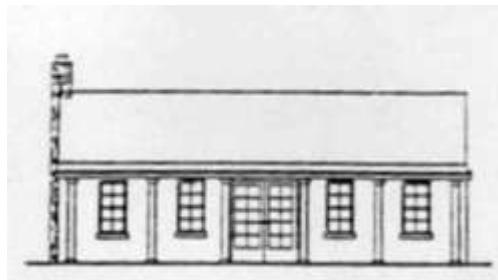


2017
ANNUAL REPORT
MILITARY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017



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

August 1, 2017

The primary purpose of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM) is to provide support and oversight 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. The dedicated staff and volunteers take pride in the mission of the organization and provide for the needs of currently serving military, veterans, and visitors from Minnesota and across the country.

This annual report includes a summary of what we do, who we serve, how we are financed, and significant accomplishments of the past fiscal year (July 2016-June 2017).

This report is available on our website: www.mnmilitarymuseum.org

Randal Dietrich
Executive Director

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

History and Background of the Museum:

The Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM) is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 educational corporation organized in 1976 for the purpose of interpreting and preserving Minnesota's military history. The Minnesota Military Museum (MMM) is the Society's principal activity. The MMM continued efforts to be a resource for veterans and to increase Veteran awareness of the museum by developing a new website and implementing a Veterans Registry allowing veterans to record the story of their military history and by hiring a consultant to assist volunteers open our library to additional veterans and the public.

The museum improved existing exhibits and opened "In the Fight: Minnesota and the First World War" an exhibit commemorating the centennial of the Great War.



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 are committed to:

Strengthening public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience.

Identifying, documenting, preserving, and depicting 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

Acquiring artifacts and records from the public and other sources that help us to better tell those stories

Functioning as an important resource center for the benefit of the general public as well as Minnesota veterans.

Providing 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 be Minnesota's premier educational resource for military history through exhibits and outreach efforts of the Minnesota Military Museum.

MISSION STATEMENT



The museum currently utilizes 15 buildings for artifact display and storage and has options to utilize additional buildings as needed. A new building was recently added to house foreign artillery from both World Wars. New signage was also added.

Outside exhibits include wheeled vehicles, tracked vehicles, fixed wing and rotary aircraft -- located around the central exhibit buildings which house approximately 100,000 artifacts, 14,000 books, and 15,000 photographs.

A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF OUR FACILITY



We serve veterans--both living and deceased--by honoring their memory and preserving their legacy. Their “stories” are told through exhibits and online content of the Minnesota Military Museum. We serve veterans’ organizations, 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?



The Traveling Trunk program continues to be a popular teaching tool and Educational resource for schools, libraries, and other like-minded organizations that want to further public understanding and knowledge of the conflicts our country has been involved in.

A new display exhibiting historically important swords was added to our Civil War Gallery. It has samples of many different types of swords used by the Army and Navy during that conflict.

A series of over 30 hour long programs were made at different libraries around the State. These presentations gave informative talks on how to research family military history, and how to identify and put into historical perspective different military artifacts that attendees were encouraged to bring in for evaluation and identification. We also brought in artifacts and archival materials from our reserve collection to share, as well as to explain their importance to Minnesota's military history.

Who Do We Serve?



Attendance at the museum in FY 2017 was 8,376. Attendance numbers included 74 tours for schools, youth groups, senior citizens, bus tours, and military and veterans' organizations.



A new exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War One opened in 2016. Using original artifacts, historically significant uniforms and colorful graphics, this special exhibit chronicles the role that Minnesota played in the wider global conflict. Several vintage films, as well as a selection of contemporary music are available in the exhibit.

Portions of the archival and library collections were digitized for this as well. The Muster Rolls from WWI and the Honor Rolls from various counties across MN are available digitally through a computer terminal located within the exhibit. In addition, those materials are available through the online portal of MN Reflections.

Highlights for 2016-2017



The museum was honored to receive a major donation of not only State, but of National importance. The family of General John William Vessey Jr. was kind enough to donate the artifacts and archival material of the General. The collection includes uniforms, artwork, books, archival paper items, and many gifts given to the General by representatives of foreign governments. This collection is a massive amount of historically significant items that spans the entire career of General Vessey, from his time serving as a Sergeant in the 34th Infantry Division during World War Two and his battlefield promotion, to his time as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under then President Ronald Reagan.

Several vehicles in our outdoor display received major and minor restorations, including body work and fresh paint.

