

# South New Hope Church and Cemetery Association

## Things Accomplished and Things Planned



In this newsletter there will be mention of things that we have accomplished and things that are still in the planning stages. It might be helpful to list some of the things that have been done as well as any associated costs, and those things that are yet to be done and the costs of some of those projects. Some projects are large and not in the immediate future, and others, while expensive, are going to be tackled sooner in a calculated stepwise fashion that will eventually bring SNH to a level where we will be able to supply the most commonly recognized basic amenities required to function in today's world.

**Things accomplished:**

- 501(3)c -Accepted September 27, 2019-Legal Fees: \$625.00
- Accepted to State and Federal Register of Historic Places-Accepted, September 3, 2019

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023, 2:00 P.M.

FOR THE SOUTH NEW HOPE CHURCH AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
AT THE CHURCH | 1410 COUNTY RD. T | AMHERST JCT. | WISCONSIN 54407

### Calendar of Activities - All activities at SNH

- Saturday, May 20, 2023** Workday at the Church and grounds.
- Thursday, June 22, 2023** Sons of Norway Picnic
- Saturday, June 24, 2023** Wedding
- July 4, 2023** 2:00 A.M. Fire Cracker Parade
- August 20, 2023** 2:00 P.M.-Annual Meeting
- October 7, 2023** 11:00 A.M.-12th Annual Pie Social
- December 16, 2023** 10:30 A.M. - Wreaths Across America

Please check our Facebook page for the latest updates of activities at South New Hope or email: [info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org)

Located on Cty Rd T, 1/2 mile north of Hwy 161 at 1410 Cty Rd. T, Amherst Jct., WI 54407  
SouthNewHope.org



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Please feel free to contact any of our trustees

**David Breyhan**  
4812 Toftum Rd.  
Amherst, WI 54406

**Sally Prideaux**  
225 Wilson St.  
Amherst, WI. 54406

**Sharon Ehr**  
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**South New Hope Cemetery Assn.**  
PO Box 62, Nelsonville, WI 54458  
**Email:** [info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org)  
**Website:** [SouthNewHope.org](http://SouthNewHope.org)

### SOUTH NEW HOPE'S MISSION STATEMENT

To restore and preserve the church building, its grounds and cemeteries; to develop historical archives preserving the Norwegian heritage and memories for current and future generations so that all may experience how South New Hope Norwegian Lutheran Church served as the heart of the community.

November 8, 2010

Follow Us:

## HELP WANTED

As an introduction it may serve us well to state our position as the Board of Trustees relative to the present status and what we hope to be the future of South New Hope.

We are acutely aware of the very significant position that South New Hope has occupied in the establishment and development of the Norwegian-American community in Eastern Portage and Western Waupaca counties in the later 19th and most of the 20th Centuries. We are also aware of the tremendous effort that has been made in recent years to restore the church building after its fall into disrepair after closing as an active congregation in the mid-1960's. It is the desire of the Board of Trustees to honor not only the historical significance of South New Hope but to preserve and enhanced the building and grounds, so it will once again be a place of community pride and enlightenment in this region of Central Wisconsin.

With that in mind, we realize that in our busy society, it is often difficult to make long term commitments even to those things in which we have significant interest. Modern research has shown that people are more likely to volunteer for tasks that are relatively short term and are unencumbered by a lot of meetings and other activities that seem only peripherally related to the area of interest. As a result, we have compiled a list of things that generally do not require a large expenditure of time but would significantly reduce the demand on our limited resources of manpower required to cover the variety of tasks needed to keep South New Hope viable.

Here are some of the jobs that can be filled on a "as needed" basis.

1. **Sexton:** A person who is in charge of locating and marking graves when a burial is requested. That person is

also in charge of selling cemetery lots and keeping track of the associated paper work. They may also be required to contact the mortuaries about specific rules that may apply to the cemetery and to also notify the grave excavators should this not be handled by the mortuary. This service may be required 1-6 times per year.

2. **Lawn equipment supervisor:** Duties would include seeing that all lawn equipment such as lawn mowers, trimmers and hand tools are in good operating condition. This may include changing oil and filters and seeing that proper repairs are made by professionals should the repairs required be extensive or excessively complicated.

