

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News Release

Brent Peterson, WCHS Executive Director
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WCHS Elects Three New People to Join the Board of Directors



Left to right: Joe Otte, Scott Schell & Mark Balay stand by the historic horse trough in front of the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater.

At the annual membership meeting of the Washington County Historical Society held in March, the membership elected three new board members and one returning member to their board.

The three new members are Mark Balay of Stillwater; Scott Schell of Stillwater and Joe Otte of St. Paul. David Williamson, of Forest Lake, was re-elected to another three year term.

Balay is a well known architect in Stillwater and has been a long time member of the Historical Society. He has participated on several committees and was for a number of years the coordinator of the Stillwater Historic House tour.

Schell has worked for the city of Stillwater for more than 25 years. His passion is music and he has played in various local bands over the past three decades. Schell served on the

board for the Apple Jamm, which promoted concerts in Wisconsin over the Memorial Day weekend. He is also the author of the recently published book, "Garage Sounds: Bringing Down the House," which is now in its second printing.

Otte works for Wenck Corporation in Oakdale and has a "passion for history." He has owned progressively older homes and is fascinated by the evolution in construction materials and techniques. In the past Otte has served on the board of the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium, now called Eureka.

Williamson is retired from General Electric after 33 years having held positions as Manager of Steam Turbine Engineering and as Senior Lead Field Engineer installing power generating equipment in power stations. Since retiring Williamson has been active doing volunteer work and as president of his home owners association, vice president/treasurer of Flight Line Enterprises, and the vice president of the Washington County Historical Society Board of Directors.

"These new board members bring a lot of excitement to the organization," said Brent Peterson, WCHS Executive Director, "they have the background and the enthusiasm that has been missing and we look forward to some great things in the near future for WCHS."

Washington County Historical Society collects, preserves, and disseminates the history of the county and the state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 750 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org.