

# Willkommen

## AGENDA

Annual Membership Meeting - Gillespie County Historical Society  
312 W. San Antonio Street  
Saturday, January 27, 2024  
9 – 11 a.m.

9 a.m. Light breakfast and fellowship

10 a.m. Business meeting

- I. Call to Order Jim Wilhite, president
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Election for Board of Directors  
  
Diana Armbrust for 2nd three-year term (2024-2026)  
Jim Wilhite for 2nd three-year term (2024-2026)
- IV. Recognition of Retiring Board Member  
Caroline Eidson (2020-2023)
- V. Introduction of 2024 Board of Directors
- VI. Introduction of Executive Director
- VII. Executive Director's Report Monte Marshall
- VIII. Closing Remarks Jim Wilhite, president
- VIII. Adjournment

11 a.m. Members invited to tour the Pioneer Museum



# Board of Directors

Jim Wilhite, President

Diana Armbrust , 1st Vice President

Harry Scharold, 2nd Vice President

Carl Luckenbach, Secretary

Steven Langehennig, Treasurer

Randy Briley

Jan Cox Dwyer

Ken Kattner

Brad Kott

Mona Knopp

Judy Luckenbach

Becky Reeves

Donna Sanders

Brandon Weinheimer

Monte Marshall, Executive Director GCHS/Pioneer Museum

Heather McCarver, Director of Operations GCHS/Pioneer Museum



## Gillespie County Historical Society Has Been Formed

Its Purposes Are Building Of  
A Pioneer Memorial And  
Collection for Museum.

It is well known that the building under construction on the Market Square of our city, is to be dedicated to the pioneers of Gillespie County—those courageous and determined people who conquered the wilderness and built our town and county. The descendants of these people and others interested in the historic background of our county are happy in the realization of a memorial in honor of the early settlers, a monument which will gladden the hearts of the older people and inspire future generations. The memorial will be a museum in which will be displayed the relics of pioneer life in Gillespie County.

To organize the work connected with the memorial a mass meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, January 26, at which plans were presented for the organization of the Gillespie County Historical Society, and a temporary organization was effected, with the election of a board of twelve directors, namely, Rev. G. C. Brannies, Rev. A. Koerner, Mrs. E. H. Riley, Mrs. W. H. Schaefer, B. L. Enderle, O. H. Burgdorf, Hugo Kallenberg, Mrs. I. G. Wehmeyer, Mrs. Victor Keldel, M. Gerhardt, Lee Klehne and Miss Julia Estill.

At the directors' meeting which followed, Rev. G. C. Brannies was elected president, Lee Klehne vice president, O. H. Burgdorf secretary treasurer, Rev. A. Koerner, Hugo Kallenberg, and Mrs. Victor Keldel were named trustees. A publicity committee consisting of Mrs. H. H. Sagebiel, Miss Julia Estill, Mrs. I. G. Wehmeyer, Miss Esther Mueller was appointed.

The purposes of the Gillespie County Historical Society are the building of the pioneer memorial and the collection and maintenance of a museum and library therein.

To finance this undertaking a countywide drive will be launched. Anyone contributing to this project now will become a charter member of the Historical Society and will receive a membership card when the organization of the society is perfected. Hugo Kallenberg, A. H. Kneese and Miss Gertrude Wehmeyer were appointed to work out a plan for soliciting members in the rural communities of the county.

The idea of a pioneer memorial has long been in the minds of our people. Now that we are so near to the fulfillment of this dream, let every one do his part in making the undertaking a success by working for it with enthusiasm.

## Executive Director's Report 2024 Annual Membership Meeting



# Mission Statement

To teach current and future generations the history, culture, and traditions of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County for the advancement of knowledge and preservation of our proud heritage.



# 2023: A Year of Transitions

❖ Executive Director position

❖ Resignation of part-time Volunteer and Museum Programs Coordinator

❖ 2 staff positions transitioned from part-time to full-time

❖ 3 new service providers (Bookkeeping, IT, Web Site)



# Admissions

<b>2023</b>	<b>21,370</b>	<b>\$180,697</b>
2022	29,810*	\$157,313+
2021	29,945	\$155,211

\*175th Founders Day Celebration  
with 3,503 free admissions

+Admission Structure Changed in  
September 2022 to Day Pass structure  
good for all locations



*Willkommen!*

Day Pass Includes Entrance to:

- ◆ Pioneer Museum
- ◆ Vereins Kirche Museum
- ◆ Historic Jail (when open for programs)

