

# Illiana News

January 2022

## Final Letter From Our President

Hello to everyone,

I sincerely hope you are staying well and free of Covid, although there are several in our club who have had it. It is certainly something to be taken seriously and is a scourge to mankind.

As most everyone knows, in January of 2018, Jim and Doris Manlief loaned Illiana \$40,000 to finish the new Assembly Hall and did not charge us any interest on the loan, with the terms and conditions being that Illiana was to repay them as soon as possible. Carolyn and I met with them in December to give them some funds from various sources, and in doing so the balance was brought down to \$6,000. Needless to say, they informed us that the loan of \$40,000 was paid in full. They graciously donated the remaining \$6,000 to Illiana and our Assembly Hall is debt-free.

So, as most everyone knows, I've said for the last three years that as soon as Illiana paid the Manliefs back, that I would retire from being your president. Yes, this is my last letter to you to inform you that at last night's directors meeting, January 9th, I informed them that was my last meeting as president. We will be meeting February 1 as a Board of Directors to select new officers for the new year as Doris will also be retiring after 24 years as Secretary/Treasurer. Jim will no longer be doing the mowing of the grounds.

First, and most important, I thank my wife, Carolyn, for her patience with me all these years of being gone so much. Next, I thank all of you for your support and hard work on behalf of Illiana to make it a family-friendly show. I would ask that you all support the new officers and Board of Directors as we begin a new year.

Personally, I felt that between my old age, 80, hard of hearing issues, and my lack of knowledge on modern technology that it is time for new leadership for Illiana. I only wish the best for Illiana in the future.

The next club meeting will be in March.

Stay safe and well.

**Tom Swanson, ex-President**

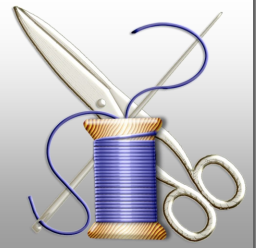
### Next Meeting Dates:

**Board of Directors:** February 1, 2022.

**Monthly Club Meeting:** Monday, March 21 @ 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass.

# Illiana Quilters' News

Submitted by: Kathy Kyle



Illiana Quilters will meet on Monday, Jan. 24th at the Assembly Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m. with our business meeting. Plans are to start making the raffle quilt for the July summer show at this meeting, so bring your sewing supplies.

Anyone interested in sewing, quilting or just having a fun day out with others who have the same interests is welcome to join us.

Stay warm everyone!



# Happy New Year!

Submitted by: Joan Fry

New Year, fresh start...make your plans now for what you are going to do to make Illiana Antique Power Association even better in 2022. I know it will be hard to top 2021...we were blessed with so many great things in spite of the few COVID bumps in the road. The show was great...Christmas in the Village was WONDERFUL! The Fall Festival was good! Improvements were made all over the grounds. We love the new assembly hall and its air conditioning & heat! We were represented at the Williamsport Park Christmas Display. Thank you to Tom and Gary for taking down the display and thanks to our granddaughters Ellie and Hannah for helping to paint it. Look forward to next December...our display will be even better! We were even contacted by the RFD television show Small Town Big Deal! We will see what happens with that. By the way if you missed it, check out Clayton's post on Facebook.

2022 will be a double History Day year. The first will be in May; it will replace the Fall History Day that we had to cancel because of Covid. Then the fourth Friday in September we will host the Fall History Day. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there. Of course, the schools have the last say about field trips, but we will be optimistic and say they are both going to happen. Our club mission is to *Give the Past a Future*. These History Days do just that. One of the Attica carolers at Christmas in the Village was so excited to be back because she remembered coming to Illiana as a fourth grader. We are planting seeds for the future.

The Fall Festival/Craft Fair/Swap Meet will be held the third Saturday in September. Talk to your friends, maybe plan a booth for yourself, pray for good weather and it should be bigger and better than ever.

Christmas in the Village will be the first Friday and Saturday in December again. This year will bring some big changes you will hear more about later. We started Christmas in the Village to be a gift to the community and to let the local folks be aware of what a treasure they have right in their backyard. The attendance this year was proof that families in our area now know. WE now have the job to make it better each year and to reach more folks.

I am excited for the new year and what it will bring. I am thankful for all of you who help pull off these events. I am grateful for the behind-the-scene folks who do things others never notice. I am amazed at the ideas popping. I am thrilled to be a part of the Illiana Antique Power Association. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## **Dates to Remember:**

**History Day #1:** May 13, 2022 (tentative, if allowed by schools)

**Fall Festival/Craft Fair/Swap Meet:** Sept. 17, 2022

**History Day #2:** Sept. 23, 2022

**Christmas in the Village:** December 2-3, 2022



# Rocky Forge Blacksmith News

Submitted by: Ted Stout

The blacksmith group met January 8 at Ted's shop. Given the weather conditions and Covid situation we still had 25 in attendance. Kurt Fahrenbach, a guru of Blacksmithing, demonstrated all day using traditional techniques and the power hammer. Kurt made tongs and other tooling that we use at the anvil and power hammer. We had a really good day of instructive learning.

The group has also completed the build of 25 gas forges that are available to our members.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 12th at Ted's shop. That meeting will be our 20th anniversary.



*Instructor: Kurt Fahrenbach*



## Rocky Forge Blacksmiths

Next meeting:

**Feb. 12, 2022 @ Ted's shop.**



