



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

Volume 25, Issue 11
December 2024

From Our Board President

I hope you all had a glorious Thanksgiving holiday! I was in Monteagle, and it was so wonderful to connect with dear friends and family, rest my mind and spirit, and simply feel the peace that comes from spending time on our beautiful Assembly grounds.

Having had a post-turkey board meeting and some great conversations with committees chairs at the potluck, it's clear we have all had a productive fall. Plans for the 2025 program are taking shape under the leadership of Susan Acker. The Youth Committee is incredibly excited about developing a roster of engaging activities for our children and grandchildren, and the Warren Chapel committee is pouring its heart and soul into providing us all with a season of outstanding fellowship opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the pickleball survey. It was an important exercise that helped us quantify the depth of interest in the issue and guided us as we developed these critical next steps:

1. First and foremost, the Board reconfirmed its commitment to further investigate an appropriate location and funding for additional courts.



2. The Board approved a motion removing the previous three-year deadline for the completion of the new pickleball courts and the subsequent return of the current courts to youth activities. Some members may be disappointed by this, but please consider that the motion was made in June 2022, meaning that the courts would have to be complete by June 2025. That is simply not feasible. And we hope the membership will agree that with a project of this magnitude, it is far more important to “get it right” than to do it fast. We are committed to finding the best site with the fewest negative impacts while also focusing on funding and long-term maintenance.

3. The Board passed a motion to omit the VFW and current court location from consideration. Consideration of new sites in line with the Master Plan remains a possibility.

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Dancing in the Street!

Check out the new fundraiser on page 3

Contact a Board Member if you have ideas and/or suggestions.

A list of Board Members may be found in the Member Resources section of the website.



www.mssa1882.org

From Board President

(continued from page 1)

4. I have appointed an ad hoc committee comprised of the chairs of property, long range planning, Pickleball and trails (each chair will choose one additional person from their respective committee as well). This Ad Hoc Committee is charged with spearheading the effort to determine the best site, design and construction of new courts while keeping in mind our Master Plan and any potential effects on our neighbors—both in and outside the Assembly—as well as any environmental concerns.

5. This Ad Hoc Committee (comprised of all volunteers) will provide reports at every upcoming board meeting. Updates will also be provided at Town Hall meetings during the

season, and through Mountain Voices at appropriate intervals.

The MSSA Board of Trustees views the concerns of the members as a top priority, and we hope that you will please contact any board member with questions you may have regarding pickleball, a part of the process outlined above, or any other issue that is of importance to you. My children often hear this refrain from me: “I can’t solve a problem that I don’t know exists.” I am confident that together, with open minds, open hearts, mutual respect and a long history of community, we can tackle any problem.

Wishing you all a most Merry Christmas!



QUICK BITES

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.

ALL golf carts must be registered or re-registered every year. Only licensed drivers are legally allowed to drive carts.

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

Dogs must be registered, including proof of rabies vaccination. Pick up after your pets.

Safety first! Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.

Thank you for your gifts...

and more importantly your patience in receiving the acknowledgments of your generosity. Julia has taken on the responsibility of learning the software used to track and acknowledge the gifts the memberships and friends of the Assembly so graciously contribute. It’s amazing that not a day goes by that monetary donations are not received. And we are fortunate that many of you have shown your generosity repeatedly over the last eight months. If you have not received an acknowledgement for a gift, just know she’s doing her best to get caught up. Before year’s end, everyone will be notified how much your generosity is appreciated.



ARC PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the Executive Director. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

February 28 June 10 July 31 September 30 January 15

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the Executive Director first.

In Our Prayers

Mary Jane Bradley Flowers died unexpectedly on December 8, 2024. Mary Jane was a great grandchild of John Harton, for whom Harton Hall is named. She worked a number of summers as assistant to the Superintendent of the Platform under Lisa Hammett.

She leaves behind her husband William and two children; her parents Mary Alice and Tim Bradley and her brother Clay, his wife Anne and their children.

The 2025 Calendar/Philanthropy Annual Reports are at the printer. It will be heading to your mailbox soon!



Thanksgiving Fundraiser Generates Impressive Donation

Thank you so much to all who generously contributed to our Thanksgiving Giving! We raised \$3,350.00 for the Morton Memorial Food Pantry, which will provide many meals for families in need on the mountain.

*Blessings,
Mary Balfour Dunlap
Chair, Outreach Committee*

Dancing in the Street! Mark Your Calendar for the 2025 Fundraiser!



The MSSA outreach committee is thrilled to announce that the 2025 annual fundraiser will benefit Outreach on the Mountain. To be held again on July 5, 2025, the evening will feature a street dance in front of the Dining Hall and will include delicious food and drinks with live and silent auctions in the Dining Hall!

Music will be provided by the highly acclaimed Nashville band, 3rd Generation. Our committee has started gathering items for the auctions. If you have any items you are willing to donate—think tickets, experiences, packages (art, wine, bourbon, pickleball, etc.—be creative!!) or if you just want to donate money, and let us handle the rest, that works too!

Please reach out to maryallyn@gmail.com or call/text at 662-931-4333 with questions, thoughts or donations.

*Thank you for your support!
The Outreach Committee*

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: “... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination.”

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.

Housing Questions? Ask Rhonda!

Interested in possibly being in the rental program? Has your cottage rented to your satisfaction? Do you want to offer your cottage for 3-night rentals or discuss rates?

Contact Rhonda to discuss options or concerns, 931-924-9000



Merry Christmas

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly
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rick.duncan@mssa1882.org

LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE

#23 Edgeworth
\$1,923,000



#79 Crossroads
\$680,000

To arrange a tour or for
more information contact:

Steve Williams,
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Steve.williams@mssa1882.org
(931) 924-2286

SAFETY FIRST

The MSSA security team is at your service. If you have any emergency—medical or otherwise—call 911, but our seasoned team is here to help for non-emergency situations.

If you have a safety issue or see suspicious activity anywhere on the grounds or at the Point, don't hesitate to call (931) 607-8615 after 5 pm or call the office during business hours.

There are no silly concerns—it's better to call and quell your fears than to let something go because you are afraid of a false alarm.

Consider putting the security number by your home phone and/or plugging it into your cell phones.

Kids got cell phones? Plug the security number in those too.

Together we'll keep MSSA the safe haven it is!

Upcoming Trash Pick Up Dates

Mon., Dec. 23

Thur., Dec. 26

Mon. Dec. 30

Thurs., Jan. 2