

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting

Community Research Technology, Inc. Nov. 24, 2008

Accomplishments

Special Recognition

With appreciation, we acknowledge the assistance in our first year of Jim Aufderheide and Bob Skillings and the good counsel of Don Brand, Al Mueller, Elroy Ubl and Red Wyczawski.

CRT also recognizes the special assistance rendered by Andy Biebl and Ken Vonderhaar in helping us wade through the complex applications for tax exempt status on the state as well as the federal level. The application at the federal level was completed with one very minor adjustment which only delayed the designation by one week.

Achievements in Administrative Area

1. Secured non-profit status from federal 501 (c) (3) and state of Minnesota.
2. Began working arrangement with South Central College for digital and Internet preservation of New Ulm's athletic history.
3. Secured support of Martin Luther College for use of microfilm reader and continued discussion of sharing use and location of large-format scanner.
4. Discussed possibilities of collaboration with New Ulm Public Library as public access site.
5. Began collection of Hanska and Searles historic material and were buoyed by the interest, support and good will of individuals in those locations.
6. Made use of temporary executive and special committees to accomplish progress maximizing electronic communications.
7. Received encouragement from and explored collaboration with Minnesota Digital Library.
8. Opened line of support with Minnesota Historical Society.
9. Continued receiving positive response to project, especially from out-of-town former athletes who provided interest, excitement and financial support.

Technology

1. Installed newly purchased computer and scanning equipment. Accepted used computer for training purposes. Scanning equipment has been tested for digital images of black and white negatives and slides for several power-point presentations with excellent reproduction.
2. Development continued under direction of technology director Jim Aufderheide with start of written directions and procedures and testing operations for cataloging and indexing sports photos, documents and historical information.
3. Organized space in temporary location.

Financial

1. Major support received from New Ulm Baseball Association, New Ulm American Legion and KNUJ over three years. Other support secured from VFW and Journal.
2. Received \$1,500 from the charter memberships from over 60 individuals.

Disappointments

1. No funding was secured in two extensive applications to New Ulm Foundation.

2. Connecting with New Ulm Schools and coaches in general. We recognize the difficulty of getting the coaches together so they understand fully what the program is about. This needs to be accomplished in 2009.
3. We had some personal blindness to size, scope and time required, and disappointment in speed of accomplishment. This involved my underestimating time available by good people who have other agendas besides this project which is full-time for the president-designate. We do extend thanks to Jim Aufderheide and Tom Edwards for keeping me reluctantly understanding this is a multi-year project.
4. Organizing the software phase for use by sports to bring consistency in future.

Challenges and Targets for 2009

Operations

Develop Donor Agreements which are friendly to the individuals and to our mission.
Resolve issues of privacy of publishing material.
Create staffing and use of more volunteers to handle the details involved.

Marketing and financial

Maintaining and enlarging our membership strengths.
Expanding and qualifying the prospect base for finances and memberships.
Enhancing our public image and "bonding" and extending public exposure.
Avoid the impact of economy on funding phase two targets for funding – schools, service organizations and commercial establishments.

Collaboration

Further developing benefits from associations with Minnesota Historical Society, New Ulm Public Library, Minnesota Digital Library, Minnesota Baseball Greats, and other service club type entities.

Expand Equipment and Systems

Procure microfilm research tools for research to authenticate material already on hand.
Secure a public accessible site.
Expand community participation in data entry, researching, scanning, file systems
Standardize sports software for statistics and history and presentation to a sports ticker on the website.
Investigate self-sustaining sports weather reporting for the geographic area being served.

New Ulm Sports Central Website Development

Complete the indexing and cataloging system of sports objects (photos, documents, etc.)
Launch live reporting for American Legion State Tournament
Create live reporting for summer baseball

Herb Schaper, President Designate