

The Mammoth Museum

Southern Mono Historical Society

PO Box 65 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Robert L. Joki – President of the Board

Board of Directors

Kevin Green

Dan Lyster

Tony Rojas

Stu Welsh

To: The Mammoth Lakes Town Council

2023 Annual Report of the Mammoth Museum / SMHS

October 18, 2023

Dear Council Members,

It is my pleasure to report to you on the successful conclusion of the yearly operations at The Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin which is run by the Southern Mono Historical Society.

The Museum was opened to the public seven days a week beginning Memorial Day Weekend through September 15th. Our excellent staff not only maintained the facility and its grounds, as well as provided docent tours to over a thousand visitors this season.

The Board of Directors of the Museum wish to thank the Town Council, with special thanks to Dan Hollar and Stu Brown, for working to raise the yearly funding for museum operations to \$50k dollars per year. This funding will now allow the Museum to operate at a sustainable level for the near future. However, in order to allow for our future growth – we would ask that this amount be adjusted yearly to at minimum, match increases in the Yearly Cost of Living.

A major drain on the Museum's yearly budget is caused by the needed maintenance to the grounds – most notably, the monthly cost of a public toilet facility, as well as garbage and recycling costs that are incurred by the



museum as a result of the grounds themselves being recognized and heavily used as part of the Park System. The Museum grounds provide a park-like setting for picnics and other outdoor recreational activities to tourists and residents alike.

We have asked Stu Brown to consider providing the garbage, recycling, and toilet facilities from within the budget of the Town Parks Department beginning in May of 2024. Mr. Brown as agreed in principle to the idea – and we ask the Town Council to consider an increase in the Parks Department budget that might allow for that department to take over these necessary public services – allowing the Museum to best utilize its yearly funding in its own necessary museum operations.

In addition to our daily operations, the museum sponsored several public events including the Annual Mammoth Book Fair, the Music & Moonshine Concert, as well as hosting the Mammoth Yoga Festival including two nights of concerts that were open to the public as well – all held under the shade of our 30 x 40 museum canopy known as the Temple of Folley.

Museum Membership Drives were included in the events – as well as our year end “Giving Tuesday” drive. As a result, new members have been added, as well as the renewals of our existing membership. Increasing the number of families with museum memberships will be one of the main goals for the coming year.

It was our good fortune to hire as our Museum Manager, a highly qualified and experienced manager named Frankie DeVine. Ms. DeVine will continue working for the museum on a limited basis during our off-season – as well as working this winter for the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. Please stop in and meet her. She has expressed her love of the Hayden Cabin and her role as its manager, and plans to return to the Museum again in the spring in her full-time role as Museum Manager.

In conclusion, the state of Mammoth Museum is not only stable, but is in a fine position to continue its growth to the future. Thank you again for your continued support of this important institution.

Sincerely – Robert Joki, President of the Board



Mammoth Lakes History Trolley Program 2023 Year End Report

Greetings esteemed members of the Mammoth Town council.
First and foremost, we at Southern Mono Historical Society, Mammoth Museum at Haydn Cabin would like to thank you for your continued support of our museum and the Mammoth trolley Historyteller program.

This year your program funding has resulted in 420 hours of historytelling. Our goal, with your continued support, is to continue to provide the good people of our community and it's visitors with quality interpretive programming highlighting the rich and fascinating history of the Eastern Sierra region and this area in particular. Our diverse troupe of costumed history tellers seeks to engage, entertain and edify the receptive riders of the Mammoth Lakes Trolley System as they literally ride by the very history of which we speak.

This year we were successful in our constant effort to improve the program and the feedback we received from locals, lowlanders and even the bus drivers (to whom we often refer as to the "stagecoach driver") was positive and encouraging.

Our continued collaboration with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority has been gratifying and we would like to extend our appreciation to them for allowing us to stage our interpretive programming in their mobile venue and look forward to our continued alliance next season and in the years to come.

This year and in the future, this vital programming hinges on the continued support from you, the venerable members of the Mammoth Town Council as well as Measure U funding for which we extend our greatest appreciation.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to listen to this synopsis of this years History Teller program and your continued funding of this important effort to engage, entertain and edify the visitors and the residents of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

With warmest regards and felicitations, yours truly

Michael Dostrow, Administrator