

IOKDS Chautauqua Properties Director and Committee
Report for 2019 Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

I have to start my report by thanking Lori Jackson for all her hard work, dedication and putting up with me over the years. I know that she would say the same about the Chairs before her. As well, we are so lucky to have dedicated IOKDS members to give up their valuable time to work so hard twice a year to open and close the houses. The following work was completed last year or will be completed this spring.

Benedict House

- Wooden front railings were replaced by vinyl (we don't need to paint anymore!)
- Garden areas were cleaned and upgraded
- Staff bathroom was gutted and completely renovated
- Small refrigerator was donated for the staff use
- Fluorescent light unit was replaced in the ceiling of Headquarters Office
- Illinois Room towel rack repaired 2 times
- History books moved to Angel Heaven (please don't be shy if you would like some!)
- Museum doors were taken off hinges, top middle section removed to add glass
- For the winter the outside IOKDS sign was put in basement and will be returned in the spring
- A barrier was set up to the second and upper floors to keep the heat in the front entrance and kitchen (main floor outside of the office)
- A second small fridge was donated and will be ready for use in 2019
- Kitchen will be smartly renovated before season opens 2019

Bonnie Hall

- Changed battery of emergency light on 2nd floor
- Cabinetry was removed in corner of kitchen (just left of entrance from dining room), drywall added to walls and painted
- The original fridge was moved to that new corner
- A larger second fridge was purchased and set where the original fridge stood
- Garden areas were cleaned and upgraded
- The Michigan plaque was put on the back of door for the Iowa Room
- (This is typically done for historical reasons as Michigan Branch is disbanded and Iowa Branch is now the sponsor for that room on the main floor)
- Iowa plaque was put on front of bedroom door
- Front porch area (columns and seating area) were painted including a small top overhang on the front east side
- 3 New IKEA cabinets were added to dining room back wall for client's food storage
- For the winter outside IOKDS sign was moved to basement and will be returned in the spring

Florence Hall

- Garden areas were cleaned and upgraded
- New comforters and sheets were purchased and a mirror replaced in Pennsylvania Room
- A few new bicycles were donated and others repaired
- Outside IOKDS sign was moved to basement for the winter and will be returned in the spring

Ida A Vanderbeck Chapel and Ethel Rebecca Holt Fellowship Hall

- All valances and side window drapes were cleaned and ironed (many thanks to Stephanie Dawson for the hours of ironing)
- All overhead lights in the Chapel were replaced to energy saving LED lights as many were already burnt out
- As the tile floor in Fellowship Hall was replaced, all of the items were moved up to the chapel in fall 2017 for the winter and then moved back in the spring to their rightful place in the Fellowship Hall
- Outside overhead front triangular white portion and columns were repainted
- All outside Maltese Crosses and panels were replaced and caulked
- A new 2nd dehumidifier purchased for Fellowship Hall
- A decision was made to keep the heat on very low over the winter to keep the extreme humidity down in the spring and to prevent mold
- Wiring in Fellowship Hall was repaired in spring of 2018.
- A new cabinet was installed in Fellowship Hall in spring of 2018.
- A new larger built in closet with doors were constructed to cover hot water heater and provide storage space

A huge thank you to the building committee members, and other volunteers working together in the spring of 2018, the gardens were beautiful and the houses ready for a busy summer! Everybody works hard, but each member of the committee seems to have a special job.

-David Babel worked many hours adding ground cover and cleaning up the gardens from the long winter.

-Ron Carter spent much time dividing plants and rearranging perennials to beautify and reduce future maintenance in the gardens of our properties.

-Carole Babel spent many days laundering in Benedict Basement.

-Mike Salfi uses his muscles moving beds upstairs to the living room for the winter in Bonnie Hall as the basement is very damp spring and fall

-John Hilmer worked fast on a number of building and repair jobs

-Marc and Gabriel (father and son) helped with cleaning and various odd jobs

Thanks to Trish Prichard, Chautauqua Housing Director, for suggesting water system timers so that our gardens get just the right amount of water. Thanks to Mike and Stephanie Dawson for donating the hanging plants, they add such nice colour to the front porches. Many thanks to Ron Carter who spends much time dividing plants and rearranging perennials to beautify and reduce future maintenance in the gardens of our properties.

I cannot forget my wonderful wife, Norma, who drove a number of PA Branch ladies (at the end of 2018 Convention) to see their sponsored room in Florence Hall and then bought items for their named room. Norma also works very hard getting the houses open in the spring and closed for winter. My daughter, Alanna, comes to Chautauqua and helped her mom and dad when she can.

John Dawson works all year round for these houses. He is on the Chautauqua grounds before, during, and after the season. John does a lot of the leg work contacting contractors, getting quotes, bringing to the committee for approval, setting up the work. More than half the bullets above, he was the primary worker or liaison. Everyone who has been on the committee knows that if you are on this committee, so is your spouse, many thanks to Christine, IOKDS President, as well! The committee is very lucky to have the both of them in Chautauqua for close to 6 months!

Many officers, spouses and friends of officers and directors assisted with closing in September 2018. To everyone who has helped work with the Building Committee— Thank you very much!

Many generous donations have been received from branches, circles, individuals and foundations to assist in the upkeep of our aging buildings. Thank you to all the generous donators so that we have funds to upgrade, renovate, beautify our wonderful houses and chapel-Thank you all very much!

Financial and physical contributions are all very important to the maintenance of our properties and very much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce McLelland, Chautauqua Building Committee Chair

John Dawson, Chautauqua Building Committee Co-Chair

David and Carole Babel, Marc and Gabriel Coderre, John Hilmer, Michael Salfi