## ADMISSION FEES FOR DAY PASS

General Admission \$12.00

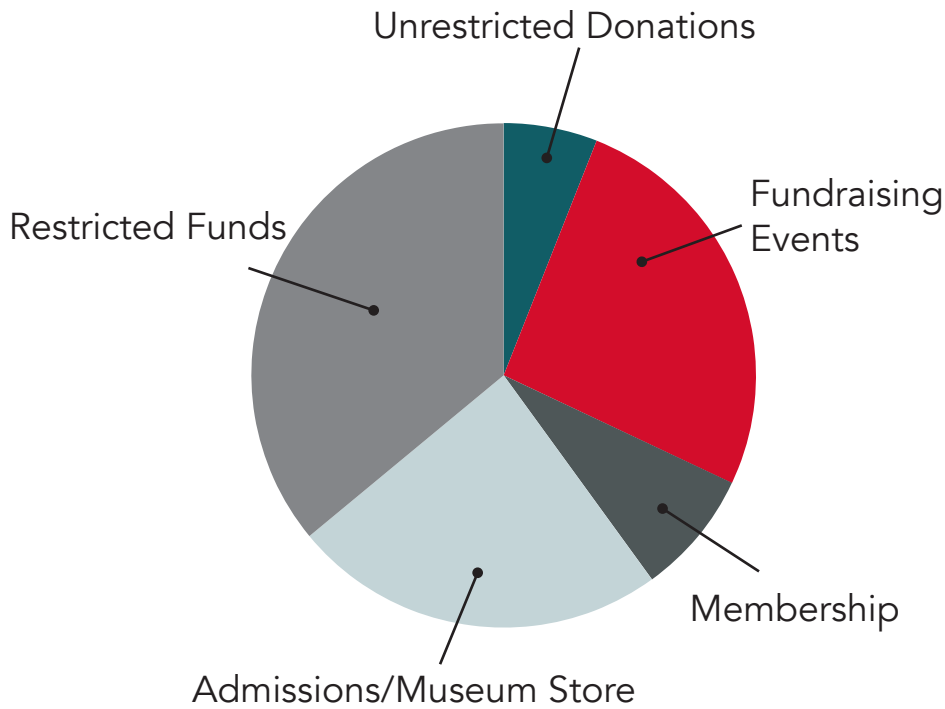
Military and Senior \$7.00

Student \$5.00

Children age 5 and under Free



# Revenue



## Grants, Donations, Fundraisers

	2022	2023
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>		
Donations	\$146,009	\$58,794
Events	\$486,263	\$533,476
Private Grants	\$43,200	\$104,000
<b>RESTRICTED</b>		
Donations	00	\$100,000
City HOT	\$100,000	\$100,000
County HOT	\$25,000	\$30,000
Private Grants	\$5,000	\$30,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$805,472</b>	<b>\$959,270</b>

2023 Unrestricted Operating Budget: Revenue exceeded expenses by \$119,130.



# Membership & Fundraising

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

**COUPLE MEMBERSHIP**

325 W

**BILLESPIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Last Name  
 First Name(s)  
 Expires

325 W Main St. • Fredericksburg, TX 78624 • 830.990.0441



*Guardians*  
OF THE  
*Legacy*

2019	240
2020	231
2021	261
2022	261
<b>2023</b>	<b>244</b>

2017	29
2018	39
2019	44
2020	62
2021	88
2022	95
<b>2023</b>	<b>108* *13 new</b>

## 2024 Challenge

For the first 10 Guardian pledges in 2024, the 1st year's pledge of \$1,000 each will be matched.





# Education & Programs



PROGRAMS	SESSIONS/ EVENTS	PARTICIPANTS	VOLUNTEERS
Guided Tours	9	173 Adults	0
Field Trips	12	762 students/adults	3
Little Pioneers	21	638 children/adults	30
Spring Break	6 days	3,100	47
Easter Egg Hunt	1	450	12
Founders Day	2	459	32
Guest Speakers	2	383	0
21st Century Pioneer Skills	1	20	0
Distance Learning	23	451 students/adults	0
1st Saturday Living History	5	673	57
Educational Outreach	4 visits	275 students/45 adults	0
Kinderfest	1	657 children/adults	14

**WINNER Best Children's Attraction Pioneer Museum**



# Education & Programs - Distance Learning

SCHOOL YEAR	PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATIONS
2022 (began in October)	3	70	in-state & FL
2023	23	417	in-state + NY, FL, NJ, MO



# Education & Programs - Kinderfest

YEAR	ADULTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
2023	394	263	657
2022	154	148	302
2021	94	195	289



# Archives & Collections

## ARCHIVE REQUESTS

2019	126
2020	116
2021	95
2022	94
<b>2023</b>	<b>139</b>

## 2024 Additions to the Collection

15 donations  
including:

- a collection of 200 photos
- 17 pieces of historic clothing including a wedding dress
- Dr. J. Hardin Perry's roll top desk
  - 100 medical textbooks
  - a wicker removal basket from Schaeffer Funeral Home

**1931**

The engine failed on this biplane after it took off from the Gillespie County Fair Grounds just east of the Southwest Granite Company. As a result it landed on top of this power line belonging to the Citizens Light and Power Company. The pilot survived the crash unharmed but was badly shaken by the incident. After sitting on top of this pole for several hours, he was finally rescued. The resulting photo provides a very nice view of the east side of the Southwest Granite Company and the period vehicles driven by onlookers.

