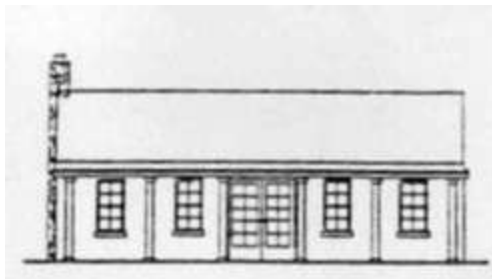


2013
ANNUAL REPORT
MILITARY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013



*Preserving & Telling the “Story” of
Minnesota’s Veterans*

December 31, 2013

To the Reader:

Thank you for taking the time to review the annual report of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM). The MHSM is a small non-profit with a dedicated board of directors who are passionate about the mission of the organization. Our mission is vital and pertinent not only to our organization, but to every man, woman, and child who values the freedoms our country has to offer and the sacrifices made to obtain those freedoms.

The primary purpose of the MHSM is to provide support and management for the Minnesota Military Museum located at Camp Ripley, the largest state owned military training facility in the U.S. It is at the museum where the “story” of Minnesota’s military veterans is told and visitors learn about the sacrifices made to obtain the freedoms they enjoy every day.

The Minnesota Military Museum is one of the finest small military museums in the country. We have a dedicated staff and volunteers who take pride in the mission of the organization. Providing for and meeting the needs of currently serving military, veterans, as well as other visitors from Minnesota and across the country remains our primary goal.

We hope this annual report provides you with a synopsis of what we do, who we serve, how we are financed, and what we have accomplished during this past year.

If you found this report on our website, thank you for visiting; if you are reading this report in another format and would like to learn more about our organization, please visit us at www.mnmilitarymuseum.org

Sincerely

Jeff Thielen
Executive Director

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Background & 2013 Highlights

- The Minnesota Military Museum was established at Camp Ripley in 1976. It is operated in public trust by the Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM), an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 educational corporation organized for the purpose of interpreting and preserving Minnesota's military history. The museum is the Society's principal activity. In 2013 the museum focused on becoming more of a resource for Veterans and increasing Veteran awareness of the museum. The museum was also fortunate to be able to hire an archivist to deal with a sizable archival collection. The museum finished phase 1 of a project to inventory the collection and computerize the records for all artifacts in the museum, which now number nearly 100,000. The library received a collection of 2000 books on Vietnam which will increase our library holdings to over 12,000 items.

Working partnerships

- The museum is recognized by the U.S. Army as an official National Guard museum, which enables it to acquire and display historical federal property of a military nature. The Society works closely with the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs and Camp Ripley. They provide the buildings, cover utilities, and take care of general maintenance and repair around the museum. They also help plan and assist with special capital improvements funded by the Legislature. The Minnesota Historical Society was instrumental in organizing the MHSM. They transferred "start-up" artifacts to the museum (mostly weapons), and gave early staff support. They continue to serve as our fiscal agent for biennial legislative funding, refer potential artifact donors to us, and provides curatorial advice.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM) operates the Minnesota Military Museum in order to provide education and training on the role played by Minnesotans who have served in the armed forces. The museum is also a major repository in Minnesota for military artifacts and records. We believe it is important to:

- *Strengthen public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience;
- * Identify, document, preserve, and depict the stories and contributions of Minnesotans who served in all branches of service or on the home front -in time of peace and war – from Minnesota’s early frontier years to the present;
- *Acquire artifacts and records from the public and other sources that help us to better tell those stories;
- * Function as an important resource center for the benefit of the general public as well as Minnesota Veterans; and
- * Provide the opportunity for all people to utilize the museum, regardless of ability to pay.

BELIEFS AND PHILOSOPHY



The mission of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota is to educate the public on the service of Minnesota's veterans, to preserve a record of their service through exhibits of the Minnesota Military Museum, and to preserve the artifacts related to their service for future generations.

MISSION STATEMENT



The museum currently utilizes 14 buildings for artifact display & storage and has options to utilize additional buildings as needed.

Outside exhibits include; wheeled vehicles, tracked vehicles, fixed wing and rotary aircraft located around the central exhibit buildings which house Approximately 100,000 artifacts, 12,000 books, and 15,000 photographs.

