

## HEARTHSTONE HOLDS 2019 ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNOUNCES “SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER” RESTORATION PROJECT SPARKED BY \$100,000 DONATION

Friends of Hearthstone, Inc., a privately funded, non-profit, has held its annual meeting on March 19, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Fox Club at Fox Cities Stadium. Since 1986, the organization has owned and operated *Hearthstone Historic House Museum*. The meeting also initialized a restoration project for 2019 with a goal of \$500,000 to be raised for a complete exterior restoration.

The 2019-2021 project was launched after Hearthstone received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to be used for purposes specific to the project.

The Annual Meeting started with a social gathering at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and a presentation at 7:00 p.m. The presentation reviewed the accomplishments of the organization throughout 2018, including the results of many educational programs and special events, as well as the regular attendance of Hearthstone Historic House Museum as a major tourist attraction in the Fox Cities. “The Annual Meeting allows us to share everything that happened with Friends of Hearthstone for a one year period,” states George Schroeder, Executive Director. “It gets everyone up to speed on the direction Hearthstone is taking, and allows for input on how to better an already thriving and quality organization.”

This meeting announced the starting point for a *2019-2021 restoration project*, with a goal of raising \$500,000. “We have taken a lot of questions on when some of this restoration will occur, and rest assured, we will be undertaking several major projects in the Summer of 2019,” says Schroeder. These projects will include the restoration of the four large chimneys, a completely new roof, new half-round gutters correct for the period of the house, as well as other detailed attributes like copper ridge caps and roof snow rakes original to the house. Other projects to follow will be the restoration of all exterior wood and brick surfaces, and the restoration of the existing historic windows. These projects are all being completed by specialists in each area, and must follow guidelines set by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the National Park Service as the organizations that set the standards for structures, such as Hearthstone, that are listed on the state and national registers of historic places. “Everyone knows what a beautiful house Hearthstone is,” adds Schroeder, “and we want to ensure that it is preserved and maintained for all future generations.” The house is 137 years old this year.

## **About Hearthstone Historic House Museum**

Hearthstone Historic House Museum is nationally renowned historic site of international significance. Hearthstone was at the center of a pivotal moment in history in the United States - the dawning of electrification, a scientific and technological advancement that had arguably one of the most profound impacts on American life. Hearthstone was the first residence to be incandescently lit by a hydroelectric central power station using Edison technology. The switch was thrown on September 30, 1882 just two weeks after the first-ever Edison central station, which was powered by steam, was operational in New York City. Electrification of Hearthstone and local industry was realized by Henry J. Rogers, an entrepreneur and visionary. Beyond its technological significance, Hearthstone is a truly exceptional example of Queen Anne style residential architecture. It is one of the few residences in the state exhibiting an elite level of exterior design and richness of interior design, finishes, and furnishings. The house still contains the original Edison electroliers and other original light fixtures, original light switches, and some of the world's only examples of original Edison wiring in situ. Hearthstone Historic House Museum is operated by Friends of Hearthstone, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 public charity. More information about Hearthstone is available at its website, [www.hearthstonemuseum.org](http://www.hearthstonemuseum.org).

## **Hearthstone Historic House Museum**

[www.hearthstonemuseum.org](http://www.hearthstonemuseum.org)

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