

Museum of Vanning

Director's Blog

9-12-25

Well, good afternoon Vanners. Well, I guess it's about time. I started giving you some updates about what's going on around the museum! We've made it through most of the summer got through Labor Day weekend already and here we are heading to the fall. Just wanted to give you guys a little note on what's going on with Bonnie and I before I get into much with the museum. Don't know if you know or not but Bonnie is now on kidney dialysis. This is something way out to address three times a week four hours a day and it leaves her quite weak most of the time, and tired. So, it eats up a lot of our time, but she is maintaining and doing the best she can with God 's help she will continue on this path.

So, what's going on with the museum? Spending lots of time in the new container; setting it up for the new donations that were expecting this fall. Putting in shelves building ramp so I can get in it, getting the roof all sealed up, etc. We really need to get this thing painted and could use a volunteer or two if anybody feels like helping us paint. That's about the last thing we need to do with this thing but I'm always finding more stuff to do!

So, on the way home from the nationals, Bonnie and I stopped in Santa Claus, Indiana. And I had a good long talk with Santa about our upcoming Christmas party. Not to let the cat out of the bag, but we may just have a special guest showing up this year! Santa told me that you good boys and girls are gonna have a really good time this year. Hard to believe it's been 10 years already since we've been having the Christmas party. We're planning on some great weather, a lot of fun and a chance for you to see the museum and help out the clause. Hope you caught that! All the bands are in, the hotel is ready to take your reservations, and we should be on our way to one of the best parties we've ever had.

Now I know last year we had an issue with all the displaced people because of the hurricanes, but hopefully, by the grace of God, we won't have that problem this year. We have booked a bank of rooms that should be ours no matter what. So, make sure that when you call you tell them that you're coming from the museum of vanning Christmas party. I would recommend that you ask for Danielle. There are a couple days during the week like Wednesday and Thursday that she does not work. I apologize for the inconvenience, but she really knows the most about what's going on in the hotel and we will have better results if we just deal with her. Please see the attached flyers for the phone numbers and some of the ideas we have planned for this year. You can come early.

We have the pub crawl lined up as usual. We're gonna end up at the end on the gulf, which has some outstanding food and drinks right on the Gulf of Mexico.

Next on my list. We're getting ready to place a brick order. We would really like to get all the existing orders in the garden before all of you start showing up in December. If you've been thinking about placing a brick order this would be a great time to do it. Times are slow and

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we'd like to get them made and installed by sometime in November. You can do this on the [website](#), you can drop me a line via text or email, or call me. However I can help you get through an order. Your support on this is really greatly appreciated and the garden is really looking awesome.

A couple of other things just a reminder about your [memberships](#) as much as we truly appreciate you guys being a member. We would like this to be an ongoing program so if Susie has sent you a reminder or if it is just slipped your mind, check your date again drop me a line and I'll let you know if you're due. [Susie](#) can also let you know, and we could really appreciate your help in getting our membership numbers back up as they have slipped quite a bit in the last year. Our membership program is our best ongoing fundraising that we have and truly need your support.

We still have room in the [ring of honor](#) and as always, you can still adopt a van, that's coming along pretty good. If you have any interest in any of these programs, please just pick up the phone and call. I know going on the computer is a pain in the rear. I'm trying to do things online, but I'd be glad to help you out in any way I can. So would Susie.

I know I'd let this run pretty long and I've been jumping all over the place but the biggest issue that we have right now with the museum is volunteers. We really need your help just doing little jobs around the museum and one of the biggest jobs we have right now is getting the library organized and done. We have so many extra pieces of literature and magazines and paperwork that we need to have sorted and put into albums. This is a slow process.

We also need to put labels on the back of these as we now have a label maker, but I'm not too keen on using it. It's computerized. So anyway, that you feel compelled to help the museum. I can't tell you how much it would be appreciated. Bonnie and I are running this place by ourselves.

Well, that's not entirely true. We do have outside help helping us with a lot of the technical side of the museum and I'm sorry that I said it that way, but I do mean here physically at the museum. Now that Bonnie has slowed down quite a bit I surely can't rely on her as much as I have in the past. Any help you guys could conjure up just drop me a line and we'll get hooked up. As always, I know I have forgotten stuff and I'm sure this is run long enough.

I hope you're having a great weekend as we start to run into my favorite time of the year fall in the holiday season. Have a great one everybody and as always keep on Vanning!