3. **Program coordinator:** This person will be in charge of finding and scheduling persons who have interesting subjects they can present. This can be anything that is appropriate and of community interest. This person may also have to assist the presenter with setting up audiovisual equipment and introduce the speaker to the audience.

4. **Historical archival researcher:** Duties would include historical research of SNH, the cemeteries, military personnel buried there, important aspects of people buried there and incidents or events that have a bearing on the history of SNH.

5. **Financial Advisor:** Someone who is proficient in money management, investments, operational programs and long-term financial planning.

6. **Construction committee:** Persons knowledgeable in basic construction, building codes and requirements, and have the ability to recruit and work with volunteers.

If any of these activities are something that you have expertise in and would like to share those strengths with the crew at South New Hope, please feel free to call Ardie Stoltenberg at 715-824-7130 or email at [ardieps@wi-net.com](mailto:ardieps@wi-net.com).



## SOUTH NEW HOPE CHURCH AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Yes, I would like to help forever Preserve the SNH heritage and Memories for current and future Generations to enjoy.

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**My Donation of:**  
 \$10,000     \$500  
 \$5,000     \$100  
 \$1,000     Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Is For:**  Church Restoration     Cemetery Upkeep

Please make checks payable to South New Hope Church and Cemetery Assoc.  
South New Hope Church and Cemetery Association  
P.O. Box 62  
Nelsonville, Wisconsin 54458

*Thank you for your generous support.  
Mange Tusen Takkk!  
(Many Thousand Thanks)*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Friends:

We are very fortunate to have a very diverse group of supporters, many of whom are relatives of former active congregation members. Many have family who have chosen to have South New Hope as their final resting place or some are simply attracted to the unique history of this icon of Scandinavian-American settlement in Central Wisconsin.

There are currently five members of the Board of Trustees of SNH who are charged with the maintenance and continued restoration of the church building and grounds. Each spring and fall there are scheduled work days in which a group of interested and dedicated individuals choose to participate in various projects required to keep the building and grounds in presentable condition.

There are several projects planned in the near future, the most recent of which is the clearing of trees and stumps to allow for a concrete slab to be laid which will serve as the foundation of a future gazebo. The work of safely clearing the trees and the subsequent removal of the stumps was accomplished by two of our stalwart supporters Jason Ehr and Sam Stines. These two gentlemen have been very involved with work here at South New Hope. Their most recent work prior to the recent tree and stump removal was the installation of the Sanctuary fans and the associated electrical work required for their safe operation.

This gazebo project was initiated by a generous donation of the Melvin Loberg family in recognition of their fathers wish to once again have a place for outdoor activities on the front lawn of South New Hope. This is a large project and funds are currently being gathered to complete the gazebo by late next year. If you are interested in donating toward this effort, please go to our website [Southnewhope.org](http://Southnewhope.org) and press the "Give Now" button or send your donation to South New Hope Church and Cemetery Association at P.O. Box 62 Nelsonville, WI 54458 and indicate "Gazebo" on your check.

An important date to set aside is the annual meeting set for 2:00 p.m. on August 20, 2023 at SNH. The annual meeting is open to all those who have relatives buried at SNH or who currently own a cemetery lot themselves. A discussion of present and future plans for South New Hope will be on the agenda, as well as the election of officers for the coming year.

As is apparent, the work at SNH is ongoing and is very much dependent on the encouragement and support of those who have a special place in their heart for this little white church on Plank Hill called New Hope.

*Ardie Stoltenberg*

President, South New Hope Church and Cemetery Association

## SOUTH NEW HOPE WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER



The South New Hope Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Sally Prideaux to our group.

Sally has a long and fond relationship with SNH, from wandering around the cemetery reading gravestone names and verses, to enjoying the calm and peaceful

surroundings as a stop on frequent bike trips around the area with her future husband Jim. Sally and Jim developed such a fondness for SNH that they chose to have this as the site of their wedding in September of 1974.

Sally comes to us with a wealth of experience not only in

business but as the result of personal initiative and travel throughout the United States and the world.

In 2006, Sally moved back to the area and has been very active in her community. Currently, she is the President of the Tomorrow River Valley Historical Society and their representative for the Tomorrow River Business Association, a member of the Stevens Point Area Genealogy Society, the Sons of Norway, and the Portage County Master Gardeners.

