



# **Annual Report**

## **Fiscal Year 2019**

**January 1 – December 31, 2019**

**Folklore Village Farm, Inc.**

# MISSION AND VALUES

## Our Mission:



## Connecting the generations with a world of traditions:

Folklore Village creates opportunities for individuals and communities to celebrate, experience, and support ethnic and traditional folklife. Folklore Village offers an ongoing program of cultural, educational, and participatory folklife activities in rural Southwest Wisconsin; serving regional communities and the Upper Midwest.

## Our Core Values and Guiding Principles:

### Cultural Understanding

Folklore Village respects the unique cultural heritage of all peoples. It seeks to foster an understanding of one's own cultural traditions, while nurturing a respect for the values and traditions of others. Folklore Village believes that each individual has folklife traditions no matter what his or her background. Traditions are an important part of who we are and what makes us human.

### Intergenerational

Folklore Village believes that intergenerational activities perpetuate a shared sense of traditions, values and community. People of all ages need places and opportunities for joy, camaraderie, and celebration.

### Tradition Bearers

Folklore Village encourages the appreciation and continued vitality of folklife through the recognition and active involvement of cultural tradition bearers.

### Participation

Folklore Village believes that participation fosters learning, interaction, sharing, and fellowship. Participation nurtures an environment that is welcoming and inclusive.



## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



The year 2019 was very full indeed.

The most recent addition to our staff, Sallie Anna Steiner, is learning the ropes of being our Program Manager (*there is so much to learn!*) Our indefatigable staff, Executive Director Terri Van Orman and Office Manager Becky Rehl, work every day to keep this at times unwieldy ship that is Folklore Village afloat, steady and moving forward. We presented excellent programming for young and old, weekend festivals, concerts, dances, activities of all sorts. I want to thank our superb teaching and office staff, and countless volunteers who help keep things running as well as helping to maintain and improve our physical site. The Board of Directors deserves special thanks – this unique group of

volunteers spends an inordinate amount of time behind the scenes grappling with issues of all sorts and deserves all the praise I can give them. I would also like to thank all of you who share our vision of a better world and donated generously to support us – I can't express how grateful I am for your support.

However, it is difficult to write this letter without acknowledging what is occurring now, mid 2020. As I write, we are in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We are unable to engage in our traditional, on-site programming. This has created a seismic shift in our thinking as we examine what is essential and authentic in our offerings. Can a so-called “virtual” or “on-line” experience be authentic? Along with other arts organizations across the country, indeed the entire world, the answer I think is yes - *if* it fosters connectiveness, communication, and community.

Indeed, in recent months our concept of community has broadened. As an organization we are always seeking ways to expand our audience, to bring new participants through doors – in essence, to make new friends. What sort of outreach is effective, how do we *grow* our community? With the global pandemic we are looking at ways to connect with an audience that cannot visit us at Folklore Village – and in so doing, there is potential for growing this community to include those who, because of distance, health or cost, cannot visit us in person. We have always had distant community members who remain in our hearts even if we cannot see them in person. Why not expand our community to those who are simply unable to visit us? Isn't it still community?

This is my final letter as President of the Folklore Village Board. At the end of 2020 I will step down from the office, serve one more year as a regular board member, and then retire from the board. I will have served on this board for eight years. The goal going forward will be to find a way to keep our cherished institution alive so that, when better days come, we can reopen our doors to all of you. As I write this I wonder if I will be able to visit Folklore Village in person at any point during my remaining tenure on the Board. I am of an age where, even though certain businesses and venues may reopen, it is advisable that I remain in relative isolation from the rest of the population. Even with the resumption of on-site programming, I doubt I can visit until there is a vaccine. Only time will tell. But, the point of serving on this board has been to ensure that Folklore Village exists not simply for me, but for younger people, for a vast community that visits both in person and online, for a vast diversity that is the very essence of being human and for a better future – which has really been the point all along.

Be well, build bridges, have open ears, minds and hearts. I look forward hopefully to seeing you.

