



Let's start with a summary of some items in the Annual Report presented at the Annual Meeting on Jan 20, 2009. If you want a copy of the complete 15 page report just drop us a line asking for one, please enclose \$1.00 to cover some of the cost, and we will gladly send you one.

#### **Serving our Community**

- 1) Our attendance was up by 10% to 3159 making this the best year since 2001.
- 2) The Mini-Event program of free one hour presentations continued with over 200 attending the 11 events.
- 3) We provided space for several local organization meetings, and storage for materials owned by other non-profits.
- 4) We continued our repair service of antique music machines for the public.
- 5) We appeared at several public events with one or another of our self playing machines.
- 6) The free fourth grade tours were continued with attendance up 20% compared to 2007.
- 7) While not keeping regular hours during the winter, we gave many tours by appointment

#### **Progress on updating the building:**

1) The new elevator installation was completed. Aside from meeting the State requirements this allows us to move any machine between floors. The old elevator was not big enough to hold many of our machines.

2) Removal of the elevator equipment house from the roof as part of the elevator project. This was a major source of heat loss.

3) Establishing electric power to the third floor, including installation of a new electrical panel to give us arc fault protection for the old wiring..

4) Installation of a new electrical panel in the basement. This provides arc fault short circuit protection for the old wiring.

5) Removal of many old lighting fixtures from the basement and updating of the remaining ones. This gives us improved lighting with half the power usage.

6) Renovation of the third floor ballroom to provide a usable performance area, done as a project by the Franklin Rotary Club, with help from DeBence volunteers.

7) Installation of a complete new electrical entrance and power distribution center for the whole building.

8) Much old unusable equipment was removed including the old A/C compressors and blowers

#### **Progress with the collections:**

1) We received a fine radio collection of 36 items from Jim Rila, with dates ranging from 1922 to 1948. Jim's work as a volunteer has also put about 12 of our existing radios and radio/phonographs back in working order.

2) We purchased a 1922 barrel piano with help from member Wally Venable who found it, transported it, and helped pay for it.

We put it back in working order and it is now on our main floor

3) The Aeolian/Duo-Art Grand Reproducing piano donated by Carol Kunz in 2002 was put back in working order by volunteer Ed Bottegal, and is now on the main floor.

4) A Muzelle nickelodeon was donated and put in working order by Dotty and Scotty Greene. It is now in our basement exhibit area.

5) A 1964 Seeburg juke box was donated by the Maslov family, put back into working order, and is now playing in the basement exhibit area.

4) In addition to the above we received over 40 separate items ranging from Reed Organs to radios, all of which are suitable for use in our exhibits.

**The Financial Situation:**

1) Our sustaining membership remained steady at 171. Also helping cover our budget expenses were another 142 persons who chose not to become members.

2) Grants totaling \$52, 596 were received, most being used for building improvements, and some for program support.

3) Utility costs were up for 2008 mainly in the heating area due to the fact that the elevator installation started in January and

required several large holes in the building for over 3 months

3) We generated an operating surplus, but the elevator project used it all, along with our prior years surplus, leaving us a net deficit of \$91,040. In reality this is a good performance when faced with the elevator costs of over \$200,000.

4) As of March 1 we have an outstanding bank loan of \$71,586 at 7.5% interest. Our first financial priority is to pay this off and eliminate the annual \$5369 of interest expense.

5) This year may be financially difficult because of the economy and the effect it may have on our supporters and visitors.

Please consider helping us with our debt reduction efforts. Our future plans do not require getting back into debt, so once this is paid off we can devote our budget to restoring instruments, ongoing programs, and building improvements as we can afford them. Whatever you want to contribute will be gladly received. If those of you not now sustaining members choose to join us as members just let us know and we will send the proper paperwork

Please consider cutting off the bottom portion of this page, filling in the appropriate blanks, and returning your fully tax deductible donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your past interest and we look forward to hearing from you. You may contribute via Visa or MasterCard if you prefer.

**Yes, I'd like to help you out with the debt reduction so instead of paying interest you can pay the heating bill, or improve the collection.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Type (Circle one) M/C or Visa** \_\_\_\_\_ **Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cardholder please sign here** \_\_\_\_\_

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