

**Avon Historical Society  
Annual Meeting  
April 22, 2009  
President's Report**

**BRAND NEW WEBSITE!!!! [www.avonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.avonhistoricalsociety.org)**

***AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION: to identify, collect, preserve, utilize, publish, display, promote and preserve the history and heritage of Avon.***

*(approved by the AHS Board, Jan. 10, 2001)*

**PROPERTIES:**

Living Museum – Maintains and stores archival collection of the Society. On display are items representing life in 1830 when the town was named. Also contains history of the Farmington Canal. Activities in 2008/9 included the submission of a grant to the Country School Association of America to repair and restore the windows. Grant was not awarded. The Avon Lions Club will paint the fence on Route 44 this spring. Monthly meetings of the Society are held there on the second Wednesday's of every month at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Pine Grove Schoolhouse – Our most visited property, it is set up as a schoolhouse at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Activities in 2008/9 included a lead paint evaluation on the exterior of the building and subsequent request to the town of Avon for funding to remediation. The Society has raised funds to paint the exterior after the remediation. This is scheduled to be done before end of 2009. The sign has been replaced after being run down by an unknown large vehicle for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in two years! There is a side door that needs to be replaced; property behind the schoolhouse cleaned up and inspection of the privy done to ascertain its value and need. Once all this is completed, the Society will apply to the Country School Association of America for national recognition.

Derrin House – After more than 15 years of volunteer labor and donated materials, the first floor MAY be opened this summer on a limited basis. The Board is anticipating an event surrounding that "soft opening" for late in the summer – stay tuned!

**MEMBERSHIP/MARKETING:**

Thanks to the many hours of efforts by Board member Peter Wright, we have a new website! Peter is always open to suggestions for its continued development. THANKS PETER! The Society has purchased new items to add to the "store" on line. We hope this will boost revenues as well as show our growth encouraging others to join.

**FUNDRAISING:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cow Chip Raffle will take place on Saturday, October 17 at 2pm at the Simmons Family Farm on Tillotson Road. Mary Harrop and Sharon Genovese are chairpersons. Tickets will be available for purchase on July 20th.

#### **UPDATE SINCE LAST ANNUAL MEETING:**

1. The Board held 2 planning sessions to better organize activities and duties
2. The Board hosted meetings with the CT Preservation Society and the Greater Hartford Arts Council to learn about how we can interact with their projects and programs.
3. A survey of barns in Avon has begun. Liz Neff is coordinating that effort.
4. The Society co-sponsored several events with the Library – Searching your Family's History through the U.S. Department of the Archives; Life and Painting of Norman Rockwell; Treasures in your Attic: Old and Rare Books
5. A local Eagle Scout project produced a kiosk on the building and years that the "new" Towpath School was open from 1948 until it was demolished in 2006. The kiosk is at Sperry Park by the batting cages near the Farmington Valley Trail.
6. The "A is for Avon" book for children is being reprinted (the 1979 original) and a new one written by author and teacher Jan Brennan on a grant from the Avon Education Foundation. The Society will assist in distributing the books scheduled to be ready for Avon Day this fall.
7. We expect to have a series of postcards available for sale by summer. The selection of the photos, new and old, are under discussion right now. We have requests by area merchants and the Farmington Valley Visitors Association to sell them.

#### **SAMPLE OF PROJECTS/GOALS FOR 2009-2010:**

1. Coordinate a project with the sophomore class at Avon High for their civic virtue credit.
2. Have a few more Board planning sessions to keep the activity of the Society on track and focused.
3. Create a schedule of events for fall 2009 and 2010 that will focus on our mission.
4. Soft opening of the Derrin House in Summer of 2009 with plans for full opening Summer of 2010.
5. **SUCCESSFUL COW CHIP RAFFLE on October 17<sup>th</sup>.**
6. Strong participation in the Avon Day on September 26<sup>th</sup>
7. Co-sponsor of genealogy event at Avon Library in the late fall.
8. Continued growth and marketing of the new Society website and selling of merchandise via the site.

If you have any questions, please call Terri Wilson at 674-9752.