*Maria Terres*

President, Board of Directors

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2019 began with the loss of our longtime Program Coordinator, Meghan Duddle, who has been hired as the Recreation Manager for the City of Dodgeville. Meghan worked for Folklore Village for 8 years, starting under Executive Director, Doug Miller, and staying on for another four years after Ricky Rolfsmeyer. She brought some notable programming to our organization including diverse events such as a concert with Sones de Mexico, an Iroquois Raised Beading workshop with Karen Ann Hoffman, an African drumming workshop with Tani Diakite and Djam Vivie, and a performance by the Natyarpana dance troupe. We thank Meghan for her years of service to Folklore Village, and wish her excellent success in her new endeavors.

A 5-month national search brought the talents of our new Program Manager, Sallie Anna Steiner, who comes to us with a PhD in Folklore,

with an emphasis on Scandinavian Studies. We look forward to her contributions, and welcome her heartily to Folklore Village!

Our very special friends, the Friends of Folklore Village had a remarkable year, raising \$14,000 for Folklore Village through innovative events including “Women Who Till, Toil and Tell Tales” a storytelling event featuring women farmers from around the area. Their autumn event, their “Harvest Moon Gala” was a magical night of serene decorations, a Japanese-inspired dinner, and live music. Thank you, as always, Friends – you are the best!

Our newest program, the Folk School at Folklore Village entered its second year and we offered a total of 39 classes (doubling the previous year’s offerings) and featured exciting workshops with luminaries such as storyteller/writer, Kevin Kling, and renowned Old-Time fiddler, Bruce Molsky. Our partnerships remained strong, as did our sponsorships. We celebrated our grant from the Green Bay Packers, as well as our other corporate/government/foundation grants including Arts Midwest, Wisconsin Arts Board, Upland Hills Health, Dodgeville Kiwanis Club, United Fund of Iowa County, the American Scandinavian Foundation, and radio Station WORT FM.

The Board of Directors stayed exceedingly busy all year, continuing work on the Strategic Plan. Breaking into committees, each group has been doing their part to make sure that the changes YOU requested have been deeply considered, and reflected in the new plan. We expect it all to be completed in 2020, and intentions are to update every year as part of normal board duties.

Work on the Aslak Lie House has continued. We send huge thanks to a special donor, Sandy Wilson, who sponsored another round of interns to assist Nels Diller throughout the summer months, as well as for the purchase of roofing materials. The Estate of Roger Granum also left a bequest to help fund the construction and/or later upkeep of the historic home. We are hoping the second story and the roof will be completed at the end of 2020.

A special thank you goes out to you, our stakeholders and supporters. If you look at the little pie-charts on our “Financials” page, you will see that you provide the largest slice of the pie, keeping Folklore Village alive and well. We thank you, and we honor you, pledging always to do our best to care for this marvelous organization that we all love so much.

Very best wishes to you all,

Terri Van Orman

Executive Director, Folklore Village

Folklore Village Annual Report January 1 – December 31, 2019

## FESTIVALS



Festivals are the heart of Folklore Village. From 1947 to 1966, Folklore Village founder Jane Farwell directed her original Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions in Mount Horeb, WI, in order to combat the growing commercialization of Christmas and the ignorance of increasing numbers of young people about the diverse pageantry, foods, and music of Christmas. In 1966, she purchased the old Wakefield School near Ridgeway, WI, where she was able to complete her vision of a Folklore Village. It was here she created additional festivals

based on her experiences forming folk dance camps around the United States, and from dancing all around the United States, in Europe, and in Japan. Those festivals reflected the culmination of her ideas about folklore, dance, recreation, craft, music, community, and the land.

We continue to present some of Jane's original festivals, as well as others that have grown organically from our diverse community base. In 2019, we presented five festivals – a Spring Swedish Music and Dance Weekend, an English Country Dance & Music Weekend, a Cajun Music and Dance Festival, a Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend, and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions. All embody Jane's original vision of a place where people can come to dance, sing, play music, eat, and live folk customs from the world over.



