The Heritage Network
Board of Directors
April 20, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Barreca.
Present: Susan Dechant, Sue Richart, Rette Bidstrup, Sebright, Rose Kalamarides, Jayne from Republic, Joe Barreca, and Janet Thomas.
March Minutes: Minutes reviewed, Sue moved and Rose seconded, minutes approved with corrections. Bill
May Meeting: Clayton/Deer Park will host the May meeting.

Kettle Falls Historical Center: The center had 1630 visitors last year. 960 local, 310 from Eastern Washington, 110 from greater Washington, 40 from out of country. The Nature trail is being upgraded. They will open May 15th. Fur Traders will be there May 13-16th.

Indian Agency Cabin: The Friday visitation by the Providence Chaplains from Colville and Chewelah has been finalized. Don McConnell will speak.

The neighbors across the street are considering increasing their involvement with the cabin. They have been friends of the cabin for several years.

The floor electric outlets are installed and ready. Glass oil lamps are being converted to electric. Overhead, recessed lights have been ordered and will provide most of the lighting. Outside lights on the cabin porches will be solar. The Chewelah Historical Society may help provide guides for the cabin. They has 250 visitors during the 2 events last year.

When another concrete vendor is found the steps will be installed front and back.

Research: George Craig, a member of the Valley Historical Society and a participant in Sue's GIS project, passed away last week. He was a great guy and really enjoyed researching our local history.

The Chewelah Independent microfilm has been sent off to be digitized, so we are closer to THN paying for that and all our members having access.

On Sun, Apr 19, 2026 at 11:45 AM Sue Richart <srichart4@gmail.com> wrote:
Sue continues to work on determining the earliest schools. She has been comparing post offices, election precincts, and road districts to see if they point to some of the undetermined school districts. Everything points to Spokane Bridge having a school, but Erika Deasy, the Spokane County school researcher, hasn't determined it yet. It was interesting to see that in 1867, they would only allow a liquor license if over half the voters in the election precinct approved it. That triggered a push to add election precincts.

Stevens County Historical Society: SCHS opens up on May 1, everyday, from 1 to 4 p.m. 2026 is the society's 50th anniversary.

Clayton/Deer Park: A fiend will donate $500 to the Society to help him burn slash piles on his property. Six of us burned the piles last Friday.

Several members of the Society are working on a bike tour of Deer Park. People will be able to listen to narration at stops around Deer Park.

NEW Genealogical Society: Their Fall seminar is Sept. 19th. There will be an America 250 speaker via zoom. Hours from 9-2 including presentations from the Daughters of the American Revolution. They are working on an exhibit for America 250. They brought some single-issue newspapers The Stevens County Miner and The Stevens County Reporter.

Northport Welcome Center: The welcome center should be open by Fall. The wallpapering is done with a lot of help from a local volunteer expert. Bret Webley is cut and dried wood they need for flooring for only $600. Tiling is nearly done in bathrooms etc. Molding is being sanded and painted. They are joining with the Lions Club to share volunteers. They are redoing the park between the Gallo House Visitors Center and the library.

Ferry County Historical Society: They will use the lot next to the Slagle House for a 1896 cabin that has been moved there, 19' x 25'. It is now lifted up and will be set down on blocks. They got $ to help with the project from the legislature. Preservation of the Slagle House is ongoing. They found metal siding that looks like board and bat. A school class visited as part of the ROAR Project.

Washington State Historical Society: New head is Louis Van. Their annual conference will be in Spokane October 8-9-10. It is co-sponsored by the Washington State Council for The Social Studies. Early Registration begins May 15th.