



# League City Historical Society League City, Texas



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October 2018

LCHS Newsletter

Catharin Lewis, Editor



## WWI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mobil Museum Wednesday Oct 24 – Saturday October 27 Noon to 8pm

### Why is it so important to see this traveling museum?

Kansas City has the WWI Museum BUT the museum brings over 200 artifacts to you!

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice signed at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the year 1918. The Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Allies and Central Powers in Europe thus ending the Great War. This “war that will end War” changed the world as we knew it and shaped the future of warfare and the entire world for the next century. Just as space travel has made discoveries and advances that benefit the world, so does warfare. Medical advances, such as the portable x-ray machine, technological discoveries, stainless steel and modern weaponry. Socially, the war drove large numbers of civilians from the south to the north as well as from farms to the city. Racial equality for African Americans as well as Hispanics was brought to the forefront as large numbers volunteered to fight and serve their country. Women enlisted in the armed forces as well as worked in factories, farms, and in other vital roles to keep the country running. Economically, the war stimulated the economy along the coast with oil and gas refinement as well as troop and cargo support.

### Join Us!!!



### Have you seen our banner across Main Street?

Thank you to **The Sign Shop** for designing such amazing advertising directional signs for our event.

Small towns, like League City, sent their young men to fight not knowing whether they would return. As a farming community, League City pitched in growing food to support the many training camps and airbases located in Texas as well as for the troops abroad. Troop movements also spread in 1918 Influenza pandemic that effected every community. Rationing and supporting the war effort included every member of the community and ours contributed just like every other city and town in America.

**Be sure to read all the pages that follow...**

# LCHS Board Members

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Catharin Lewis  
Museum  
Curator/Director



# League City Historical Society Meeting Minutes Susan Pierce, Secretary

## Historical Society Meeting Minutes Susan Pierce, Secretary September 27, 2018

Steph McDougal welcomed everyone. Katie Hake asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for next year's candidates. Ronnie Richards announced that Butler's Courtyard will be hosting an event at the Fig Factory, and we're all invited. More information to come. Steph reminded everyone of the traveling WWI exhibit coming to the Barn Museum October 24-27, with self-guided tours, open noon until 8:00, and free to the public. On October 27, re-enactors will be present.

Steph introduced our speaker, Matt Zeve, Deputy Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, who discussed the evolution of flood standards. Flood "control" was first under the domain of engineers, then economists, and now environmentalists. Mr. Zeve said Harris County actually has very good drainage, but major flooding occurs, on average, every other year. The Flood Control District is a separate government entity from the City of Houston, and is so named because at one time, engineers thought they would eventually be able to control nature and flooding. The term "100-year floodplain" doesn't mean that an area is predicted to have only one flood in 100 years. Actually it means an area could experience "an amount of rain with a 1% chance of being equal or exceeded in any given year." In other words, we all live in a flood zone. The current goal for Harris County's drainage system is to be able to drain 13" of rain within 24 hours. If that much rain doesn't drain during that much time, we will have flooding.

During the flood of 1935, Buffalo Bayou was 8 feet higher than it was after Hurricane Harvey. Tropical Storm Allison was the worst flooding in our nation's history.

There is no monthly meeting in October because the Barn Museum will feature the WWI exhibit instead.

Meeting adjourned.

The **nominating committee** is preparing the ballot for the November election. Officers and replacement directors for the society will be on the ballot. This will be published in the November newsletter. **Come to the November meeting and vote.**





# WEST BAY COMMON SCHOOL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Curator's Corner  
Catharin Lewis



**Let's Celebrate!** This month marks 25 years as a museum in League City. Come next week to the Mobile WWI Exhibit Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 8pm and help us celebrate our growth as a society and as a museum!

Our road to this point has been quite an adventure. The early road was a bit rough as we were learning where to get help and who to ask. My husband, Richard and I found a schoolhouse and wrote an article to the Houston Chronicle where the newly formed Historical Society responded about possibly bringing the school to League City. Thirty local businesses also gave their support through lumber, paint, glass, equipment and funding to help us restore the one-room schoolhouse that was moved from Chambers County to the former site of two early schools in League City. One school was built in 1894 but destroyed by the 1900 Storm and the other built in 1901, called the Little Green Schoolhouse, later was torn down in 1980 leaving only a fenced in yard and a concrete block building. This concrete structure once housed the first fire station and later became the bus barn for the Clear Creek School District. Our society members donated the labor to restore the schoolhouse and raised funds through the sale of Afghans, homemade footstools and box socials. We had now started down the long path where we would grow both as a society and as a museum.

The museum offered schoolhouse programs for visitors of all ages to role play a day at school in the late 1890's. Now more than 122,00 visitors have come from the Houston – Galveston area and shared the schoolhouse experience with as many as 239 sessions in a year. Along this path the Society held a monthly speaker program for adults to educate them about the area and other historical bits of history. Membership in the society increased as others wanted to be a part of the great adventure. Home Tours, Ghost Tours, Fashion Shows and Living History Dinners became almost yearly events to keep the society active and to help support the growth of the museum.

We had a few obstacles and bumps in the roads along this path. One bump concerned our museum teachers whose husbands were transferred out of the area and where new teachers had to be trained to fill the gap. Another bump along the path was the ever changing board and officers of the Society through term limits, bringing in different types of leadership skills and abilities and sometimes training to what was needed in their new roles. We had several bumps getting funding support through the years and some with better success than others in getting grants. Exciting things happened when we met these challenges or bumps providing opportunities for traveling exhibits, improvements to the Bus Barn, the addition of a Garden Classroom and better signage.

We are now getting ready to take another road in this journey. I am retiring in December. I still hope to come and volunteer but I look forward now to discovering new adventures to travel and new ways to serve this community. Plans are in the making for the society and for me as how to take this new road. There still may be some bumps and some still might find some changes hard, but the Society has grown and is now taking the big steps to lead us to new frontiers. They will need your help with funding and support. Join them in this special adventure to remember!

**Our Monthly  
Speaker Series**  
at 210 North Kansas

**October 27**  
“Honoring Veterans  
of WWI”

**November 29**  
**Jill Brooks**  
“Houston’s Founders  
Cemetery and DAR”

## Don’t Miss this!

History Re-enactment of the Great War

On Saturday, October 27th, 2018 living history re-enactors will depict the stories of 6 World War I era men and women interred in Fairview Cemetery, League City from noon until 5 pm. The story of Leslie Bryan Scott, the only League City man to die from wounds suffered in battle, is just one of the stories that will be represented. We will also have a Donut Dolly represented to tell the story of the Salvation Army’s mission in France.

The re-enactors will be in the Garden classroom adjacent to the West Bay Common School Children's Museum, 210 North Kansas, League City, TX 77573.

For more information, please contact the League City Historical Society at 281-554-2994, [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com), or [www.leaguecityhistory.org](http://www.leaguecityhistory.org).