In keeping with Jane's unique philosophy of recreation, we continue to blend seasonal celebrations, ethnic traditions, and to emphasize the importance of rural communities, family, and people of all ages creating their own fun. Between 450 and 500 men, women, teens, and children enjoyed our festivals in 2019.

 **WISCONSIN arts BOARD**  
Creativity. Culture. Community. Commerce.

 **AMERICAN-  
SCANDINAVIAN  
FOUNDATION**



## CONCERTS / SATURDAY SOCIALS



### CONCERTS

Several times a year, Folklore Village supports traditional folk life by hosting heritage-bearers in concert. In 2019, we presented two concerts, one stand alone, and one concert as part of another event. We started with a special Father's Day concert with Celtic music by Northumbrian Pipes legend, Dick Hensold, who was joined by guitarist and singer song-writer, Patsy O'Brien, who originally hails from Cork in the south of Ireland.



In October, in conjunction with the October Folk School session where he also presented an old-time fiddle workshop, the stellar Bruce Molsky graced our stage for a nearly sold-out evening of traditional songs and tunes, including almost-forgotten rarities from the Southern Appalachian songbook. Bruce Molsky is currently visiting scholar at the American Roots Music Program at Boston's Berklee School of Music and is one of the most revered ambassadors for all-time mountain music. For decades, he's been a globe-trotting performer and educator, a recording artist with an expansive discography including seven solo albums, over a dozen

collaborations, and two Grammy nominations.

### SOCIALS

Saturday Socials are a long-standing tradition at Folklore Village, and follow a specific presentation calendar. The year kicks off in January with "Jane Night," our yearly tribute to Folklore Village founder, Jane Farwell. In May, we celebrate the coming of the spring season with a community Maypole Dance. Both children and adults delight in bedecking the Maypole with flowers from our gardens, and then learning the intricate dance steps required to weave the Maypole ribbons. During the heat of summer, in August, we host a refreshing Ice Cream Social, featuring hand-cranked cream. December brings us the Sankta Lucia celebration, complete with a candlelit procession and traditional serving of saffron buns with tea; as well as our German Christmas Tree Night, which features a glorious two-story, freshly cut tree, bedecked with special German Christmas tree candles, singing of Christmas carols, and dancing around the Christmas tree.



# FOLKLORE VILLAGE FOLK SCHOOL



A Folk School at Folklore Village was a dream of our founder Jane Farwell's in the 1980's, when she and a dedicated group of her closest community members made a trip to the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC to observe the operations of our nation's oldest Folk School.

Thanks to the American Scandinavian Foundation, Folklore Village was able to launch a Scandinavian Folk School in 2018. In 2019, we expanded that original, pilot program from 17 classes based entirely on Scandinavian themes, to nearly 40 classes based on a variety of ethnic and traditional folk art practices, including Norwegian Hardanger embroidery, traditional soap making, spoon carving, instrument building,

blacksmithing, cooking, Polish Wycinanki, writing, singing, and the playing of various musical instruments. During the second year, we also grouped the classes into sessions, all of which culminated in a Saturday night celebration of community – with a pot luck and a barn dance or ice cream social.

Plans for 2020 include further expansion and promotion of this important new aspect of Folklore Village programming. Do you have a particular skill that you would like to teach in 2021? Be sure and let us know!



*Clockwise, from top left: Rosemaling in the Os Style with Lois Mueller; fiddlers gather for a workshop with renowned Old-Time fiddler, Bruce Molsky; students show their recently created hand-made soap during a class with Janelle Holmstrom; kantele builder, John C.*



*Van Orman gives Hank Kulesza a lesson in the basics of playing Hank's newly built kantele.*



## FOLKLIFE...YOUR LIFE

Designed primarily for elementary age schoolchildren, *Folklife...Your Life* is an engaging round-robin of activities designed to teach an understanding of the importance of folklife practices in all cultures. Program session choices include folk dance, folk music from around the world, traditional games, felt-making, maypole dancing, Mexican picada making, and sessions in our restored prairies. In 2019, we hosted 1228 students, teachers and parents from 16 different schools. Thanks to BMO Harris Banks and the Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville for funding to help support our programming for area school children!



