

URSCC 2017 Annual Meeting
January 7, 2018
Vandalia Village Hall
Vandalia, MI

Events Committee (Cathy LaPointe, chair)

We're happy to report that the annual URSCC events were well attended this year.

UGRR Wax Museums — Portage Lakeview Elementary and Cassopolis Sam Adams Elementary held their annual UGRR Wax Museums in June, 2017. They were both well attended. The local community looks forward to these presentations every year, and more schools are bringing students to enjoy them. Stacey Bonine and Felomina Patton continue to coach and mentor the students, bringing their characters to life in the Bonine House.

Underground Railroad Days — the 8th annual UGRR Days, a collaboration between the Village of Vandalia and URSCC was the most successful ever. The festival, which takes place the second weekend of July, has local, regional and even national draw. A full page story in the Chicago Tribune nearly doubled attendance this year. The debut of Sally Connor's documentary about the Kentucky Raid on Friday's "Opening Night" was sold out. The Bonine Carriage House opened to visitors for the first time.

Christmas at the Bonine House — the 6th annual CBH was a lovely success. Instead of one 3-day weekend, URSCC decided to have CBH on the first and second Sat/Sun of December. Over 1500 attended over the two weekends. We will adopt the two weekend strategy in the future. CBH will continue to be on the first and second weekends of December yearly. A special part of CBH this year was Maria Jones' dining room, decorated in her memory by her family and friends. Maria will always be part of Christmas at the Bonine House. Mary Charlotte Bonine Roberts returned again to her childhood home, along with her son Bob.

Board Members and other long time URSCC members are the staff for UGRR Days and CBH. These events could not run without them. Docents, tour guides, greeters, sales staff-- so many pitch in to make URSCC events a pleasure for all. Many return year after year, so welcome and appreciated.