

ECOC News

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

Fall
2016

Volume 10 Issue 2

A community of religious inclusion and compassion, providing hospitality and affordable accommodations, promoting dialogue, fellowship and growth.

New Managers Hired



Rodney and Freda Cook

The ECOC Board has hired Rodney and Freda Cook to be the new managers, sharing the responsibility with John and Kathy Woods. The Cooks will be in charge during Weeks 6 through 9, then close the buildings in the fall.

The Cook family has a long association with the ECOC. Rodney's great aunt Eunice Shaw and aunt Martha Bird were each managers of the Minis-

ter's Union for many years. Freda and Rodney have been coming for about 10 years; Rodney has participated in the Work Weeks for the past several years.

Rodney is looking forward to introducing new generations of guests to Chautauqua and to the ECOC, and making sure that the buildings are sound at their cores. Freda would like to ensure that the documentation to operate and maintain the ECOC is well-organized and easily available.

The couple lives in Seattle, Washington, and has three grown children. Rodney recently retired as a programmer/writer and is finishing building their new home. Freda is a project manager and will retire in 2018. Freda loves to sing in her church choir, where she is an elder and Rodney is a deacon. They both love to travel. ■

Amp Renovation Begins

The Amphitheater renovation has progressed quite rapidly. By the end of September, the entire structure except the organ housing was demolished. Since then the excavation has been completed, and new foundations started. They expect to complete the foundations and start erecting the structural steel in November. Watch the progress on the Insti-

tute's web cams at ciweb.org/amp-cam.

You can also follow the construction via two ECOC cameras, mounted on the south side of the Shaw building and pointed at the site. If you would like to follow the action from these cameras, contact Bob Dargel at rdargel@aol.com and he will send you the information you need to access the video. ■

New Projects Approved

David Matthews and Bill Brockman

Thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the current Capital Campaign, which officially ends on December 31, 2016, the Board has approved these projects as funds continue to become available:

- Completion of the porch projects including wood trim on the fire stairs railings.
- Remodeled outside stairs from the Shaw and Bird-Werner porches to the kitchen entrances.
- A new fire door on the first floor bridge between the Shaw and Bird-Werner.
- Addition of a half-bath in Bird-Werner Room 5, to be placed under the first floor stairs.
- Full baths added to Shaw Rooms 1, 2 and 14.
- Removal of the tub/shower and the addition of storage shelves in the bath behind the Shaw office desk.

Continuing thanks to our contributors as we improve the safety, usability and aesthetics of our buildings. Additional donations may be made to "ECOC" and mailed to Bob Boell in the enclosed envelope. Contributions after January 1, 2017, will also be appreciated. ■

Managers' Report

Kathy and John Woods



Summer 2016 was a great season! It started for us with great anticipation, expectation, trepidation and excitement. What was our first year as Managers going to be like? Could we do the job? Could we fill the shoes of Lois and Nels as well as Marge and Ed?

Those questions were answered very quickly at the start of the first long Work Weekend. The answer came in the form of all the great volunteers who showed up. It really helped that Lois and Nels were there for that weekend and for the other Work Weeks that followed. We cannot thank the Sandbergs and the Johnstons enough for their efforts in making the transition so easy for us, and for Freda and Rodney Cook who join us as managers in 2017.

And special thanks go to Rodney Cook who did a great job sealing all the openings that the winter curtain does

not cover on the Amp side of Shaw. We were happy to find no additional dust or dirt in the Shaw following the demolition of the Amp. Thanks Rodney!

Here is the key to making the ECOC work as well as it does and if anyone can help to continue this—it's YOU!! Just come and volunteer for a day or a weekend before or after the season. If you are coming Week One, come early and spend great casual, relaxed time at the ECOC for next to nothing—ask Registrar E. Carol Maxwell for details. Just show up. We have everything from not-so-strenuous work (can you load a washing machine?) to cleaning jobs that get your heart rate up a little. We even let you bring your own tools if you like.

During the season the highlights were the great Brown Bag lunches and you, the guests of the ECOC. Don't forget to invite a friend or relative next season. Maybe bring your favorite son-in-law and his family. We need to pass the tradition, history and experience of the ECOC on to the next generation. It's our responsibility to those that went before us as Chautauquans.

We look forward to next season, the new Amp and you!! ■

Sandbergs Retire

Lois and Nels Sandberg have retired after six years as managers, and wish to send this message to everyone:

"To all of our ECOC friends:

We would like to thank ECOC for giving us the opportunity to serve as Managers for part of each of the past six seasons. We enjoyed getting to know so many wonderful people. There were times when we wondered why things happened, but the cooperation and support of the Board, Registrar and guests made our summers a great way to enjoy the Chautauqua experience.

Thank you to the Board for the beautiful rocker that you gave us at the end of the season. And we hope that all of you will enjoy rocking on the porch with the two rockers that were given in our honor.

Thank you also to those who donated money to the scholarship fund in our honor. It has been a great pleasure to know that people who could not come to Chautauqua without help were able to enjoy and fall in love with this wonderful place!

- Lois and Nels Sandberg ■

Registrar's Message

E. Carol Maxwell



The 2017 Accommodations' Information Packets have been prepared and will be mailed from Chautauqua the last working day of December, 2016, to all guests who have stayed with us during the past five (5) years (2012–2016). PLEASE be sure to READ the YELLOW information sheet as there have been a few changes.

If the last time you stayed with us was 2011 or earlier and you would like to receive the 2017 lodging information, do one of the following: 1) email the Registrar: ecoregistrar@gmail.com; 2) call the Registrar (716) 581-3659; or 3) beginning January 5, 2017, access the information on our website, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

Enjoy the changing seasons and take care. ■



ECOC Managers, Nels and Lois Sandberg and John and Kathy Woods, prepare the registration packet mailing under the direction of the Registrar E. Carol Maxwell (not shown).