BMO  Harris Bank



## SENIOR CONCERT PROGRAMS



Every year we offer a series of free senior concerts, both at Folklore Village, and at selected, local senior living communities. In 2019, we served 256 seniors through 10 free concerts. Many thanks to our program sponsors, United Fund of Iowa County, and Crestridge Assisted Living for helping to provide these special musical events designed with our treasured seniors in mind.





## HEALTHY HOEDOWNS

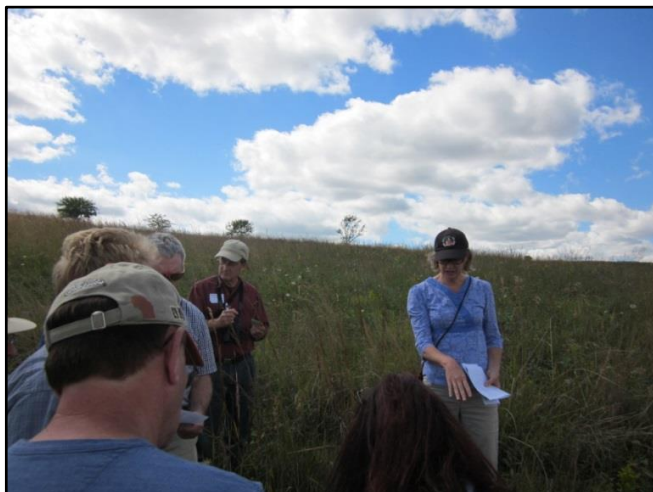


Who doesn't love an old-fashioned barn dance? We sure do, and acknowledging the connection between rural Midwestern farming culture and the legacy of the National Barn Dance of the 1930's, we initiated the concept of Healthy Hoedowns in 2014. Attractive to all age groups - from toddlers to senior citizens, everyone has a great time! Local old-time string bands provide the music,

and dance callers introduce progressively more challenging dances as everyone gets warmed up and learns the basics. In 2016, Upland Hills Health Hospitals and Clinics became primary sponsor of the Healthy Hoedown series, to encourage us all to connect the threads between the American barn dance tradition and a social, healthy, community-building form of aerobic exercise; and in 2019, the Green Bay Packers Foundation also provided Folklore Village with three years of support. Thank you, Upland Hills and Green Bay Packers Foundation!



## PRAIRIES



Folklore Village holds two tracts of restored prairie on its 94-acre farm. Our original restoration, located directly behind Farwell Hall, contains a total of 44 acres. Our newest prairie, located on the east side of Highway BB, contains 26 acres. Both areas have trails open to the public for nature hikes, with native species of flowering perennials and bird life to be viewed. Periodic burns are required to ensure optimum species diversification, eradication of invasives, and prairie grassland health. Our

experienced volunteer burn crew helps keep our 70 acres of prairieland in prime condition. A special shout-out to Dan Wallace and his experienced crew of prairie enthusiasts! We keep walking paths mowed for you.

## FACILITIES



Folklore Village is comprised of a collection of buildings, nestled on 94 acres in the rolling hills of the Driftless region of southwestern Wisconsin. Buildings include the barn-inspired Farwell Hall, with its sprung, wooden dance floor, certified kitchen, classrooms, and staff offices, the historic Plum Grove Chapel built in 1882, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Wakefield Schoolhouse, built in 1893 and used as a school until 1967, separate men's and women's bunkhouses with an adjoining primitive

wash house, the Farwell family farmhouse and garage, and two tool sheds, one with an attached greenhouse tunnel. Soon to be added will be the reconstructed Aslak Lie house, which dates to 1848, and was donated to Folklore Village in 2003.



