

2016 Macomb County Heritage Alliance Meeting

The Macomb County Heritage Alliance (MCHA), a consortium of local historical and genealogical organizations located within Macomb County, held their annual meeting at the Sterling Heights Public Library.



The meeting was hosted this year by the Sterling Heights Historical Commission and Tammy Turgeon, Director of the Sterling Heights Public Library and the Suburban Library Cooperative. MCHA was organized in 1996 by Madeline Page and Patricia Hallman under the auspices of the Macomb County Historical Commission.

This year's event was hosted by the Sterling Heights Historical Commission (a small contingent of the commission present is pictured here) and Tammy Turgeon. The event was held at the Sterling Heights Public Library with a tour in the afternoon of one of a few 19th Century homes in Sterling



Heights, the Upton House. The house is of Italianate design and was built in 1866-67 by William Upton. It is located at 40433 Utica Road, Sterling Heights. The Upton House is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Michigan Historical Marker website. For more information on the house or to inquire about tours, please contact the Sterling Heights Commission by clicking [here](#).



There were several tables packed full of prizes for the silent auction and a group of tables holding flyers and other information available on upcoming events sponsored by the historical & genealogical organizations in attendance. The meeting started with Samantha, granddaughter of an MCHA Board Member, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.



This year's attendance averaged about 70 people from the various historical and genealogical organizations in Macomb County and nearby areas in attendance. The business meeting followed with a welcome and introduction to new organizations followed by a presentation by Tammy Turgeon on the Michigan Activity Pass Program. For more



information on the Michigan Activity Pass Program, [click here](#). This was followed by the conduction of Heritage Alliance business, which included 1) MCHA Board member introductions; 2) Discussion with

survey handed out on sponsored workshop/roundtable discussions/future direction of the MCHA organization; 3) Discussion on MCHA's "new" website ([click here](#)) and MCHA's Facebook page ([click here](#)); 4) MCHA Patch Program "Patches of History"; 5) Changes to the Bylaws with voting to approve recommended changes; 6) MCHA Board vacancies, which includes Kim Parr stepping down as the MCHA President and Lois Jackman taking the helm as the "new" board President; 7) Announcement



of the 2017 & 2018 MCHA Annual Meeting locations; 8) Presentation of the Alexander Macomb Historical Award to the well-deserved individual and organizational honorees; 9) lunch where we all did a bit of networking and the 'open mic' was provided to allow the organizations to have some 'brag time' about their individual organizations; 10) presentation by Tobi Voight, Chief Curatorial Officer, Detroit Historical Society, titled "Community Engagement Projects for Historical Societies/Museum;

11) Silent Auction wrap-up with closing remarks and tours of the Upton House.

This year's individual honoree(s) for the 2016 Alexander Macomb Historical Award were once again, a husband and wife duo who love and enjoy giving of their time for the preservation of history within their local community. Norm and Dianne Gibson are active with the Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society. They are both serving as current board members to that organization along with being active volunteers with the Civil War Shooters Association. For more information about Norm & Dianne, check out their bio on the Alexander Macomb Historic Award page by [clicking here](#).



The 2016 Organization Honoree of the Alexander Macomb Historical Award was present to the Macomb County Historical Society (MCHS) & Crocker House Museum. Accepting the award for MCHS is Marcia Swiderski and Kim Parr, Administrative Assistant and Director of the Crocker House Museum. MCHS and the Crocker House Museum were nominated as they were the first organization in Macomb County to

start the process of preserving our county's history. MCHA was founded in 1964 and has been the 'heart' of historic-related activity ever since. For more information on the Macomb County Historical Society and the Crocker House Museum, check out the bio on the Alexander Macomb Historical Award page by [clicking here](#).

