

The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

April 2019 Newsletter



810 & 816 S. Hennepin Avenue, Dixon IL 61021
Website: www.reaganhome.org
Contact Us: Director@reaganhome.org
Phone: (815) 288-5176
Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm

Executive Board Officers*

President – Jeff Renne **VP** – David Ames
Recording Secretary – Paige Toms **Treasurer** – Joe Rudolphi

Executive Board Members*

Tom Demmer, Linda Frana, Greg Hicks, Tom Kitson, Alex Paschal,
Marilyn Shippert, John Thompson

Executive Director

Patrick Gorman

Assistant Director

Jerry Schnake

Administrative Assistant

Mindy Costello

***Contact Information for our Board Members can be found on our Website**



The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home & Visitor's Center News

February 8th 2019 Fundraising Dinner

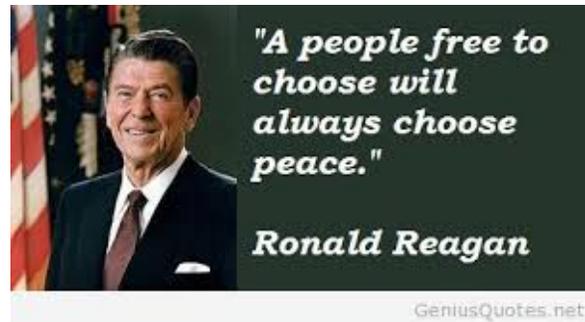
On Friday, February 8th at 7:00 pm, the Lee County Republicans held their annual fundraising dinner. This year's event was much different from those in the past. Normally, proceeds from only the dessert auction go to our home, but based on our financial needs (that I will explain more in detail in the Director's Message) all of the funds, after expenses, were donated to the Reagan Boyhood Home.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Peggy Grande, President Reagan's post-presidency Executive Assistant (1989-1999) and author of the book, The President Will See You Now. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed the evening's activities that included music, a power

The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

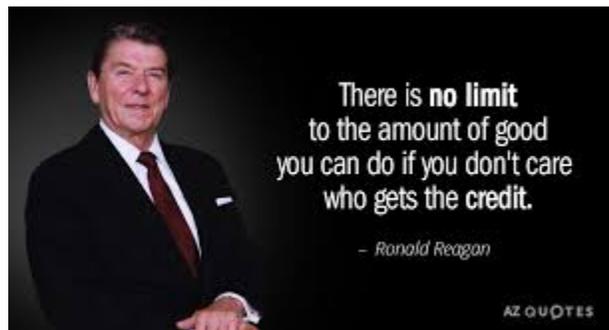
April 2019 Newsletter

point presentation with inspirational words from Ms. Grande, plus an auction that included several items donated by the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California. Two of our young docents, David Swegle & Issac Blaney were on hand to assist Peggy with book sales and other needed tasks. Thanks to both of them and ALL of our docents that came out to support the fundraiser.



2019 Open Hours

The Reagan Boyhood Home opened for the season on April 1, 2019, after what seemed to be a never ending winter. Our hours this year are Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, and Sunday, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Due to increased attendance, we have decided to keep our hours of operation the same as 2018. Our last day of the 2019 season will be October 31, 2019.



The Executive Director's Report

To our friends, patrons, sponsors, and supporters of The Reagan Boyhood Home, it has been nearly three years since I assumed the position of Executive Director. When I took the job, if I had said it was going to be a challenge, it would have been an understatement at best.

The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

April 2019 Newsletter

After arriving in early July of 2016, I was taken aback by the amount of decline the home was in and how it had been neglected. The need was so urgent, that our Board of Directors borrowed funds to complete the most needed repairs/improvements to restore the campus to its previous state. All of 2017-2018 was spent doing repairs and upgrades. As of this writing, nearly 100 tasks have been completed with another 8 in progress and yet another 18 on the "Need to be Completed List."

The previous board had a vision that our newly formed, and current board, does not embrace. Prior to my appointment, four houses had been purchased for a planned expansion. That plan is not the vision that we share now. We now have put all four houses on the market so that we can pay down the \$100,000 we needed for repairs for both the Visitor's Center and the home. Plus there is still \$50,000 worth of repairs needed at this time. Recently, a GoFundMe page was established to seek donations for the rest of the planned renovations in case the homes do not sell as quickly as we'd like. To donate, please see our Homepage www.reaganhome.org or <https://www.gofundme.com/z7zvyt-ronald-reagan-boyhood-home-preservation-foundation>

Earlier this year we bid farewell to Terrence Raper, our Administrative Assistant since 2014. He obtained fulltime employment in Sterling, Illinois, and we wish him nothing but the best. He also welcomed home a new daughter, Claire, in early March. Congratulations to him and his wife, Kayla.

On a sad note, we regretfully accepted the resignation of one of our longtime board members, Robert (Bob) Bell. His resignation was brought about due to health reasons while wintering in Florida. He is well on the way to recovery but he thought it best to resign his seat on the board. Please keep Bob in your prayers.

After a February visit to the Reagan Presidential Library, in Simi Valley, California, a partnership was formed between our home and the Reagan Presidential Library Gift Shop. It allowed me to purchase items for our gift shop wholesale, plus have the ability to add many new items to our shop. Speaking of our newly re-arranged shop, new fixtures and about 25 new items have been added to our inventory so far in 2019.

On a more positive note, a few of the members from our local Dixon Garden Club have stepped up and volunteered to take on the planting and maintenance of the Reagan Family vegetable garden. They will be putting a small fence around it to keep out our furry friends and they will be planting only period correct (1920's) seeds and plants. ALSO a few folks from the Lee Co. Extension Office in Amboy, better known as the "Master Gardeners," will be taking care of our flower beds, again planting period correct flowers. My personal goal is to have at least two each of Ronald's and Nancy's Tea Roses from Jackson Perkins for planting next year. I also want to add some more peonies to our beds as they were Nancy's favorite flower.

In closing, I knew straight on it would be a challenge here, and it has been, but I do not regret one minute of the time I have spent, here including the worries or the sleepless nights. I've often said I wanted to restore the dignity to this fine home and do my part to help keep the memory of Ronald Reagan alive and well. I honestly believe, now more than ever, we are on the right path and I am proud of what the whole Reagan staff, its contractors, and friends have helped accomplish in the last three years.

Respectively Submitted,

Patrick Gorman
Executive Director



The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home April 2019 Newsletter

Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

“TRUST BUT VERIFY”



Calendar of Events

May 9, 2019 10:00 am



Antique Automobile Collectors of Iowa (Cedar Rapids Region).

*Approximately 10-15 vintage Thunderbirds, Hudsons, & Oldsmobiles & others.

May 17, 2019 3:30 pm



Vintage MG Car Club, Chicagoland MG Club

*At least a dozen MGs...Ranging from the 1950s through the 1970s

***All vehicles will be on display in front of the Reagan Home on Hennepin Ave.**

July 6th, 2019 8 am Start



Reagan 5k Run & Kids Fun Run <http://reaganrun.com/>

August 3rd, 2019 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Jelly Belly Day at the Reagan Home

Come and see the famous Jelly Belly Car from St. Louis. Details will be posted on our website



October 31, 2019 10 am – 5 pm



Last day of the 2019 season

February 7, 2020 7 pm. – 9 pm.



Republican Dinner/Reagan Home Fundraiser

Next Year's Theme, Celebrating 100 Years of the Reagans in Dixon, speaker TBD

The Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home
April 2019 Newsletter

*“All of us have a place to go back to;
Dixon is that place for me.”*