



Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Newsletter

February 2012

Quick Links

sandhillsjourney.com

Welcome January NEW MEMBERS!

Newberry's Common Ground Alliance
Nebraska's Junk Jaunt
Bow Booterie-Broken Bow
Redman's Shoes-Alliance
Jerry's Western Warehouse Alliance
Kerry's Grocery-Dannebrog
Pawnee Arts Center
Dannebrog

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President's Corner-

I would personally like to welcome each of our newly elected 2012 Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Officers and Board of Directors and join me in thanking our outgoing volunteers for their service.

Our Annual Meeting held at the Cairo Community Center on January 21 was great. We had a good group of attendees and the workshops were very informative. This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the byway and to network with the good people who attend.

We have begun planning for 2012 and one of the first items seems to be, "Where will the monthly meetings be held?" Our February meeting is sometimes held by polycom, but support for this has been discontinued. So, we will adapt and **hold our February 8th meeting at 1:00PM via Conference Call - Toll Free 866-657-8241 - Pass Code 4751659#**. If your community is interested in hosting a meeting, please contact me immediately.

We have several items pending and they will become our priority. We would like to hear your ideas and thoughts and invite all of our members to share in moving our byway forward.

I will look forward to our meeting in February and make your plans now to be a part of the Polar

Bear Tank Race on March 2 & 3.
See you soon.
Jeanne Davis

Byway Presents Awards, Elects New Officers SJSB Annual Meeting & Banquet a Success in Cairo

The Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway held its annual meeting and banquet on January 21st in Cairo. Bill Hegers, the mayor of Cairo, presented opening remarks to over 30 attendees at the Cairo Community Center and Roots Museum.

The annual meeting kicked off the event and the organization elected new officers and several new board members. Jeanne Davis of Hyannis is the new SJSB President, Terri Licking of Thedford is the secretary and Marlene VanDiest of Dunning is the treasurer. The vice president's term was not up this year so the office continues to be held by Sharon Hughes of Grand Island. Chard Hirsch of Broken Bow will remain the historian.

New board members are, Tom Witt of Thedford, Twila Phillips of Mullen and Walt Sorenson of Cairo. They will join current board members, Mitch Glidden, Dixie Nelson, Becci Thomas and the officers are also members of the board.

Randy Cantrell of the UNL Rural Initiative gave a wonderful presentation on the traveler and resident survey data that was collected by the SJSB last year. Cantrell stated that overall ratings of the Byway were very positive. The Byway will release a more in-depth story on his findings at a later date.

Dr. Jean Lukesh of Palmer, Nebraska presented a workshop on Native American History along the Byway and Renee Seifert, director of the Grand Island/Hall County Convention and Visitors Bureau, gave an informative session on partnering and other tourism tips.

The award winning Cedar Hills Vineyards of Ravenna, provided a wine tasting prior to the banquet.

The luncheon and banquet was catered by "Aces and Eights" of Cairo and following the evening meal, outgoing President, Tom Witt, gave a presentation on the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway's Top Ten accomplishments.

Mary Jo Oie, the Nebraska Department of Roads Byway Coordinator, spoke to the group about how to positively affect those you work with and gave tourism advice as well.

Ken Harder of Cairo, showed a film that he helped produce entitled, "Cairo, A Community's Determination and Outcome". This is an excellent documentary and was well received by conference goers.



Every year the SJSB gives awards to those who have a positive influence in the Byway and its vision and mission. The "Byway Enhancement Award" was presented to the community of Cairo for their exemplary efforts in Main Street beautification, the historic mural, their enhancement of the Roots Museum and Community Center and being the impressive keystone of the Annual Junk Jaunt Event.



"The SJSB Business of the Year" was awarded to Connie Francis, Extension Educator with the Nebraska Rural Initiative-University of Nebraska in Kearney. Francis has been an invaluable partner with the SJSB acting as a consultant and offering valued service to the Byway for many years. .



Outgoing secretary, Helen White of Thedford, was awarded the "SJSB Friend of the Byway" award. White offered many years of service to the SJSB and did a great job of being the secretary of the organization for 2 two-year terms. White has been very supportive of the Byway for many years and volunteered her time for many projects and events hosted by the Byway.

The Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway is grass roots organization dedicated to conserving and promoting the natural, cultural, historical, recreational and scenic qualities along the Byway. For more information visit: www.sandhillsjourney.com

Member Spotlight
Cedar Hills Vineyard, Winery & Tasting Room
Ravenna



Located just 35 minutes from Grand Island or Kearney sits a Nebraska treasure known as the Cedar Hills Vineyard. This award winning vineyard has much more to offer than wine. They raise an extensive variety of berries and produce a line of elderberry juice, syrup and jelly. The facility sports a rustic arbor where you can enjoy their fine wine with a great view of the South Loup River. Owners, Paul & Joyce Sears, offer a luncheon or a 5 course evening meal by reservation only and host many private parties. Cedar Hills also has a brand new guest quarters that accomodates 4 guests and contains living, dining, bedroom, full bath and kitchen. Check their website at: Cedar Hills Vineyard for directions, times & menus.

- [Facilitator Monthly Report](#)
- [Facilitator Quarterly Report](#)
- [January meeting minutes](#)

Please click on these links for the Facilitator reports and the minutes of the January meeting. Thank you!

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