



*2014 Annual Report*  
*of the*  
**Howard County Historical Society**

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***The mission of the Historical Society is  
to collect, preserve, and share Howard County history.***

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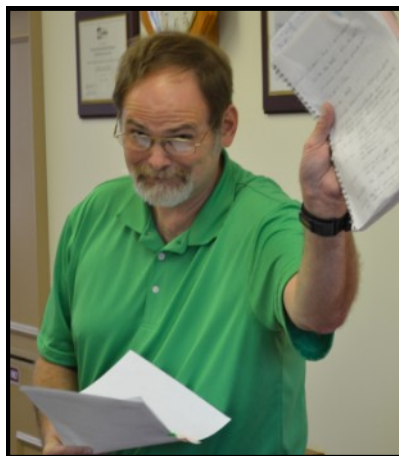
**2014** was another year of growth and change, challenges and accomplishments. The society began a development process under the auspices of the American Association of State and Local History to ensure that we're using best practices and maintaining the highest professional standards. Toward that same end, we underwent a peer review managed by the Indiana Historical Society and developed a new strategic plan.

The curatorial staff and volunteers created a new exhibit on the history of Delco Radio. They began an overall makeover to improve the quality and appearance of the museum exhibits and worked with the Greentown Historical Society and Russiaville Historical Society to present a special exhibit at the county fair. A mobile device tour was funded by the Greater Kokomo Visitors Bureau and added to the exhibits, enhancing the visitor experience with on-demand photographs and stories. While all that was going on, staff continued to process new items and archives into the collections, including six new oral histories.

We completed the Courthouse Bombing Oral Histories in 2014 with a reception for those who shared their stories. IU

Kokomo hosted a presentation on our award-winning Ryan White Oral History Project. The Hall of Legends inducted six new members, bringing the total of those so honored to 31. We worked with the Visitors Bureau on plans for the 2015 Preserving Historic Places Conference in Kokomo and with Conner Prairie on the development of Indiana's contribution to a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute called "Places of Invention".

The weather provided an interesting start to the year, leaving us with several challenges. A gutter over the back porch was badly damaged by ice, a fact



Curator Stew Lauterbach

that we didn't discover until a summer downpour sent a gusher down the wall, damaging paint, plaster and draperies. The extreme cold, along with a substantial spike in energy prices, also left us with a heating bill thousands of dollars higher than anticipated. We met those challenges, but they won't be the last problems we'll face in preserving the historic Seiberling Mansion. For example, at 125 years old, the slate roof is nearing the end of its life and will soon need replacement.



Volunteer Justin Clark, who developed the new Delco exhibit.

2014 concluded with the annual campaign and an improved Christmas at the Seiberling celebration, two of the ways we obtain the resources needed to accomplish our mission. Campaign gifts, membership, events and volunteer time make it possible for us to preserve and share our history and maintain one of the great icons of the Indiana Gas Boom, the Seiberling Mansion. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the society's many volunteers, who lead tours, do research, catalog artifacts, build and clean exhibits, decorate for Christmas, and more. Thanks to all who support the society - past, present and future.

*We seek to remember as we seek to be remembered. History isn't all just dates and names nor is it all wars and migrations. Preserving and sharing our history is how we respect our ancestors and keep their memory alive. It's also how we tell the stories of our own lives to future generations.*

*Dave Broman*

*from the October 2014 HCHS Email Update*

## 2014 by the numbers ....



- **17,905** - historic images viewable online at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org)
  - **41,451** - items in the collections
  - **34 states and 7 countries** - represented in the guest registers, including Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, United Kingdom
  - **340** - members
  - **38** - volunteers
  - **2,488** - volunteer hours worked (not including Christmas)
  - **1,500** - Facebook followers
  - **6** - new members inducted in the Hall of Legends (total of 31)
  - **6** - new oral histories completed
  - **41** - visits from tour groups
  - **263** - students touring, including classes from Lafayette Park, Howard Elementary, Galveston Elementary, St. Joan St. Patrick, and the Howard County Home Schoolers.
- **11** - history articles published in **4** quarterly issues of Footprints
  - **14** - email updates published (sign up at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org))

## Community Foundation: Ensuring the Future

Howard County Historical Society is the beneficiary of five endowment funds in the Community Foundation of Howard County. Donations and bequests to the funds are eligible for the Lilly Endowment's GIFT VI Matching Gifts initiative through March 31, 2016. Your gift through the Community Foundation endowment funds will provide financial resources for the society's mission in perpetuity. To learn more, contact the Community Foundation of Howard County at 765-454-7298.



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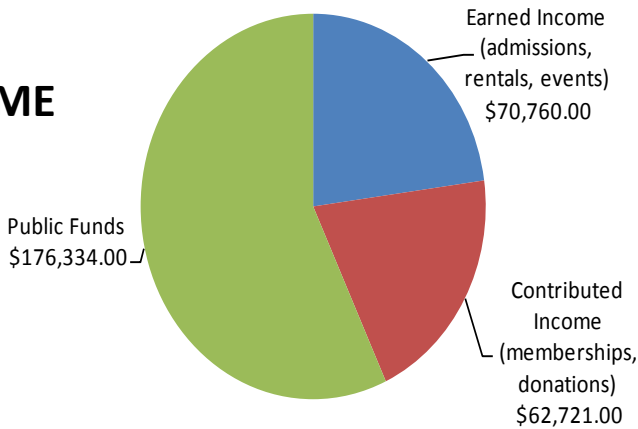
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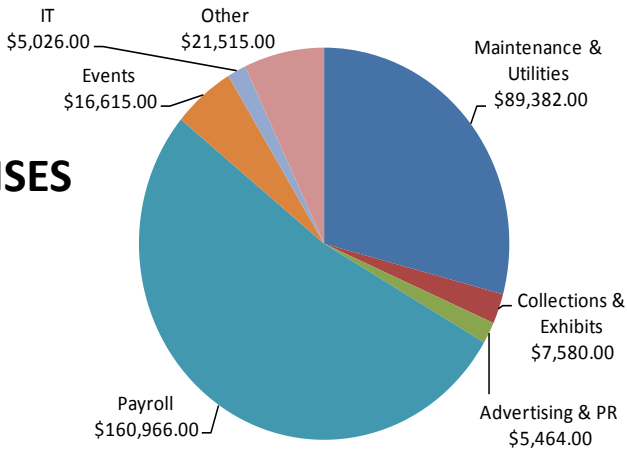


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## INCOME



## EXPENSES



**With gratitude, we recognize the businesses who sponsored HCHS events in 2014 ...**

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**Howard County  
Historical Society  
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