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# Hayloft



## Autumn 2024 Update

### 2024 Menno Pioneer Power Show Review

Wow, we had an awesome show. It was the perfect combination of good weather, a spectacular IHC feature production and new and exciting exhibits spread across the grounds. Here are some of the highlights and new additions that made the show so great.

The Olivet post office project was completed providing a glimpse into a period postal system.

The German's from Russia sponsored open-air entertainment near the post office.

The ladies building embraced the "Tickle Pink" theme.

The newly completed Holm building provided a venue for a variety of musical entertainment.

A major new attraction was that children received free admission to the grounds and were granted free access to all the rides and mini golf.

The steam building introduced a compressed air system to supply air power to multiple miniature gas and steam engines for the first time. We expect this to be an annual feature.

Corporate sponsorships from Helena Ag, Vermeer Mfg., and Menno State Bank provided financial support to rides, tractor pull and exhibitor BBQ.

The response to the IHC feature was fantastic. The tractor yard was filled to the max.

**The result of all this we welcomed 1784 paid adults, 548 children, 700 dedicated workers, tractor pullers and exhibitors for an estimated total of 3800. It was a wonderful feeling to be busting at the seams.**

## Annual Meeting Notes

First, thank you to Mettler Implement for hosting the meeting in their new facility. We were the first group to use their impressive meeting room.

The meeting was called to order with 62 voting members present. It has been years since we attracted that many members to an annual meeting, which was quite encouraging.

The finance report highlighted a significant increase in assets in several areas, primarily due to the generous donation from the Donald F. Holm Trust.

A report detailing the numerous projects completed during 2024 was presented.

A questionnaire was distributed to the membership to assist the board of directors in making future decisions. The majority of those present expressed a preference for cedar shingles to repair the south half of the roof on the big red barn. The members were also presented with a list of potential new projects to prioritize. The questionnaire was to guide the board of directors, who will make the ultimate decision.

Election of officers was held, with six nominations from the floor. From the six nominees, three were elected to a three-year term to begin immediately. The three new board Members are Jordan Helma, Freeman; Jacob Schmidt, Canistota, and Dustin Walz, Freeman. This election introduced a new level of diversity to the board, as it now represents three generations. We hope this will foster engagement among all age groups.

We extend a thank you to Daniel Harnisch, Daniel Mettler, and Bob Reimann for their years of service on the board of directors.



*New Board of Directors*

Following the meeting, the board of directors convened to elect David Mensch president, Aaron Matthaei vice president. The board appointed Twyla Mehlhaf secretary, and Judy Heady finance officer. Our next meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Following is a list of repairs and upgrades that need to be considered in 2025:**

Small Red Schoolhouse: Rotted windows and trim, broken siding, and areas of rot.

Log Cabin: Remove east side porch and reset, remove and reset east side cedar siding on the lien-to and second floor, replace both windows, chink the cabin logs.

Little White House: Move to desired location, replace the roof with cedar shingles, restore all the windows, build window screens, add a 7-foot front porch, remove interior paneling, restore the flooring, new door.

Railroad depot: patch the damaged roof and repair drop siding and window trim.

Ladies Building: Repair damaged siding and trim, paint, construct ADA entrance ramp and steps.

Farm Emporium: ADA concrete sidewalks.

Flour Mill Building: Windows rotted and falling out.

Retaining walls by restrooms and barn: Cracked block walls, deteriorated railroad ties on retaining walls.

Big Red Barn: Replace south half of roof, gable end trim, broken and missing siding, repair cupolas, replace east and west concrete approaches and extend concrete from ramp to roadway.

Concrete walk bridge: Flood water erosion bank stabilization.

Church: West face, rotted windows and trim, siding repairs, remove rotted shiplap sections.

Holm Estate: Mark and organize hand tools.

Fencing: Roadway fence from the main gate north to the property line, East fence from the north property line to the creek.

Fence line clean up: Sort through stored items. Select historic items for retention. Remove scrap iron, close the dump hole and make a new one.

The completion of these projects largely depends on the number of volunteers who participate. While we can hire workers for some tasks, many of these projects don't warrant a commercial contractor. My inquiries find that many contractors simply won't bid on these small projects. I have found that many contractors will not even bid this type of work. The tasks are not difficult, just time consuming and tedious.

**Volunteering** at Pioneer Acres is rewarding experience. The benefits are consistent: you can pick the day you work, the time you arrive, and the time you leave. Just helping a little bit here and there really adds up. It is the immense satisfaction in stepping back and looking at a job well done.

**Becoming a Member** of the Menno Pioneer Heritage Association is easy. A lifetime membership is just \$100.00, a fee that has remained unchanged since the inception of the organization. Membership not only allows you to vote at the annual meeting but also gives you the opportunity to share your opinions and help to shape the future of the organization. Feel free to contact any board member and we would be happy to help with your membership.

**Board Meetings** are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening of each month, except December. Members are welcome to attend; please verify the meeting date as it may vary.

Follow MPHA on Facebook **Menno Pioneer Power Show** and our website [www.pioneeracres.org](http://www.pioneeracres.org)

*Get involved. It is a great way to help the show and the community!*

**Happy Holidays** from the MPHA board of directors.