Highlights for 2016-2017



Certification as an Air Force Museum: In September of 2015 The Minnesota Military Museum received full museum certification by the National Museum of the United States Air Force, making it eligible to receive historic Air Force equipment and aircraft. The goal of the certification is to obtain a C-130 aircraft for display due to frequent usage by these aircraft of the adjacent runway, as is seen by the photo of a C-130 on approach over the museum.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016-2017



A dedicated reading room has been established in the archives. There is now a table for researchers to view the many collections in the archives.

We are in the process of implementing a library system which provides a searchable online database of our library catalogue and manages records and patrons. Dedicated volunteers have spent thousands of hours preparing the collection with labels and barcodes, and entering books into a new database.

Highlights for 2016-2017



Digitization of five films in the Adjutant General's Office Collection and addition of files to MN Reflections. Several of these films relate to the construction of Camp Ripley by the WPA during the 1930s. Also included in these films are scenes of field training and the reviewing of the 59th Field Artillery Brigade also during the 1930s. These films have been added to MN Reflections and are now able to be viewed through their online portal.

Highlights for 2016-2017



We value our Staff & Volunteers!

Museum board members and volunteers at the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation banquet. Volunteers provided over 5000 hours of service in FY 2017

President of the Board: A. Paul Monteen: Retired Law Enforcement administrator
V.P. Personnel: Robert L. Boone: Retired School Administrator and retired C.S.M MNARNG
V.P. Finance: Tim Meininger: Retired Bank V.P. & Past President & chair Duluth C of C
V.P. Programs: Jon Van der Hagen: Emergency Room physician and avid history enthusiast
Secretary: Dean Ascheman: Retired IBM executive and veteran advocate
Member: Richard Nash: Major General, Adjutant General, State of Minnesota
Member: Nicholas Ostapenko: Attorney, & retired Brigadier General, MNARNG
Member: Mark Ritchie: Former Secretary of State, Minnesota
Member: Betty Masoner: Retired Educator
Member: Frank A. Messina: Realtor & owner, Messina & Associates, Duluth, MN
Member: Vern Smith: Retired bank executive
Member: Stephen E. Osman—Retired director Ft Snelling Historic Site, MHS
Member: Larry Herke, COL, Retired, U.S. Army/MNARNG, Dir. of Office of Enterprise Sustainability, State of MN
Member: Harry Wisdom, Jr., LTC, US Army, Retired, veterans advocate
Ex Officio Member: Doug Thompson, Curator
Ex Officio Member: Randal Dietrich, Executive Director

Our Board of Directors



Plans for 2017-2018

Continue to expand the reach and impact of the museum through greater outreach to schools and forge strategic partnerships with related organizations including but not limited to the National WWI Centennial Commission, Minnesota Humanities Center, Twin Cities PBS and more.

Arrange museum resources to align with major anniversaries recognized nationwide:

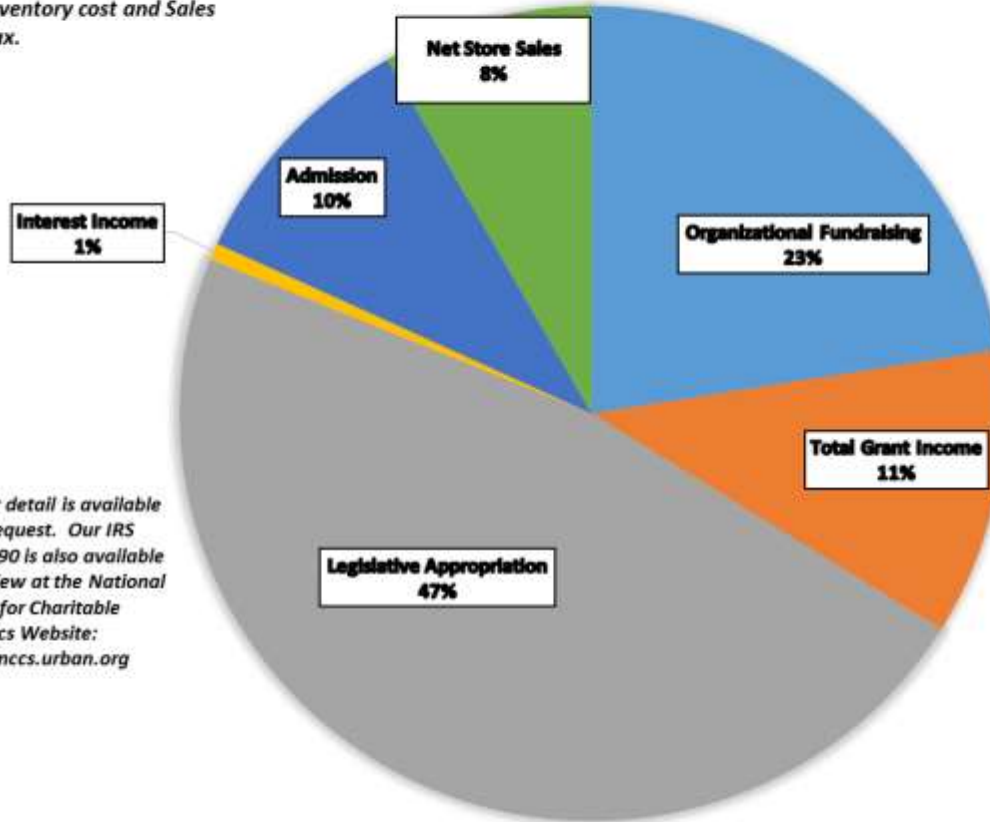
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

