

Alliance Historical Society **NOW & THEN**



Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring 2023

Society Plans Trivia Night

Calling all trivia buffs!
Join us for a fun night of trivia at A-Town Burgers & Brews at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 as we raise funds to support our mission of sharing stories and preserving Alliance's history.

The format will be similar to the first Trivia Night held in October 2022 when the 10-team competition was won by our friends at the Alliance Area Preservation Society,

See **TRIVIA** Inside



TRIVIA NIGHT
WHEN:

Tuesday, March 28
at 6 p.m.

WHERE:

A-Town Burgers
and Brews

REGISTER YOUR TEAM:
[alliancehistory.org/
trivia-night](http://alliancehistory.org/trivia-night)

Historical Society Receives SCORE Small Business of the Year Award

The Alliance Historical Society received the Small Business of the Year Award from Canton Regional Chapter of SCORE during their Client Recognition Luncheon at LaPizzaria in Canton.

"We are honored to have received this award and thankful for our SCORE mentor Gary Lustig for his assistance during our quest for an Alliance History Center," said Karen Perone, president of the Historical Society.

SCORE is the nation's largest network of volunteer expert business mentors dedicated to help small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals. Since 1964 they have provided education and mentorship to more than 11 million entrepreneurs.

Perone first learned of SCORE through the Alliance Chamber of Commerce's Tip Club members.

"A couple of the small businesses in the group told of how SCORE had helped them put together their business plans and gave them the confidence to approach funding institutions to help them get started," she said.



Members of the Alliance Historical Society board attended the SCORE Client Recognition Luncheon on Dec. 6 to accept a Small Business of the Year Award from mentor Gary Lustig, seen in the upper right. From left are Society members Linda Ferguson, Dave McMahon, Karen Perone, and Michelle Dillon.

See **SCORE** Inside

Annual Meeting Launches Book Of Church History

The Alliance Historical Society's annual meeting, held November 28 at Union Avenue United Methodist Church, also served as a book launch.

Karen Perone, president of the Society and a member of the congregation who spearheaded the project to document the church's 189-year history, conducted the meeting and gave the program that centered around "This is Our Story: A History of Union Avenue Church."

The lone order of business was the election of five board members. Reelected to three-year board positions were Gary Conny, Jennifer Crist, Dave McMahon, Jack Weber, and Joe Zelasko.

Other board members are Perone, Michelle Dillon, Steve Stone, Stacy Digianantonio, Linda Ferguson, John Gross, Mark Locke, Jack Madison, Mike Patterson, and Don Shaffer.

Perone recognized McMahon with a special President's Award for his dedication to the efforts of the society and in the upkeep of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home.

See **MEETING** Inside

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The following events, jointly sponsored by the Alliance Historical Society and the Alliance Area Preservation Society, are planned:

March 6 — "Local School-houses of the 19th Century" by Robb Hyde.

April 3 — AAPS Annual Meeting "Abolitionists and Suffragists - Ohio Women Lead the Way" by Dr. Jamie Capuzza of the University of Mount Union.

August, TBD — "Streetcars, Streamlines & Changing Times: Alliance Railroad History III" by Robb Hyde.

The programs will be held at Rodman Library and registration will be required online at rodmanlibrary.com

Alliance Historical Society Trustees

Officers

Karen Perone, President
Michelle Dillon, Vice President
Jennifer Crist, Secretary
Steve Stone, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

Gary Conny
Stacy Digianantonio
Linda Ferguson
John Gross
Mark Locke
Jack Madison
Dave McMahon
Mike Patterson
Don Shaffer
Jack Weber Jr.
Joe Zelasko

Find us on the web:
www.alliancehistory.org
www.facebook.com/alliancehistory
[YouTube.com/alliancehistory](https://www.youtube.com/alliancehistory)

Trivia

Continued from Front

which is expected to be on hand to defend their title.

An expanded field of up to 20 teams will be challenged to answer questions in categories that will include general trivia, sports, a media round, and of course, a round of local history questions.

Teams will consist of four persons and the entrance fee is \$80 per

team, which includes A-Town's burger bar. Drinks will be available from the cash bar and include a selection of craft beers, sodas, and incredible milkshakes.

Other fundraising activities will include a 50-50 and basket raffles.

Prizes will be given to the winning team.

Those who would like to become a sponsor or donate a gift card or raffle basket, should email alliancehistory@yahoo.com. Table sponsorships are \$100 and Question Round sponsorships are \$50.

Register your team at alliancehistory.org/trivia-night.



TOP: The Alliance Area Preservation Society team was the winner of the Alliance Historical Society's first Trivia Night on October 25, 2022.
LEFT: Michelle Dillon and Jim Perone calculate team scores during the October 2022 Trivia Night.

SCORE

Continued from Front

"When the Historical Society realized that the roof of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home was leaking and needed to be replaced, I turned to SCORE for guidance in grant writing," Perone explained. She wrote a major grant proposal which was approved and what she learned gave her the confidence to pursue others.

"In the fall of 2020, an opportunity to create a History Center for the city of Alliance presented itself to us," Perone explained. "I knew that we didn't have the expertise to tackle such a project on our own, so we requested help from SCORE to write a business plan."

She credits SCORE mentor Gary Lustig for "helping us put together a business plan and acting as a sounding board for all our ideas and dreams."

Since its inception in 1939, the Alliance Historical Society has been instrumental in collecting the stories, material, and memorabilia about local history, but one hindrance to its mission has been the lack of a centralized permanent space to collect,

store, and more importantly access and display its collection for the community's benefit.

