

# Senoia Area Historical Society 2020 Board

## Dennis A. Sanford President



Dennis and his wife Martha moved to Senoia in 2017. He is originally from upstate New York but spent most of his life in Colorado and California. He has a BSBA in Economics from the University of Denver, an MPA in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, a PhD in Organizational Development from the University of Colorado and a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Sarasota.

Dennis is semi-retired having spent 40 years in the Financial Services field working for American Funds, Fidelity, Nationwide and Protective Life and currently consulting as VP with Beacon Capital Management.

Dennis has held various board positions on numerous HOA's in Colorado, California, Hawaii and Georgia and is currently Vice President of the Magnolia Place Subdivision HOA.

He served as President, Board of Directors for the Rainbow, CA Community Planning Group serving approximately 4,000 residents; President, Board of Directors for the Rainbow, CA Municipal Water District; President "Say No to FPUD" Rainbow, CA, a lobbying organization formed to successfully oppose an effort to merge the Rainbow Municipal Water District with a neighboring water district; Vice President, Board of Directors for the San Diego County Water Authority; Chairperson, Audit Committee for the San Diego County Water Authority; President of the Temecula, CA Valley Men's Club and President of the Temecula Valley, CA Over the Hill Gang Auto Club.

Currently, he is the Treasurer of The Optimist Club of Senoia and a Member of the Finance Committee for the United Methodist Church of Senoia.

Dennis is an avid skier and served as Executive Director for the Professional Ski Instructors of America and is a hot rod enthusiast owning a 38 Ford Coupe and a 41 Ford Coupe doing much of the restoration himself. He enjoys woodworking and playing the guitar and banjo. Dennis and Martha have been married for 14 years and together have 4 sons and 10 grandchildren.

## Jennifer E. Meares Vice President



A native of nearby Woodbury, GA, in Meriwether County, Jennifer spent several years working in tourism and economic development there. Along with her late father and others, she helped to establish and organize the Manchester Railroad Days Festival which celebrates the town's long and rich history with the railroad. The festival has been ongoing for 20 years. Working with this event, Jennifer learned to appreciate the impact a town's history has on its current residents and visitors. She has enjoyed volunteering as a docent for the SAHS museum. Learning and sharing Senoia's unique history is a pleasure. Jennifer and her

husband, Clay and daughter Aurelia, have lived in downtown Senoia since 2013. Aurelia attends East Coweta Middle School. Jennifer has a B. A. degree from Mercer University. Recently she has served a term on the Downtown Development Authority and currently serves on the board of the City Development Authority. She is a member of the Senoia United Methodist Church.

## Evan Stitt Treasurer



Evan and his family moved to Peachtree City, Georgia in 2001 and to Senoia in 2013. He is a native of Dearborn, Michigan and holds Bachelor of Administration Degrees in Accounting and Spanish from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Evan is also a Certified Public Accountant registered in Michigan. He is employed at Norcom, Inc. in Griffin, Georgia as their CFO and Vice President of Finance & Human Resources where he has worked since July 2008.

Previously Evan held positions in finance, business development, engineering and operations management with Yazaki North America, Inc., an automotive electrical and electronics supplier based in Canton, Michigan, where he had worked for 22 years. In his last position he served as the Vice President & General Manager of Yazaki's Griffin, Georgia automotive electronics manufacturing facility. Evan worked for a Big 8 public accounting firm prior to joining Yazaki in 1986.

Evan currently serves as SAHS Treasurer. He is also the current and past Chairperson of the Griffin-Spalding Partners in Education Board of Directors and is also on the Board of Directors of the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation. He previously served three years on the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America - Flint River Council, in addition to many other volunteer activities.

Evan lives in Senoia, Georgia with his wife of 35 years, Susan, in a restored circa 1830's farmhouse. They are the proud parents of three adult daughters and grandparents to two grandchildren.

## Carrie Cottrill Secretary



Carrie is a Georgia native who was raised in Stone Mountain. She attended Georgia College in Milledgeville and received a BA in Marketing. Carrie worked in many fields until the birth of her daughter in 1995.

She raised her family in Peachtree City and moved to Senoia five years ago, and has enjoyed renovating an older home in the historic district. Carrie enjoys the small town feel and the many friendships made in Senoia.

Carrie is a Certified Fitter for The Sigvaris Group. She especially enjoys educating clients about compression, and helping them lead healthier lives.

In her spare time, Carrie enjoys painting and thrift store shopping with her daughter Bailey. She is a new grandmother to Nathan Hendershot, born September 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Hal Sewell

## Member at Large



Hal Sewell was born and raised in Senoia, and has lived in the area his entire life. His parents were Ray and Edith Crook Sewell. His mother grew up in Senoia with 4 brothers, including Ellis Crook. Together, Ray and Edith operated Sewell's General Merchandise from 1946 to 1973. It was an early "Wal-Mart" type of store on Main Street where Beyond the Door is located today. Hal's parents were also charter members of the Senoia Area Historical Society, and his father was on the Board.