Buildings are surrounded by gardens and orchards, which provide vibrant color, flowers, fruit and berries in three seasons of the year. Former farm-land has been converted to over 65 acres of restored prairie, which hosts many species of native flora and fauna. Farwell hall is the site of most activities. Its three stories shelter dances, concerts, music classes, receptions and weddings, craft classes, a nursery for small children, a library, office space, and delicious meals served from the restaurant quality kitchen. The Plum Grove Chapel is a great acoustic space for weddings, small concerts, and singing workshops. The Wakefield schoolhouse is used in our children's programs, and as overflow classroom space; while the bunkhouses ensure simple, economical sleeping facilities for festival participants.



## ASLAK LIE HOUSE



Originally built by a Norwegian immigrant craftsman in 1848, the Aslak Lie House is a testament to this skilled artisan, whose handcrafted work has been documented in both Norway and Wisconsin. In its original stage, the house was a one-story log cabin. As Mr. Lie became more prosperous in his new home, he added a second story with an attached sval. In 2003, Folklore Village acquired the building, which was then painstakingly disassembled, documented, and placed in storage while a restoration plan was developed. In 2014, we began the reconstruction of the house. A team of volunteer builders was put together, headed up by our volunteer master builder, Nels Diller. In 2016 the first of the historical logs were laid into place, and the home has begun to take shape. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, we included classes in log cabin building as part of Sustainability Weekend and of Folk School. Many volunteers are helping restore the cabin, and in 2018 and 2019, thanks to donor Sandy Wilson, we were able to hire three interns to help through the summer as well. A special thanks to Mark and Sarah Weier, who donated logs from their forest towards the project. By the end of the building season in 2019, plans were made for the rebuilding of the second story, and the timbers for the post and beam had been restored. Thank you, Nels Diller for five years of dedicated service to this project!

## VOLUNTEERS



The crew who has assembled to rebuild the Aslak Lie house brings to mind the question – what would Folklore Village do without its volunteers? From building the Aslak Lie house, to beautifying our front walkway with flowers and mulch, from manning the kitchen to provide traffic control for potlucks, to washing dishes afterwards, from providing IT assistance, to caring for our prairies – Folklore Village could not exist, or provide the programming that we do, without your assistance. We value you, we honor you, and we thank you! In 2019 volunteers contributed more than 1670 hours of expertise, time, and physical labor to all of our various projects. A special thank-you to volunteer Wendy Frances - who has been volunteering approximately 20 hours a week; beautifying the grounds and gardens of Folklore Village. Thank you, Wendy!!

# FRIENDS OF FOLKLORE VILLAGE

The Friends of Folklore Village was incorporated in 1998 as a stand-alone 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, whose sole purpose is to help provide financial support for Folklore Village. Resurrected in the fall of 2014, the organization pledged to sponsor several fundraising events per year. To that end, in 2019, the Friends hosted two fundraising galas. In April, the Friends presented “Till, Toil, and Tell Tales,” a storytelling presentation featuring women storytellers from neighboring farms. In November, it was time for a “Harvest Moon Gala” an elegant candle-lit affair with live music, a delicious Asian-themed dinner prepared by Red Barn Catering, and raffles of baskets. All contributed to raising and contributing \$14,000 - from the Friends of Folklore Village to Folklore Village in 2019!



**Thank you, Friends of Folklore Village!**

## The Friends of Folklore Village Board of Directors for 2019

**President** – Marilee Standifer

**Vice President (and Past President)** – Madeline Uraneck

**Secretary** – Lisie Kitchel

**Treasurer** – Lucy Richards

**Communications** – Gail Moede Rogall

**At Large** - Jan Taylor

**Graphic Design:** Stephanie Motz

**The following individuals supported the Friends of Folklore Village by buying event tickets, gala seats or tables, or through outright donations:**

Dan Altschul	John Hess	Robin Moede	Joan Steele
Doug Anderson & Ed Whitrock	Peggy Hilliard	Gail Moede Rogall	Jan Taylor
Jennifer Angelo	Wendy Jensen	Stephanie Motz & Mike Fisher	Maria Terres
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Chloe Gaalswyk	Pat & Curt Martin	Mary Ann Steckling	David Lewis & Kathryn Wheeler
Adam & Megan Helt-Baldwin	John Metcalf		Mary Ann & Mike Wolkomir
	Fumiko Miyazaki		



# DONORS

*All donations reflect gifts from 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019*

## **Program Sponsors/Partners**

Program sponsors support Folklore Village through the underwriting of specific programs and projects. Let us know if YOU would like to sponsor a specific program or project!