Sally has assumed the position of Treasurer for South New Hope and has already contributed many valuable thoughts and ideas. We look forward to working with her for years to come.

*Welcome Sally!*

## THINGS ACCOMPLISHED AND THINGS PLANNED *continued from page 1*

3. Furnace purchase and installation: Done 2016; Cost \$6,000.00
  4. Painted the church. Finished, Summer 2019, Cost: \$18,300.00
  5. New front sidewalk- Poured-Fall 2019, Materials: \$760.00. Labor Donated
  6. Park benches sponsored by supporters-Built 2021/2022 (2) sold & \$500 ea. Labor Donated
  7. New driveway through cemetery for easier access to necessary traffic. Done-Fall 2020 Cost: \$2785.00
  8. Audio visual projector and Screen: \$1534.94
  9. Installation of steeple lights. Installed-Fall 2020, Material and Labor Donated
  10. Clean attic in preparation for insulation: Spring 2021, Cost: \$3600.00
  11. Insulation of attic -Summer 2022, Cost: 18,418.00
  12. Install wiring and fans in the sanctuary. Spring 2022, Cost: 756.00, Labor Donated.
  13. Clear trees, Fall-2022. Labor Donated
  14. Installation of wiring for light above the alter painting. Materials and labor donated.
2. Complete concrete slab. Labor and Materials Donated
  3. Insulation of the walls of sanctuary. Estimated Cost: \$13,700.00
  4. Purchase and install storm windows, Cost: \$7345.00
  5. Refurbish interior finish of the walls of the sanctuary.
  6. Plan and construct foundation for flag poles on the north lawn.
  7. Build gazebo.
  8. Plan and install indoor plumbing for bathrooms and kitchen.
  9. Build bathrooms and changing areas.
  10. Renovate kitchen to make it at least useable for catered meals and associated cleanup.
  11. Plan and install sound and communication system for public address and music utilization.

This is obviously an ambitious list. It will require combined efforts in all areas, physical, emotional and financial. We need help in the form of grants and sponsors as well as individual gifts. It is ambitious, but look at what has been accomplished so far. The sons, daughters, relatives and friends of SNH have been wonderful. We know that we are all getting older and tired, yet the dream lives on. We all hope we can see it through to a wonderful conclusion.

### Things to do:

1. Stump removal for concrete slab placement, Cost: \$2500.0

## THOUGHTS ABOUT SOUTH NEW HOPE AND ITS FUTURE

Those of us tasked with the responsibility of the everyday upkeep and operation of South New Hope are acutely aware of the tremendous financial and emotional support we have received from our South New Hope friends and family. The results of your encouragement are everywhere evident in the grounds and church building. As we move into this year of 2023, we are looking forward to additional improvements to make the church more comfortable and inviting to those who choose to attend our various programs and activities.

Our next project will include the insulation of the walls of the sanctuary along with the addition of storm windows to future enhance temperature control of the building. Once completed, a refurbishment of the interior of the sanctuary will begin. Our hope is that South New Hope will once again become a vibrant and functioning member of the New Hope community. We hope that is your goal as well.

*David Breyhan*  
Project Manager

## Spring 2023 WORKDAY A SUCCESS

This spring's workday for South New Hope was on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Work began around 8:00 a.m. and continued until about noon. There were a number of tasks to do in the church and on the surrounding grounds. Inside work included sweeping and vacuuming floors, stairs and window sills and wiping down the pews in preparation for a June Wedding. Outside work included ground cleanup involving raking, picking up sticks from the tree cutting

this winter. There was weeding and loosening soil in the gardens, and the shed and rain gutters were cleaned out.

Of course, there was coffee and delicious snacks to keep everyone going.

Hope to see you in the fall for the next fun cleanout.

*Sharon Ehr*  
Grounds Coordinator



## “ DID YOU KNOW? ”

By 1860, nearly half of all the Norwegians in the United States lived in Wisconsin and the largest concentration of those lived in Portage and Waupaca Counties.

In 1854, Pastor Olaus Duus came to Scandinavia and held services in individual homes and barns in the Scandinavia, Iola and the New Hope area.

By 1880, New Hope Church was second only to Scandinavia as having the most members in the Norwegian synod, which included Northern Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The first pastor called for the new church of South New Hope in 1889, was O.K. Ramberg at a salary of \$300.00 per year.

