

NOTES - 2024 Cole Family 90th Reunion Weekend Planning Meeting, 10/17/2023

The following volunteers met at the State Fair Community College Campus, Boonville, Mo on October 17, 2023 to discuss proposed events and needs for the 2024 Cole Family 90th Consecutive Reunion: Cole Family Association (CFA) President, Bob Painter, Bobby Painter PG, Velma Cole, Jon Painter (CFA VP), Carolyn Eichelberger (CFA Board Member), Kim Dickerson (CFA Sec-Treas.), Tishia Martin, Marianne Cole Fues (CFA Board Member), and Tessa Wilkes by Zoom for a short time.

The reunion will be Sunday, August 11, 2024, with several activities proposed for the Saturday before, August 10th. Coincidentally, the Hannah Cole statue in downtown Boonville will be 20 years old, having been dedicated in June 2004. Rededicating the statue is proposed.

Proposed venues or weekend base –

- LSE School – Contacted, but no response. Reunion date also is very near the start of school.
- Turner Hall – Contacted; Building is for sale and will not be available to rent or use.
- Knights of Columbus Building (Old Rod & Gun Club) - \$750/day
- Cooper County Fair Grounds, 16899 Dunkles Dr., Boonville – RESERVED
 - \$290 for day 1, \$100 of which is a deposit to be returned afterwards. To rent an extra day, they will charge an additional \$100. Final cost for Saturday and Sunday, \$290.
 - Contact is Sandy Larm, 660-621-2441
 - Needs: Shuttle to & from statue, or just share rides
 - Portable PA system and Podium for reunion and at statue
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Food – At least 2 meal opportunities exist: Supper on Saturday evening and Sunday's reunion picnic. Haller Catering is available, with a full meal costing \$16-18 per person. Options are several and may include:

- Full meal catering for Saturday supper with attendee RSVP, and the usual potluck lunch for Sunday, where everyone brings a dish.
- Catering the meat and bringing side dishes for the reunion, with everyone meeting at the Frederick for Saturday evening.
- A possible meal at the Stretz House, if ready.
- Several options for further discussion and planning.

Who – Family, Friends, Officials – Much discussion, but in the end, we will need a list of guests to invite.

- Representative, Tim Taylor; ask him for a proclamation for the day.
- The Boonville Mayor, Cooper County Commissioners, media (Laura Wax)
- Local Historical Society officials, university, Friends of Historic Boonville
- Possible speakers: Suzanne Lyon, Wayne Lammers, Pat Hannah, Mary Ellen McVicker, others
- The Cole Family, and friends – Allison's, Coopers, Ruppert's and others.
 - Invitations on Facebook page and website, mailings and personal phone calls proposed.

Communications and Theme for Upcoming Months –

- We need a 90th Reunion logo. Several suggested something with a tree.
 - We will need a flier &/or card announcing the weekend and happenings by May 1
 - Distribute at DAR Memorial Wreath Laying at Hannah's statue, Heritage Days
- A commemorative poster, possibly of the statue, as was available previously (Those were signed by the sculptor, Fred Weber).
- Suggested a Coloring Book to hand out – one that tells the Cole's story.
- Maybe make a map with informational QR codes or links to info, for a self-guided tour
- Kim is looking into branding the medallions with the 90th logo, also as a commemorative gift.
- Tee Shirts – All are looking for a possible vender, pricing.
 - Will need shirts for The Walk; Same tee for reunion attendees.
 - Walk participants will pay an entry fee that will include a tee shirt.
 - Reunion attendees may order a shirt or buy at the reunion, as supplies last.
 - Track orders, collect money, OR
 - Find a sponsor to pay for the shirts, which would allow them to be given to attendees. Several did not like the advertisements on the back of tee shirts.
- Door prizes, Silent Auction-
 - Tishia plans to prepare gift baskets.
 - Maybe a quilt from Robin
 - Charles Cole makes items from wood.

Activities - Need a schedule

- Cemetery Tours at Briscoe and Mt. Nebo
 - Tishia will make a list of those buried at Mt. Nebo
- Possible church service early Sunday morning at Mt. Nebo Church or the fairgrounds.
 - Bill Betteridge is Mt. Nebo contact.
- Stretz and Fort Tour
- Heritage Walk –
- Meet and eat on Saturday – a restaurant, the Fairgrounds, or the Stretz House
- Reunion
- Statue Rededication

Heritage Days, Last weekend in June, 2024 – Need planning

- Booth
- Participation in Parade
- Tours – Cemetery and Fort
- Have dinner or lunch with those helping / attending

Other –

- Kim to get Zoom subscription. Search online for coupons.
- Cemeteries need security. Cameras and signs were discussed.

The next meeting will focus on people taking the lead on specific areas of need. The next meeting will be November 30, 2023 at 1:00pm at the same place, State Fair Community College.

-Kim Dickerson
Secretary Treasurer, Cole Family Association