### **Scandinavian Folk School Classes**

The American-Scandinavian Foundation

### **Cajun Festival Weekend**

James “Sandy” Wilson

### **Donors to our New Stove Fund**

You raised \$5,145 - and bought our new stove!

### **English Country Dance**

Hank Kulesza

### **Senior Concerts**

Crestridge Assisted Living  
United Fund of Iowa County

### **Fall Swedish Weekend**

The American-Scandinavian Foundation  
Madison Scandi Band

### **Open Mic**

Michael and Mary Ann Wolkomir  
Also thank you for artist sponsorships  
during Folk School

### **Healthy Hoedowns**

Upland Hills Health – Season Sponsor  
Green Bay Packers Foundation - Season  
Sponsor

### **Aslak Lie House**

Janice Sievers  
James “Sandy” Wilson

### **Folk Life...Your Life School Programs**

BMO Harris Bank  
Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville

### **Fund Raising Events**

The following individuals donated their time and talent  
to produce specific fundraising events for Folklore Village ~

The Friends of Folklore Village  
Tamara Funk



Special thanks to the **Wisconsin Arts Board** for a Creation and Presentation Grant which helps us present performances, concerts, and other events.

And to radio station **WORT**, whose partnership helps us promote musical events throughout.



# DONORS

## \$10,000 and above

Friends of Folklore Village  
James (Sandy) Wilson  
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## \$4,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous  
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United Fund of Iowa County  
Madeline Uraneck  
Wisconsin Arts Board

## \$500 - \$999

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Argonne Folk Dance Group

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## DONORS

### Circle of Love (monthly giving)

Join the circle today - Give monthly! ♥♥♥♥♥

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Karen Impola  
Kim & Dave Kantor  
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Notley Maddox  
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Bonnie Schmidt  
Eric & Penny Seaberg  
Kate Stout  
Maria Terres  
Greg Winz



### What does my donation provide?

Cultural enrichment programs to thousands of beneficiaries who learn a skill, become more aware of their heritage, and enjoy the many pleasures of our traditional arts. Among these beneficiaries might be a second grade student learning about French folk dancing, traditional non-digital games, Mexican Picadas, or which instruments are played by Indian-American immigrants. Or, they might be a senior citizen, hearing music from their childhood, triggering memories and joy. They might be a Scandinavian-American learning the dances and music of their grandparents' homeland. Or a teenager who learns the art of Iroquois beadwork, garnering a greater understanding of her own – and others' – cultural practices. Perhaps most importantly, you provide a safe space for a diverse array of cultural connections, forging community - one dance, one fiddle tune, one new craft project at a time. All are made possible because you donate to Folklore Village.

**Thank you!**

### Legacy Donors

These donors have chosen to make a legacy gift to the school through a bequest or other planned or deferred gift. Legacy donors demonstrate their commitment to Folklore Village's future by establishing a gift process now that will benefit the school at a future time. These gifts can assure that the donor's current support will continue. ***If you are considering a legacy gift to Folklore Village, please contact Terri.***

Roger Granum  
Beatrice Lever  
Hank Kulesza  
Paul Wagner & Cindy Schlosser  
Donna Weis

***If you have planned a legacy gift to Folklore Village, and we don't know – please do let us hear from you!***





# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Profit and Loss January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

### INCOME

Contributions and Grants:	\$128,625.00
Program Income:	\$96,501.00
Rentals:	\$24,503.00
Retail Sales:	\$3,619.00
Other/Miscellaneous:	\$4,219.00

