

Contact Information:

Lake County Historical Society
Scott Hudnall
219-662-3975
lakecountymuseum@gmail.com



Lake County Historical Society
Community History Since 1875

Release Date:

6-12-23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake County Historical Society appoints new Executive Director and Historian

Crown Point, IN - The Lake County Historical Society, an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people with the stories of our community, is pleased to announce two executive appointments. Diane Gora, a member of the Society's Board of Directors, has dually been named Executive Director, and Jeanene Letcher, Board Vice President, now serves as the organization's Historian as well.

As executive director, Gora will be responsible for the daily operations of the Society's museum located on the second floor of the old Court House on the Crown Point square. Her duties will include operational management, strategic planning, and development. Additionally, she will manage the historical museum's collection and the volunteer staff who care for it.

"I look forward to building upon the momentum of the Fresh New Start initiative that the board implemented last fall," shared Gora. "I am excited to volunteer with this team of talented and dedicated individuals who are serving the Crown Point and broader Lake County community." Gora is well-suited for the position as she brings more than 15 years of experience in managerial positions in the healthcare industry and will utilize her skills to lead the Society.

Letcher's position as Indiana Room Specialist at the Crown Point Library uniquely qualifies her to accept her new volunteer tasks. As the Society's historian, she will conduct historical research, develop exhibit narratives, and present the stories of the community, county and region. "My passion for history inspires me and enhances my ability to uncover a well-rounded understanding of the past," explained Letcher. "I enjoy unraveling the details and demonstrating relevance for modern audiences."

The Society has been preserving Lake County history since its founding as The Old Settlers Association in 1875. Letcher will carry the torch of Timothy Ball, the first historical secretary of the organization. "As we prepare for our 150th anniversary in 2025, we are refining how we display artifacts in the museum," said Letcher. "Imagine our delight when we realized that Timothy Ball's rocking chair was hidden behind an assortment of artifacts. We will design new interpretive elements to share his story alongside his personal items."

According to Scott Hudnall, Society Board President, the Fresh New Start initiative launched in 2022 was an opportunity to recruit diverse, new members to the board. "We have assembled an amazing, well-qualified team in such a short time," stated Hudnall. "There's been so much progress made. I am looking forward to seeing how Diane unites our efforts to tell the stories of

our community better and display the artifacts with more sophistication than we have done in the past. Things are changing, and it's an exciting time to share our history."

The Lake County Historical Museum is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 pm and by special appointment. Learn more, including how to volunteer, online at lchsmuseum.org

The Lake County Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, was established in 1875 and has operated its museum situated within the historic Old Lake Court House in Crown Point since 1982. The building itself is maintained by a separate entity, the Lake Court House Foundation. The Society was chartered to preserve the history of the pioneers and first settlers of the county by a group of citizens that included Lake County's first historian, Timothy H. Ball.