

New Berlin Historical Society – Candidate Profiles for Board of Directors – 2024 Election

(Submitted by the nominating committee - Sue Hemmen, Peggy Ament, Marlyene Pfeiffer)



KEN DERRA – *Incumbent*

Ken, who is a longtime resident of New Berlin, joined the Society in 2012, became a regular volunteer in 2020 and was elected to the Board in 2021. His engineering background led him to be a key player in the design and development of the exhibit space in the Museum's addition. He has designed, built and refurbished several museum artifacts including the upcoming bookcase for the *New Berlin Citizen* collection. Ken can be found at the Museum every week working on some project. His skills and dedication are highly prized. He stated that "he very much enjoys being a part of the board of an organization that is such a gem for the City of New Berlin with a bright future".



MONA FILLAR – *Candidate*

Mona is currently an active volunteer for the Historical Society and has been since she became a member in 2022. She has lived in New Berlin since 1996. She worked as a Psychiatric nurse for 25 years until retiring. She served on the School Board for 3 years and has been a member of the New Berlin Veterans Memorial Society for many years. Mona has served as a docent for 3 years in the Winton/Martin House during our Open House events. Lately she has been helping in the Museum whenever it is open. Mona's willingness to help is appreciated, especially her work with the Society as a docent in the Winton/Martin House, particularly in the Theodore Winton Youman History Room



IRENE HAWKINSON – *Candidate*

Irene is currently an active volunteer for the Historical Society and has been a member since 2023. She helped at events even before she was a member such as assisting during a school tour, running the rummage sale table and coming up on work days in the Museum. Irene has lived in New Berlin since 1988, and her children graduated from New Berlin West High School. She retired from the VA Regional Office after nearly 41 years. She was a Cub Scout leader for 6 years and a Girl Scout leader for 6 years. Irene currently volunteers at Polonia Sports Club as the Secretary and is the Secretary at the Polish National Alliance Council #8. Irene's interest in our history and her willingness to volunteer wherever she may be of help, makes her a great candidate for our Board.



SANDY KLINGENSMITH – *Candidate*

Sandy joined the Historical Society this year and is currently an active volunteer for the Society. She has lived in New Berlin since 1998. She was involved with Cub Scouts and volunteered at Prospect Hill Elementary School. She worked full-time in an engineering job until her retirement. Her volunteer work includes Wally's Parkinson's support group and as a board member of the Waukesha County Environmental Action League. Her work with the Society includes supervising children's art activities, helping with school tours, being a docent at the Museum and joining other Society members as we volunteered at the New Berlin Lions Corn Roast stand during the State Fair in August. Her skills and enthusiasm would be welcome on our Board.



BARBARA KOEPPEN – *Incumbent*

Barbara joined the Society in 2011 and was elected to the Board in 2015. She followed in her mother's footsteps, who was a founding member of the Society in the formative years of the 1960s. She takes pride in the fact that she is the fifth generation of her family still living in New Berlin, which allowed her to share her special knowledge of our City with the Society. Barbara was on the City Landmarks Commission serving for a time as the Secretary. She helped guide it into a survey grant which was used to update the historical properties in New Berlin that deserved to be recognized. Her family has donated artifacts to the Society that have a unique history to New Berlin. Barbara has been an asset to our Board for the past 9 years due to her great interest in our motto of *Rescuing, Recording, Restoring and Recreating New Berlin History*.



FRENCHI TROTTIER-WASIELEWSKI – *Incumbent*

Frenchi is an active volunteer for the Society who joined in 2021 and was elected to the Board in 2022. With her business experience at the City Farmers Market, she was soon asked to take over the running of the food sales at our Open House events. She keeps our prices "family friendly" thanks to her ability to get donations from local stores and businesses. For about 12 years she has been collecting recyclable plastic which is then turned into useable objects such as park benches. It would be hard to find a busier person than Frenchi. She was a New Berlin Lioness for 14 years and received a Patriotic Citizen award from them. Four years ago, she joined the Prospect Lions and in 2024 was named *Lion of the Year*. You will always find Frenchi at every Open House and on the days the Museum is open. Her seemingly endless energy makes her a true asset to our Board.