

Community Roundup: Lions Club presents awards

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Submitted

Lions Club presents awards at December meeting

FREMONT - Fremont Lions Club announced special awards for various members at its December virtual meeting. Four of the Fremont Lions were presented with Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards by Lions Clubs International Foundation including Colleen Carmack, Robert P. Gamble, Nora C. Mollis and Harry H. Sargeant.

The award is in honor of the founder of Lions Clubs International, and this fellowship is the foundations highest award honoring those who represent humanitarian qualities. President Nora Mollis also received the Lion of the Year Award for both the district and zone. The December students of the month were announced including Alleana Jones and Isaias Ortiz from Fremont Ross High School.

Also announced were the November and December students from St. Joseph Central Catholic including Brody Deck, Zaynah Quiroz, Christopher Stosio and Bernadette Wonderly.

Tom Herb was the recipient of the King Crab Legs fundraiser. Chairman Greg Derodes drew the winning ticket and thanked all members for their participation.

Next virtual meeting is noon Jan. 12. Anyone interested in learning more about Fremont Lions or joining the meeting is welcome to call Mollis at 419-355-9244 for more information.

Catawba Island Historical Society elects Wonnell as vice president

PORT CLINTON - David G. Wonnell, retired 40 year executive with USG Corporation, has been elected Vice President of the Catawba Island Historical Society (CIHS) effective Jan. 1.

He follows William Van Der Giessen, who filled the position since the organization's founding in 2017. Van Der Giessen will continue to serve as a member of the Society's Board of Trustees.

Wonnell's involvement with CIHS began in 2017 as a member of its advisory council. He applied his USG strategic planning and project management experience to organizing the move of historical artifacts gifted by island residents, Don and JoAnn Rhodes, from their closing Ottawa City General Store Museum to the Historical Society's Catawba Museum at Union Chapel. A year later he moved from that position to membership on the CIHS Board of Trustees.

"I am a native of Port Clinton," noted Wonnell. "Ancestors on both my father and mother's side were among the first 100 families to settle in Ottawa County. I even have a grandmother who was born in Catawba Island's

legendary Betsy Mo-John log house. The Catawba Island Historical Society was a natural vehicle for me to learn more about my own heritage, and share many fascinating stories about the area's past with the community." At various times he and his wife, Port Clinton native Donna , lived in Indiana, Illinois, California and Mississippi.

"Donna is as strongly committed to advancing the Historical Society's mission as I am," said Wonnell. "She is the Union Chapel Museum's Chief Docent.

No stranger to volunteer activity himself, David's other community interests are extensive.

He is a mentor in the Port Clinton school system and President of the Port Clinton Artists' Club.

"Fortunately my predecessor, Bill Van Der Giessen, remains on the CIHS Board of Trustees and can bring me up to speed on the responsibilities he is transferring. For example, our annual membership drive has just begun and I expect to become more involved in that activity under Bill's tutelage. We are proud of the fact that all of our Board members play active roles in managing the Historical Society and its programs."

Membership dues provide the principle funding used to operate Catawba Museum at Union Chapel. Two levels of annual membership are available: the Historia at \$25 annually and the Curator at \$100 a year. A lifetime subscription to the Society's Council of Nabagon is also available for a one time investment of \$1,000.

Wonnell advises that a brief new video introduction to the museum is available for viewing at the Events tab on the society's website.

You can see the introduction video and learn more about becoming a member of CIHS at catawbaislandhistoricalsociety.com. Additional information can all be obtained by calling 419-967-5363