100th anniversary of the First World War

100th National Convention of the American Legion (to be held in Minneapolis)

2016-2017 INCOME

Net store sales consists of Total Store sales less Inventory cost and Sales Tax.



Organizational Fundraising includes funds raised by the museum from many sources including 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 2016-2017 Income: \$211,369.00

Where our money comes from

2016-2017 Expenses

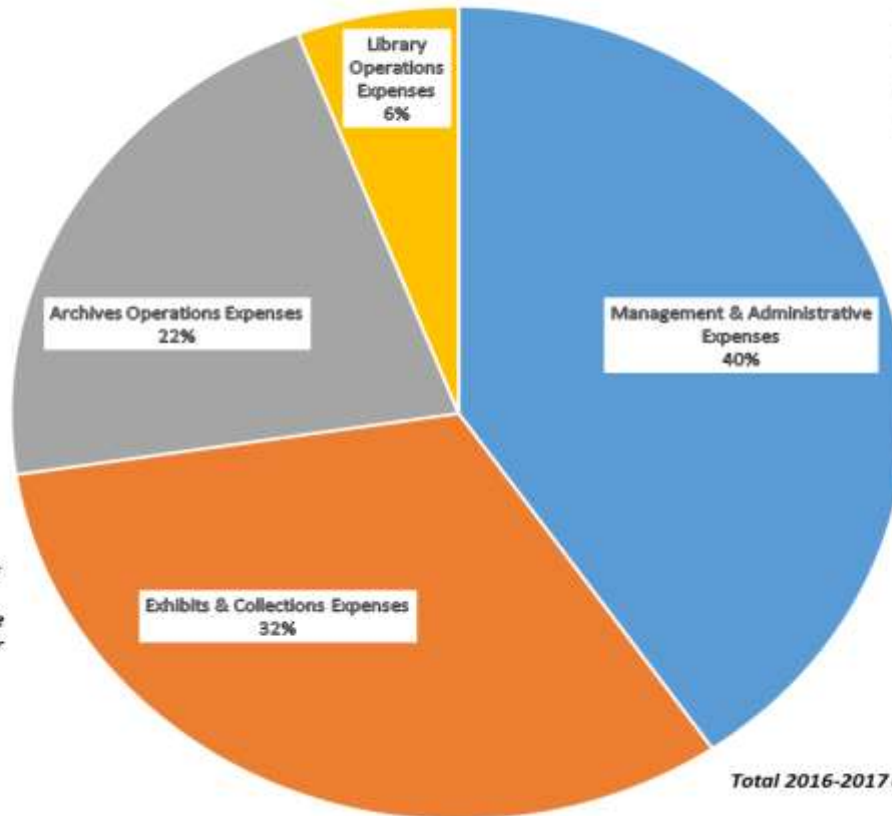


Exhibit and Collection Expenses include all expenses associated with acquiring, processing, restoring, preserving and storing artifacts as well as exhibit development and construction.

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

Total 2016-2017 expenses \$227,477.00

Where our money goes



**Military Historical Society of Minnesota,
Preserving & Telling Minnesota Veterans Stories.**

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Phone: 320-616-6050 Fax: 320-632-4386

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