A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF OUR FACILITY



We serve Veterans living and dead by honoring their memory and preserving their legacy by telling their “Stories” through exhibits at the Minnesota Military Museum.

We serve Veterans organizations and organizations that support Veterans.

WHO DO WE SERVE?



We serve the general public and visitors of all ages from across Minnesota and the Country. We serve schools from across Minnesota and we serve researchers, historians, and vacationers.

Visitors in the photo are members of the State Patrol Youth Recruitment Camp conducted at Camp Ripley every year.

WHO DO WE SERVE?



Attendance at the Museum in 2013 was 9,995. This number was down from averages and reflects a cold wet spring and early summer. It was similar to what was seen by all the local attractions.

Attendance numbers included 92 tours for schools, youth groups, scouts, seniors, bus tours, fraternal organizations, and military and veterans organizations.

Pictured, is one of our volunteer docents, dressed in period clothing & providing a program to adults and boy scouts during our Ice Cream Social

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Boy Scouts



Military & Retired Vets



Who Do We Serve



One of the highlights for 2013 was the hiring of Chad Conrady.

Chad was hired after a nation wide search for an archivist. He becomes the museum's first full time employee.

Chad's position was funded with a 2 year increase in the base appropriation the museum receives from the Minnesota Legislature each biennium.

Chad's mission is to go through the vast holdings in the archival collection, inventory what we have and create the finding aides necessary for researchers to utilize the collection.

He is seen here in the archives.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013, Archivist Hired



In an effort to increase our exposure, the Museum participated in an event sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society at the Minnesota State Capitol .

History Matters Day is designed to share the value of preserving history in the state of Minnesota with our state and legislative leaders.

Executive Director Jeff Thielen, Curator Doug Bekke, Volunteer Librarian Roxanne Backowski and Board V.P for Programs Stephen Osman, staffed the display and shared concerns with state leaders.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013, History Matters, St Capitol Rotunda



An ice cream social and book sale was held in July on a beautiful Summer evening.

Local Boy Scouts served burgers and brats, the local Dairy Queen provided free root beer floats and over 200 people participated in this fun event.

Highlights included some of our own re enactors and Air Guard C-130's doing touch and go landings

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013, July Ice Cream Social & Book Sale



**A frequent guest and added attraction
for Museum visitors.**

CAMP RIPLEY *OPEN HOUSE*



Sunday, September 15, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



HEROES OF THE HOMEFRONT CEREMONY



Begins at 1:00 p.m.
All Vets register in Building 1-2
from 12-12:30 p.m.



For more information call
SSG Tim Krouth
at 320-616-2714

FEATURING • Classic Car Show • Inflatable Obstacle Course • Rock Wall Climbing • State Patrol Display • Camp Ripley Environmental Display • Military Museum • HMMV, Tank & Helicopter Display • Food, Beverages & MORE!

2013 Highlights

The Military Museum has become the focal point for large community events at Camp Ripley with displays and activities centered around the museum.

Our door count was over 2500 visitors during the Ripley open house.

Our gift to the public during this open house is Free Admission. It is always a hectic day for staff and volunteers during this biennial event.

A big hit with visitors during the open house was our book and dog tag sales.



2013 Highlights

The museum works closely with local Chambers of Commerce and the local Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the museum and bring new visitors into the area.

Joint efforts this year included a project to coordinate efforts to bring additional bus tours to the area.

The museum hosted a morning coffee event with the local Chamber of Commerce with over 40 Chamber members participating.

Shown here is the Local Chamber Executive Director and Assistant with the Museum Director.



In 2013 we developed a small area honoring veterans in three ways.

1. We honor a “veteran of the month” in a rotating exhibit.
2. We have a “Computer Kiosk” station where veterans are able to obtain information on Veterans Service organizations, medical benefits, and other useful information for Vet’s
3. We have a “Veteran’s Support Wall and data base which allows veterans to hang a gold dog tag on the wall and share their story with visitors and on the world wide web.

This was made possible by a grant from **Veterans 4 Veterans**, a Minnesota organization dedicated to supporting veterans and their families.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013, Veteran’s Corner Established



The Minnesota Military Museum

...where heroes live on.

A long time need and goal of the museum was accomplished in 2013 thanks to a grant from Veterans 4 Veterans.

“Where heroes live on” was developed by DMR Productions of St Cloud, MN.