Meet Your New Board Members

We welcome four recently elected members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Bob Dargel, Rev. John Dickey, Pastor Jean Hansen, and Pastor Dora Odarenko (Rev. Dickey will be introduced in next fall's newsletter). They join Board members Rev. Bill Brockman, Rev. Don Burgard, James

Cook, Rev. Ed Hann (President), Jack Knepp (Treasurer), Rev. David Matthews, Michele Montford, Ellen Neches, Harriette Royer (Secretary), and Alyson Cook Stage (Vice President). We thank retiring Board member Jeff Vreeland for his service.

Bob Dargel



During his eight years at ECOC, Bob installed and maintains the internet and WiFi connections. He also helps staff and guests with computer-related

problems. Bob serves on the Property Committee and sings in the Motet choir. "As a full-time summer resident at the ECOC, I have made lasting friends from diverse backgrounds and interests. The ECOC family, the choirs, and the Institute's programming are what keeps me coming back."

Bob worked for 45 years as an engineer and manager in the defense industry. Since retiring, he enjoys many interests: photography, ham radio, woodworking, computer systems, and more. Bob has two sons and four grandchildren, and lives in Silver Springs, MD.

Jean Hansen



Jean joined the Board in 2015, and currently serves on the Personnel and Development Committees. She first stayed at the ECOC about 12

years ago, and loves its friendliness and convenient location. She hopes "it will continue to provide affordable housing in a relaxed and friendly environment so that diverse people will benefit from the ECOC and Chautauqua experience."

Jean has been pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio, for 14 years. An avid hiker, she volunteers at the Metroparks of Summit County. She grows vegetables in her congregation's community garden for a local food pantry. She also likes to read, and to travel to a new place every year.

Dora Odarenko



Dora serves as pastor in two rural congregations in New York's Catskill region: in Roscoe, where she lives, and in nearby East Branch. Her passion is creation spirituality; she lived this out on her small farm in Connecticut for rescued animals (donkeys, sheep, goats, ducks, geese and turkeys). She and her long-time partner enjoyed raising five foster children there.

She first came to the ECOC in 2012 as part of the New Clergy Program. She joined the Board last year and serves on the Scholarship and Nominations Committees. Committed to diversity, she also endorses "the ECOC's determination to make the Chautauqua experience available to those of modest means and those who have served churches." ■

Buildings Dedicated

David Matthews and Bill Brockman

The strikingly beautiful new facades of our buildings and our new Bird-Werner external fire stairs gave the occasion for a Blessing and Dedication Service for our recent building improvements.

The Rev. Bill Brockman presided at the ceremony on June 28, with opening remarks by Rev. David Matthews, then Board Vice President. The service was conducted during the Tuesday social from the newly renovated Bird-Werner porch, with the audience gathered on Roberts Street below. Joining the celebration were ECOC guests, managers,

staff, board members, Cook and Shaw family members and passers-by who were learning about the ECOC for the first time.

The audience was reminded that the Shaw and Bird-Werner buildings were originally a gift from Edward Westervelt in 1928. Then called the Ministers Union, it was created to provide low-cost housing to ministers and religious workers. In 2003 it became the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua, offering low-cost inter-faith housing and fellowship for all.

The ECOC Board is committed to



Staff and guests gather for the June 28 service

honor that precious gift and the loving management over the years by those dedicated to Ed Westervelt's vision. Thank you especially to our ECOC donors for your incredible generosity. Our three capital campaigns, held over the past ten years, have garnered nearly \$1,000,000 to improve the safety, usability and aesthetics of the buildings. ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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ECOC Calendar

December/January	Registration forms sent
February & March	Confirmations processed
June 1 to 5 & June 17 to 23	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 21	Spring Board meeting
June 24	Season begins
August 27	Season ends
August 28	Annual Board meeting
August 28 to September 2	Fall Work Week (anytime during period)

Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

Bob Boell, Capital Campaign Committee

December 31, 2016, will mark the end of the three-year capital fund campaign *Securing the Future*. The Board set a goal of \$300,000. As of November 1, gifts and pledges totaled \$316,198.10 (105% of the goal); actual cash received as payment on the gifts and pledges totaled \$298,906.25. The Board and Managers express gratitude to the faithful giving of the ECOC community and some from the larger Chautauqua community who support the mission.

While the campaign officially closes at year-end, the capital fund account continues as a repository for those who

wish to donate to continuing needs. See other newsletter articles for the projects completed and those yet to be done pending funds available.

Additions since the Spring newsletter's listing of gifts/pledges given in memory or honor: **In Memory of:** Marguerite Shortle, Robert Gridley, Rev. Hugh Outterson; **In Honor of:** Harriette Royer. A full recap of memorials and honors will be in the Spring 2017 newsletter.

Enclosed is a return envelope for those who wish to make an additional gift or a payment on their pledge. ■

The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua Newsletter is published twice a year, in spring and fall, and mailed to interested guests. It is also available on the ECOC web site: www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

Editor and layout: Marcella Klein

To submit articles or photos, or notify us of an address change, email mklein5@rochester.rr.com

The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua (ECOC), a not-for-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) designation, was founded in 2003 to provide low-cost housing for clergy, religious workers and lay people of all faiths.

The Ministers' Union (MU) was founded in 1928 to provide low-cost housing to clergy, clergy families and religious workers attending Chautauqua Institution.

The MU and ECOC share many values, but are separate corporations with separate boards of directors.