Hal earned a BBA in Marketing and Management from the University of West Georgia. He and his wife, Vicki Chambless Sewell, have been married for 46 years. They have 2 grown children and 2 grandsons, ages 6 & 2.

Hal retired from NCR Corporation after 33 years where he worked in various departments, including Inventory Management, Customer Service, and Project Management. Vicki retired from the Coweta County School System where she taught 31 years at different elementary levels.

Hal grew up in and continues to worship at the Senoia United Methodist Church. Including his and Vicki's children, at least 5 generations of Hal's family have attended one or more of the churches that used to make up the circuit of which Senoia Methodist was a part. Hal has served in many capacities of his church including Chair of the Administrative Council, Sunday School Superintendent, interim Choir Director (for 15 years), and a long-term member of the choir.

He has also served for many years on the Board of Directors of Clearwater Lake, Inc., in Sharpsburg where he has served in the past as President and as Treasurer.

Hal helped to start the Optimist Club of Senoia in 1985 and served as the Charter President. He has been the President of the local club in other years as well.

In addition to other positions he has held in the Optimist organization, Hal has served as Lieutenant Governor for 2 terms, and served as Governor of the Optimist District – which at the time consisted of the entire state of Georgia – in the 2013-2014 Optimist year. That year the District was the #3 District in Optimist International based on net growth.

In 2017-2018, Hal served as the Optimist International Vice-President of the Southeast Region. In this capacity, he was responsible for over 8,600 Optimist members in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee, and in the Caribbean. The year he was Vice-President, the Southeast Region was the #2 Region in Optimist International.

Hal and Vicki joined the Senoia Area Historical Society about 10 years ago after the museum was established. They both felt that serving in this area would be very enjoyable and rewarding, and this has proven true. In addition to serving as docents in our museum, they have helped with many other projects and fund raisers over the years.

Based on input from charter member, Nancy Roy, Hal is the first multi-generational family member to serve on our Board since his father served years ago and he is looking forward to this new opportunity.

## Doug Kolbenschlag

### Past President/Member at Large



U.S. Navy recruiting posters once said, “Join the Navy and See the World.” Doug Kolbenschlag will tell you it’s absolutely true. As a self-described “Navy brat,” Kolbenschlag has lived in Washington, California, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, Germany, Rhode Island and Georgia. He attended three different high schools before graduating from Southwest DeKalb High in metro Atlanta. He raised a family in Rockdale County and moved to Senoia in 2012.

Doug received a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Southern Polytechnic State University. He completed his MBA with a concentration in Finance in 1998 from Georgia State University. Doug is a registered professional engineer in the state of Georgia.

Doug recently retired after a 35-year career with Georgia Power. He plans to spend the next 35 years giving back to the communities that have been so good to him and his family.

Doug currently lives in Senoia in a circa 1905 home with his wife, Lori. His youngest child, Daniel, lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and works as an auditor for Grant-Thornton. Sara, his oldest child, lives in Charleston, S.C. with her husband, Ted, and their two children, Ellie and Taylor. Doug’s middle child, Cassie, is starting her tenth year teaching special needs children in Henry County and working on her Masters at UGA at night.

Doug volunteers at the Senoia Area Historical Society, serves on the Senoia Development Authority Board, Senoia Optimist Club Board, Senoia DDA Economic Development Committee, and is an active member at Senoia United Methodist Church.

## Maureen Schuyler

### Museum Director



Originally hailing from the City of Brotherly Love, Maureen was employed as a legal secretary for the City of Philadelphia until moving to Florida in 1978 where she and her husband Jim raised their two children.

As a stay-at-home Mom, Maureen volunteered throughout her children’s school years as PTA President, yearbook advisor, and newsletter editor. Once her children entered college, Maureen did the same and earned an Associate of Arts degree from Pasco-Hernando State.

Maureen and Jim moved to Senoia in 2009 and immediately became involved in their new hometown, joining the Senoia Optimists Club and SAHS. Maureen also served on the Senoia Historic Preservation Commission for six years. When SAHS membership voiced the need to open our building as a museum, Maureen provided the leadership and time investment to open the doors in 2010, establishing and maintaining appropriate records for the collection and exhibition of Senoia artifacts. She continues to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the museum and staffing of volunteers. She also coordinates special events and presents Senoia’s unique history to community organizations and clubs.

Aside from her role as Museum director, Maureen currently serves as a member of the Coweta County Library Advisory Board, serves on the Senoia Downtown Development Authority’s Design Committee, and is a member of the Senoia Variety Club and Senoia Writers’ Group.

Jim and Maureen have been married for 42 years and are parishioners of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. They also have the added blessing of both their adult children, Christine and Vincent, living in Senoia with their young families.