It was intended to be used as a marketing tool to increase Veterans awareness of the museum.

It was distributed to all Public Access T.V. stations in the state and to all Veteran Service Officers.

It may be viewed on You Tube or our website;
www.mnmilitarymuseum.org

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013, DVD Produced for Museum Use



We value our Staff & Volunteers!

(Museum board members, staff and volunteers at the 2013 annual Volunteer Appreciation banquet) Volunteers provided over 3000 hours of service in 2013

A little Piece of Norway was presented commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Norwegian Exchange program .



A new Howitzer and the crew that put it in place.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013
New Items for the Outside Displays

- Expansion of the volunteer program to provide additional support to our visitors and improve their overall experience at the museum.
- Emphasis on Library and archival resources and expanding the public access to both.
- Completion of a project to inventory and catalogue museum artifacts in a digital format utilizing staff and volunteers.
- Update of current exhibits & development of new exhibits.
- Increase emphasis on marketing of new and expanding exhibits.

PLANS FOR 2014

President of the Board: **Nicholas Ostapenko**-- Attorney w/Johnson, Killen & Seiler, Duluth MN, retired Brigadier General Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG).

V.P. Personnel: **Robert L. Boone**—Retired School Administrator and retired C.S.M MNARNG

V.P. Finance: **Tim Meininger**—V.P. Beacon Bank, Duluth MN, Past President & chair Duluth C of C

V.P. Programs **Stephen E. Osman**—Retired Director Ft Snelling Historic Site, Minnesota Historical Society.

Secretary: **Thomas Chial**— Retired MNARNG.

Member: **Richard Nash**— Major General , Adjutant General , State of Minnesota.

Member: **Lyle C. Doerr**— Retired Sr. Manager Facilities Management & Brigadier General MNARNG

Member: **Doug Hanson**- Radio station General Manager & retired MNARNG Sergeant Major

Member: **Betty Masoner**— Retired Educator

Member: **Jack Johnson**— Retired University of Minnesota Administrator, and retired Major MNARNG

Member: **Frank A. Messina**—Realtor & Owner Messina & Associates, Duluth MN.

Member : **Kurt Stelten**—St. Cloud State University, Director of Develop, Intercollegiate Athletics

Member : **Jon VanderHagen**- Urgent Care doctor and avid history follower.

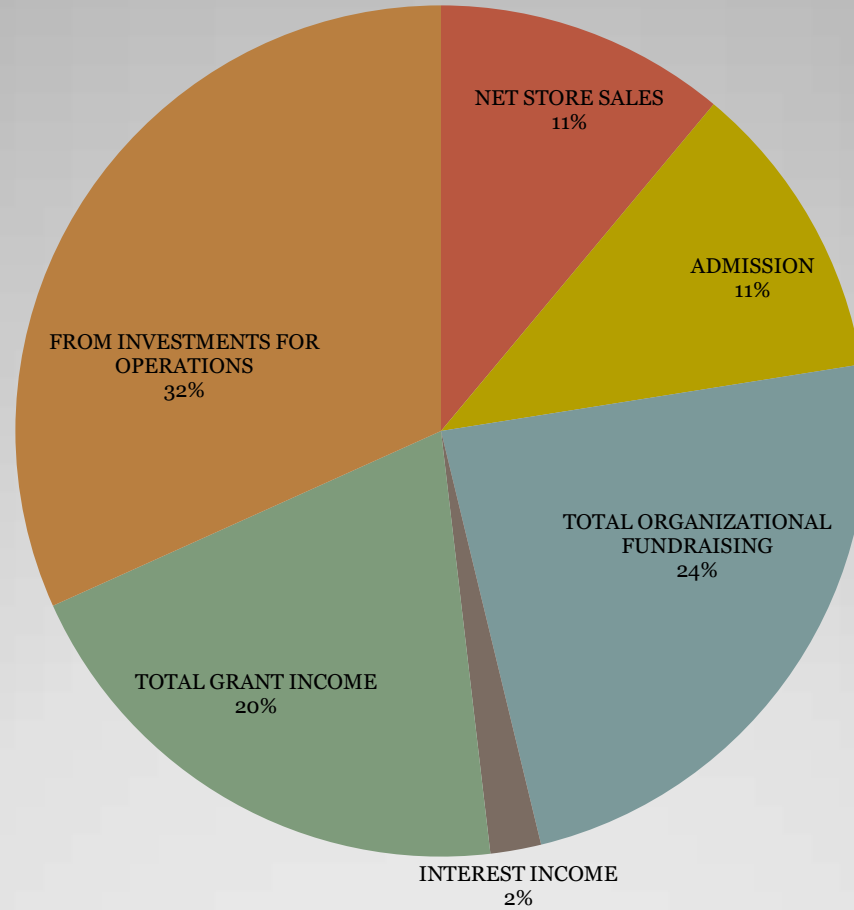
Member: **Paul Monteen**— Law Enforcement Investigator and Instructor