The Society reached out to SCORE to help it develop a strategic business plan with the goal of securing a permanent Alliance History Center location that benefits the community, helps the Society fulfill its mission and is sustainable for the long-term.

The Society is expanding its work all with the help of SCORE. "During the past two years, we received the largest donations to date from board members to fund our feasibility study, artwork, architects, engineering studies, and legal fees," she explained. "All these expenses were covered by board member pledges without having to tap into our annual budget, our endowment funds, or seek outside funding."

"We appreciate the time that Gary has spent with us on this journey," Perone said. "We look forward to working with SCORE as we continue sharing stories and preserving history for the Alliance community and other visitors."

Meeting

Continued from Front

Perone, who wrote the main history portion of “This is Our Story” and put the book together, thanked the History Committee for their work, noting all of them are members of the Alliance Historical Society, including Jim Perone, who wrote chapters on vacation Bible school, Mount Union College, and the merger of the EUB and Methodist churches and edited and indexed the text; Mike Patterson, who wrote chapters on men’s groups, youth groups, and supplied many of the photographs in the book; Kim Lewis, who supplied chapters on music, Sunday school, and corresponded with representatives at the United Methodist archives at Ohio Wesleyan; and Kathy Kramer, who wrote chapters on women’s groups, small groups and preschool.

Perone also thanked Kay Hettler, who supplied a chapter on mission work; Lynda Slack, who captured the beauty of the church’s stained glass windows for the cover of the book; Dillon, who helped uncovering elusive biographies and deeds that helped fill in the gaps; and the reference staff at Rodman Public Library for its help in looking up articles.

The book, which took two years to research and write, explained that the congregation was one of the first in this section of Stark County, which was described as “quite fun-loving” in the 1820s with a distillery in every township and that it was not uncommon for everyone, including children, to drink whiskey as part of their daily routine to aid in the digestion and provide nourishment. And with no preachers or churches in the community that would become Mount Union, it was “wholly given to frolics and dances.”

However, that started to change in 1832 when Margaret Johnson, the sister-in-law of area pioneer Ellis Johnson, became deathly ill and there was no comfort for her in her final days.

On May 28, 1832, Stephen Hubbard, a preacher living near Deerfield, came to the area to deliver the funeral service. The event had such a profound influence on the community that many sought their soul’s salvation. Ellis Johnson became the founder of the Mount Union Temperance Society and every distillery in the area was shut down.

As Mount Union was platted in 1833, a congregation started to meet in Johnson’s woods, located near the area of 23rd Street and Union Avenue. During winter months, they would meet in a nearby schoolhouse and circuit riders, or traveling preachers, from the Deerfield Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church would provide services. By 1840, the Mount Union church became a part of the Salem District and plans began for the building of a church.

Job Johnson donated a lot about one block north of the



Karen Perone delivers the program “This is Our Story: The History of Union Avenue Church” during the Alliance Historical Society’s annual meeting in November 2022.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Annual Members — 114

Life Members — 56

**Visitors to Mabel’s/
Mini Museum — 213**

**Donations of Items —
370 items from 63 donors**

**Treasury — \$19,837.38
as of December 31, 2022**

Youth Served — 128

**Events — 10 events
with attendance of 398**

**Board Members contributed
2,881 volunteer hours**

A complete list of members donors can be found at alliancehistory.org

Union Avenue United Methodist Church’s current location at 1843 S. Union Ave., and a small structure was built to serve the growing congregation. It was later sold for \$25 and was moved east on College Street where it served as a home until it was razed in the 1990s due to hospital expansion.

By the mid-1850s, a larger worship structure was needed. In 1857, a frame structure was built on the current site for \$1,900 and it was the site of the first Mount Union commencement in 1858.

Ground was broken for the current building in June 1893, and the rest, as they say, is history that can be read in the book, which is available for purchase by calling 330-823-9270.

WANT TO HELP SUPPORT THE SOCIETY?

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the Alliance Historical Society at any time.
Make your check payable to Alliance Historical Society and mail it to: **PO Box 2044, Alliance, OH 44601**

Donations may also be made through PayPal via our website, www.alliancehistory.org.

Alliance Historical Society

P. O. Box 2044
Alliance, Ohio 44601

Volunteer Opportunities Available with Alliance Historical Society

If you're looking for something to do, there are always volunteer opportunities with the Alliance Historical Society.

For starters, the first Wednesday of every month is a workday at the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home and the Mini Museum, located at 840 N. Park Avenue.

In November, students from Mount Union's service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, pictured at right, logged some volunteer hours by helping clean leaves and decorate Mabel's for the holidays.

Another group of Mount Union students assisted the Society on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by helping scan materials in Rodman Public Library's Alliance Room.

The Society always has a project that could use more helping hands and welcomes all to send an email to alliancehistory@yahoo.com for details.

RIGHT: Students from Mount Union's service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega were on hand at Mabel Hartzell Home on November 18 to help with leaf cleanup and house decorating. Members included Liza Harris, Claire Fried, Ava Fornara, Chloe Orzo, and Andrew Dietz. There always volunteer opportunities with the Historical Society. Email us for details at alliancehistory@yahoo.com.



Open Hours At Mabel's

The Society announces that monthly open hours will be held every first weekend of the month during which tours of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home and Alliance History Mini Museum will be offered. Reservations are required for these first-weekend open hours.

Tours will be given at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. sharp on Friday. Saturday tours will be given at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. sharp. On Sundays, tours will be given at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. sharp.

Those wishing to take a tour should visit our website to book a tour.

The suggested donation is \$5 per adult. Children under 12 years old and members are admitted free.