



Membership Drive 2017

The membership of the Hibbing Historical Society grew in leaps and bounds during 2016, adding 45 new members. Please consider renewing your membership at this time. If you can encourage a friend or relative to join, we can continue to grow.

Membership in the Society includes admission to the museum and exclusive invitations to the opening of exhibits and other special activities. It also includes a \$5 discount off of your first photo reproduction from the collection. As a member, you may also nominate people for the Hall of Service.

The best part of joining the Society is that you will never be required to attend a monthly meeting. We simply provide you with an opportunity to participate in fun and exciting activities with like-minded people.

The Aubin Collection

As some of you may know, the children of Paul Aubin, Jr. have generously donated the photo collection of their father and their grandfather to the Hibbing Historical Society. This is an extensive collection that visually portrays the history of Hibbing. Once the entire collection has been received, Erica will accession each item. There are thousands of photos and negatives in this collection and the process of entering them into the museum's database will be quite lengthy. Therefore, we are unable to give an exact date as to when the photos will be available for viewing by members of the Hibbing Historical Society and then by the public. Stay tuned...



Event Schedule 2017

Mark your calendars so that you can attend the following events:

May 5th: Annual Spring Event

Please note this is a Friday night. (Previously, this event was held on Saturday nights.)

August: Hibbing's Birthday Party (date to be announced)

October 21st: Fall Membership Luncheon and Exhibit Opening

November: Give to the Max (date to be announced)

December 8th: Christmas Open House

Christmas Open House

The second annual Christmas Open House was held on Friday, December 9th. This year's theme was Christmas Around the World. A number of Santa figurines from the extensive collection of Jan Carey were displayed around the museum. Jan and her brother began exchanging them years ago and Jan's collection now numbers over 500! A contest was held to see who could come up with the exact number of figures placed in the museum. Kelle Degnan was the winner with the correct number of 23.

Guest author Mary Casanova held a book signing that afternoon. Ms. Casanova lives in Ranier, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. She has written more than 30 books for young readers, from picture books to novels, and has won two Minnesota Book Awards.

In addition to the Santa figurines on display and the book signing, the new exhibit celebrating the history of the Hibbing Fire Department, tasty holiday treats and door prizes enticed 75 visitors to spend a festive time at the museum. See the insert for Fio's Wild Rice dip recipe!



Tribute to Service

The museum recently received an email from James A. Hovda, First Sergeant, United States Army (Retired) paying tribute to Hibbingite Sam Povich (11/1/23–12/16/16). The following is a condensation of the full email. If you would like the complete story, please contact the Hibbing Historical Society.

With WWII well underway, Sam entered the Army in 1942, as he wanted to be a part of the liberating force that would win the war.

Sam completed basic training and volunteered for the Airborne Division. Only the toughest soldiers in the Army would survive this training and Private Povich did, earning his silver jump wings. He was then assigned to the 517th Airborne Regiment which landed and fought through Italy. Sam then made a combat parachute jump into La Ciloat, France on August 15, 1944. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge where snow, mud and “lots of Germans” were his constant companions. Sam met his lovely and supportive wife, Irene, when he stayed in Germany with the occupation army.



Photo courtesy Hibbing Tribune

Promoted to Sergeant, Sam distinguished himself once again—this time in the Korean War. Sam went on to train young airborne special forces soldiers headed to Viet Nam, one of whom was James A. Hovda. Hovda returned from Viet Nam convinced that the training he received from Sam Povich helped keep him out of harm’s way. Sam Povich was promoted to Sergeant Major (E-9) and would spend more than twenty years in Special Forces and the Special Operations part of the Army.

Sergeant Major Sam Povich’s awards include, but are not limited to:

Bronze Star medal W/1OLC
Purple Heart
Meritorious Service Medal
Air Medal
Good Conduct Medal

8 Overseas Bars
Army Commendation Medal W/1OLC
Korean Service Medal
Vietnam Service medal
Master Parachute Badge/Special Forces Tab

We thank James Hovda for bringing this story to our attention.

Officer Spotlight

Linda Suihkonen is a board member for the Hibbing Historical Society. She became interested in the Society when her niece, Erica Larson, became the curator. During summers off from her position as Librarian/Media Specialist, Linda spent one day a week volunteering at the museum. Once she retired in 2014, she was able to volunteer year round and became involved in event planning for the Society, helping with the newsletter and various other tasks.



Born and raised in Hibbing, Linda went to Greenhaven Elementary School and is a graduate of Hibbing High School's largest class—1971. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. She also received licensure as a Media Specialist from the College of St. Scholastica. She spent 29 years as a Librarian for the Hibbing School District, the last 10 years were spent at the High School. She quickly learned that she needed to add "tour guide" to her job description.

Linda loves being retired. She now has the time to enjoy snowshoeing, biking, kayaking, gardening, scrapbooking and reading. She also looks forward to taking her three year old nephew to Story Hour at the Public Library every week. Linda is married to Carol "Max" DeJarlais. They hope to spend lots of time at the cabin this summer catching crappies.

Locations Project

We are pleased to announce that the Locations Project is moving forward. A survey has been created to allow those who lived in the various mining locations to share their memories. This information will be added to a database and be accessible to others. Thank you to the following people who have already so generously filled out a survey:

Barbara Booren
Verna Deger
Dionilla Genise
Mary Ann Kokotovich
Georgia McMains
Stephanie Willberg

If you would like to share your unique memories, photos and other memorabilia about life in a mining location, you may stop by the museum to pick up a survey. Or you may call the museum at: 263-8522 and one can be mailed to you.