Ex Officio Member: **Doug Bekke, Curator**— Commercial Artist and retired USAR

Ex Officio Member: **Jeff Thielen, Executive Director**— Retired MN DNR Enforcement & MNARNG

Our Board of Directors

2013 Income



Net Store Sales consists of total sales less inventory and sales tax.

Organizational Fundraising includes funds raised by the museum from many sources including individuals, corporate and fraternal organization donations as well as membership dues and donation box income.

Further detail is available upon request. Our IRS Form 990 is also available for review at the National Center for Charitable Statistics website: <http://nccs.urban.org>

Total 2013 Income:
\$193,481.00

Where our money comes from

2013 Expenses

As part of its normal fiscal policy, the museum invests a portion of its revenue every year for future operational costs.

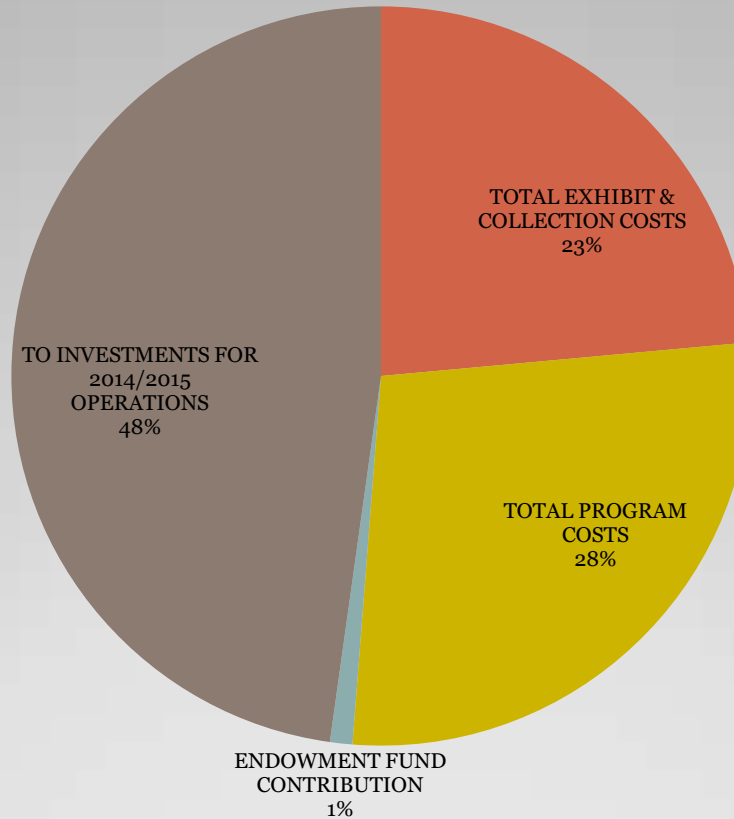


Exhibit & Collection Costs including all expenses associated with acquiring, processing, restoring, preserving and storing artifacts, as well as exhibit development and construction.

Program Costs are the essential costs associated with fulfilling the mission of the organization: to educate the public on the service of Minnesota's veterans. These expenses are primarily incurred from staffing the museum to insure the public has ample opportunities to visit.

Further details available upon request. Our IRS form 990 is also available for review at the National Center for Charitable Statistics Website:
<http://nccs.urban.org>

Total 2013 Expenses:

Where our money goes



**Military Historical Society of Minnesota,
Preserving & Telling Their Story.**

Minnesota Military Museum, 15000 Highway 115, Little Falls MN 56345

Phone: 320-616-6050 Fax: 320-632-7797

www.mnmilitarymuseum.org & connect@mnmilitarymuseum.org