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<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$257,467.00</b>
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### EXPENSES

Salaries:	\$103,316.00
Facilities/Office:	\$39,377.00
Insurance:	\$14,889.00
Depreciation:	\$8,259.00
Program expenses:	\$82,980.00
Other/Miscellaneous:	\$7,542.00

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<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$256,363.00</b>
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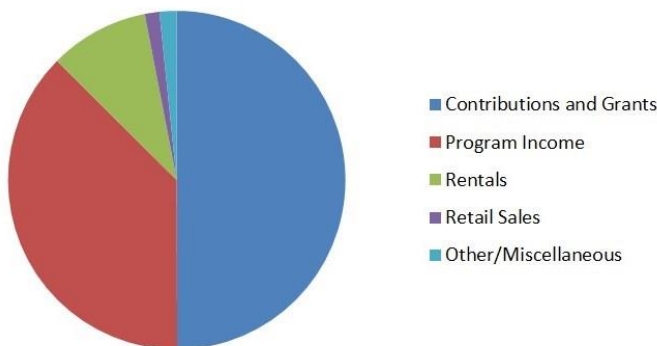
<b>Net profit or (loss)</b>	<b>\$1,104.00</b>
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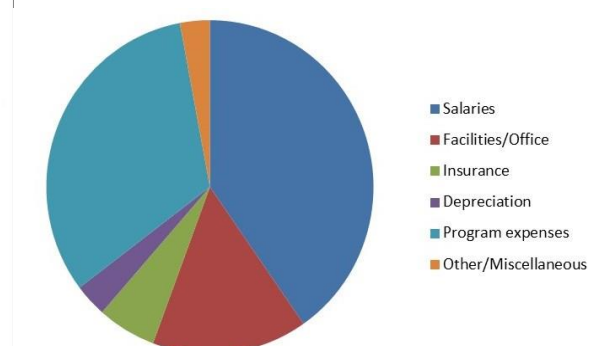
### Balance Sheet

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Beginning of Year</u>	<u>End of Year</u>
Total Assets:	\$297,941.00	\$303,358.00
Total Liabilities:	\$15,205.00	\$9,019.00
Net Assets:	\$282,736.00	\$294,339.00

### Income



### Expenses



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS / STAFF

## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Maria Terres** (President) – Musician, Educator

**Catherine Baer** (Vice-President) – Children’s Librarian

**Adam Helt-Baldwin** (Treasurer) – Construction Manager, Habitat for Humanity

**Martha Tyner** (Secretary) – Retired Office Coordinator, Musician

**Scott Lind** – Senior Electrical Engineer

**Eric Seaberg** – Non-profit Campus Ministry Specialist

**Tamara Funk** – Curator of Interpretation and Collections, Pendarvis

**Hank Kulesza** – Retired, Gordon Flesch Company

## 2019 STAFF



**Terri Van Orman** – Executive Director

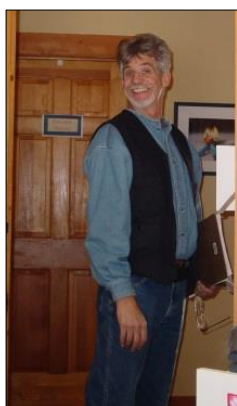
**Becky Rehl** – Office Manager

**Sallie Anna Steiner** – Program Manager

**Marlene Cordes** – Rental Coordinator

**Jim Tredinnick** – Grounds & Maintenance

**Wendy Frances** – Volunteer Groundskeeper



### In Memory

(Left) Douglas Miller

July 20, 1951 – November 7, 2019

Folklore Village Executive Director  
from 1991 – 2011

(Right) Dan Knutson

May 23, 1949 – April 3, 2020

Folklore Village Groundskeeper  
from 2014 - 2019



### Adieu

And we bid a fond farewell to Meghan Duple who served Folklore Village for 8 years, taking care of our many programs. We wish her well in her new position as Recreation Director for the City of Dodgeville – Congratulations!