Kenneth Kunz, Stonewall 4-Her, and his champion turkeys.

Gillespie County has the oldest race track in Texas. Bands in the balcony frequently entertained between races. This grandstand, part of the third Gillespie County Fairgrounds located at Ufer Street and Highway 16 South was built in 1926 by Stein Lumber Company at a cost of \$7,960.

**1953**

Gillespie County Fair Queen, Jo Ann Striegler

Governor Horatio Teran, Governor of the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico; Fair Queen Gayle Dittmar and at the far right is Gillespie County Fair President, Alex Frantzen who presented the Derby blanket. The horse was owned by M. S. O'Banion and ridden by jockey, J. Cox.

**1953**

Baseball tryouts are being held at the old Gillespie County Fairgrounds. Boys in the dugout looking at the camera are identified as Kermit Friedrich and Clinton Ellebracht.

## A Look Back The Gillespie County Fair

**1957**

Lyndon Johnson, then Senator Johnson

Horse races and baseball at the Gillespie County Fair.



# Volunteers

- Archiving
- Board meetings
- Collections
- Founders Day
- Handworkers
- Home Tour
- Interpretive Docent
- Landscape and Grounds
- Lenz Fest
- Little Pioneers
- Miscellaneous
- Office
- Photo ID
- Spinning Guiled
- Tannenbaum Ball

**255 Volunteers**  
**6442 Volunteer Hours**



## Volunteers with 200+ Hours Reported

Becky Reeves 1,026	Diana Armbrust 488.5
Helen Stringer 1,020.5	Chris Berger 213

**THANKS TO EVERY GCHS VOLUNTEER!**  
**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



# Facilities & Grounds

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

HVAC in curatorial space

New sign for Dambach Bessier House

Interior work on Fassel-Roeder House

Expansion of ADT alarm services

Facilities Agreement with the City of Fredericksburg

Conceptual design & fundraising for Staudt-Jenschke House landscaping

## ONGOING PROJECTS

Restoration of the Staudt-Jenschke House

Landscaping around the Staudt-Jenschke House

Replacement of exterior doors on Vereins Kirche

Maintenance & repairs on historic structures



# Management Highlights

✿ June 26: 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan Review (Board & Staff)

✿ July - September: Implementation of staff planning process

✿ November 2-3: Museum Assessment Program (MAP) visit

✿ Goal: Increase outreach to young people



Rated Four-Star Charity  
by *Charity Navigator*  
with a 96% score for  
*Accountability and Finance*



# 2024: A Look Ahead

- ❖ First year in GCHS history with an operation budget over \$1,000,000
- ❖ Completion of Staudt-Jenschke House
- ❖ Completion of Staudt-Jenschke Landscaping Project
- ❖ Planning for Education and Interpretive Center
- ❖ Revival of Oral History Program
- ❖ Conversational German: Every other Wednesday Hosted by the Pioneer Museum
- ❖ Membership Goals:  
End 2024 with 275 member including 126 Guardians
- ❖ Hiring of a new, full-time Retail Services Manager. We are currently hiring for this position so please, help us get the word out!





# 2024: Coming Up Soon in Education and Programs

- ❁ First Saturday Living History Days
- ❁ Little Pioneers: Quilting  
Saturday, February 17, 10:15 am at the Pioneer Museum
- ❁ Ft. Martin Scott Commemorative Community Event  
March 8-9
- ❁ Spring Break Living History Week  
March 11-16, 10 am - 5 pm at the Pioneer Museum
- ❁ Pioneer Museum Community Easter Egg Hunt, March 30
- ❁ Guest Speaker: Dr. Dan Gelo, Dean on the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, UTSA  
Spring, 2024  
Topic: his new book, "The German Texas Frontier in 1853"
- ❁ Total Solar Eclipse: Pioneer Museum and Vereins Kirche closed
- ❁ Founders Day  
May 8 (Free admission to Pioneer Museum May 4)



# 2024 Scheduled Fundraisers



*Lenz Fest 2024*  
*presents*

“HATS OFF”  
To My ‘Fair’ Lady ... and Gents

April 30, 2024

**HISTORIC**  
**HOME TOUR**  
*Holiday Market*



November 22 - 23, 2024



December 13, 2024



# Pioneer Museum Teams

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Monte Marshall, Executive Director

Heather McCarver, Director of Operations

Caitlin Hoover, Education & Programs Director

Barbara Ford, Membership & Fundraising Director

Carter Robertson, Collections Manager

Mario Garza, Facilities & Grounds Manager

Evelyn Weinheimer, Archivist

Marilee Pankratz, Marketing & Development

## DOCENT TEAM

Debra Anderson

Sandra Davis

Betty Eckert

Sherry Krueger

Irene Mertz

Ella Seale

Eileen Whited

Barbara Zenner

Sarah Walch

## STUDENT WORKERS

Ricky Boyd (2023-2024 Facilities & Grounds)

Clara Quay (2023 Education & Programs)



# Thank you

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