

Jim Suder honored by Berlin Area Historical Society



Submitted photo

Leanne Calvert, president of the Berlin Area Historical Society, presents a certificate of appreciation to retired president Jim Suder, in appreciation for

the 18 years he has served as the society's president.

Jim Suder of Berlin, the retired long-time president of the Berlin Area Historical Society, was honored Sept. 3, for his leadership and service to the organization throughout many years.

The ceremony highlighted the group's annual business meeting. The meeting, held at BAHS's headquarters in Berlin, was an abbreviated event this year. Although the society previously enjoyed 43 continuous years of banquets and membership meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to hold the traditional banquet this year.

Although Suder stepped down earlier this year as BAHS's president after accumulating 18 years in that position, he continues to serve in many other capacities, including mentoring the current president, continuing as a board member, writing and editing stories for the society's publication, "Memos," and serving as a source of reliable information about the community while assisting in various projects wherever needed.

Leanne Calvert, who succeeded Suder as the new president in early 2020, presided over the annual meeting when the group paused to recognize Suder for his untiring efforts as former president, secretary, a trustee on the Endowment Fund, and numerous additional positions. President Calvert presented Suder with a certificate of appreciation and a congratulatory card signed by the board of directors while the group looks forward to his continual services to the society.

In addition a perennial shrub will be placed in the society's beautiful flower gardens behind the Heritage Haus to honor him and his years of service. The shrub will be placed behind the recently erected "Friendship Gate" which has been donated by the Hillcrest Grange.

Suder shared highlights of earlier years of the society, which was formed during 1975. For approximately eight years during the society's earlier years, Suder served as secretary to the board of directors. He was first elected to serve as BAHS president in 1998 following the retirement of the late Calvin M. Will. He served in that position until 2005, when Robert Schmucker was elected as his successor.

This was during a time period when Suder was involved in extra duties as consistory president at Trinity United Church of Christ. After serving 2005 through 2008, President Schmucker retired. Beginning again in 2009 Jim Suder was re-elected as board president and continued to serve that position until the beginning of 2020.

During those 18 years as president, Suder was also involved on the society's building program committee for its current office and museum area as well as with the later addition to the same building.

Special appreciation cards for services provided were signed by current board members for two retiring members of the board. Carl A. Hay [Jr.of](#) Northampton Township stepped down after serving 13 years while Lewis W. Berkley of Brothersvalley Township retired after 18 years. Filling their positions on the board are Tammy Rohrs

of Northampton Township and Kenneth J. Miller of Brothersvalley Township.

The following directors were re-elected to continue their services for 2021–2023: John Long, Larry Pritts, Terry Rhodes, Tammy Rohrs, and Robert Schmucker as well as Endowment Fund Trustee Russ Hillegas.

Numerous reports were also shared during the evening's agenda. Robert Schmucker reported that the Glade one-room school house has been pressure washed, repainted and the interior floor has been stained. Ken Miller reported on activities at the Heritage Haus and its adjoining flower garden. An overview of the year's accumulations and donations to the endowment fund were shared by Curator David R. Hay after Stew Saylor, treasurer and genealogist, shared financial information and details on the on-going inventory project.

The board agreed to participate in Somerset County's 225th Anniversary "Passport to History" project. Lee Lowry presented a feature on General Forbes to which the society agreed in August to accept his large library on General Forbes. He and Mary Kathryn Foy continue their work on recording information on the homes in Shanksville, a copy which has been donated to BAHS.

Four raffle items were awarded: Vernice Castro won the Lancaster County quilt; Dorothy (Poorbaugh) Rhone won the oval, wool braided rug by Jean Ogburn; Lester Coslic won the needle felted wool painting by Laura Logsdon, and Faye Egolf won the huge basket of maple products from the Hillegas maple camp at Dividing Ridge.

The society hopes to resume its annual summer picnic and early September annual meeting and banquet in 2021.