A special thanks to our Life Members who have supported us through the years. There's no need for you to fill out a new membership application. But any additional donations you might choose to make would be greatly appreciated.