Annual Report of French-American Heritage Foundation

St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis as they looked when first seen by Father Louis Hennepin in 1680. Picture by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)
The French-American Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable non profit organization with the primary purpose of promoting and sponsoring French Heritage events in Minnesota. Our Mission Statement:

To promote and cultivate the heritage of French-language cultures.

French-language heritage has played an important role in the history of Minnesota. It is important and proper that this heritage be celebrated and remembered. The French-American Heritage foundation:

- Maintains a website and a Facebook page focused on French-language heritages
- Sponsors educational events focused on French heritage
- Sponsors educational materials and books about French heritage
- Sponsors a Franco-Fête festival that celebrates this heritage in Minnesota
- Posts Minnesota French-American family history and genealogy to our website
- Provides scholarships for French language and culture studies at both the secondary and university levels

Board of Directors
More information of the Board Members is available on the French-American Heritage Foundation website.

1. Mark Labine, President
2. Dick Bernard, Vice President
3. MaryEllen Weller, Secretary
4. Jerry Foley, Treasurer
5. Pierre Girard
6. Virgil Benoit
7. Dustin DuFault
8. Mark Petty
9. Brian Caldwell
10. Marie Trepanier
11. Jane Peck
12. Corey LeVasseur
13. Robert Hughes Perrino
Advisory Committee

The French-American Heritage Foundation Advisory Committee consists of twenty-four members who support the mission of the foundation and provide advice and counsel to the Foundation.

Advisory Committee

1. Beth Helle
   Director of Tourism
   City of Minneapolis
   250 Marquette Ave South
   Suite 1300
   Minneapolis, MN 55401
   Work 612-767-8112
   Email: bethh@minneapolis.org

2. Jerry Landreville
   Food Service and Liquor Sales
   Former owner of Champys, Gallivans,
   Showboat, North End Depot, Chain Link,
   Gables in the Park and Ol'Mexico Has French
   Canadian Heritage.
   2726 Olde Cypress Drive
   Naples, FL 34119
   Cell 239-398-5216
   Email: jlandreville1@netzero.net

3. Richard Martin Guidry
   Expertise in Cajun/Acadian foods,
   music, genealogy, and organization of
   festivals or events, etc.
   6139 North Shore Drive
   Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817
   Phone 225-755-1915
   Email: gui@cox.net

4. Kerith Iverson
   Public & Cultural Affairs Officer
   Quebec Délégation
   Government Office in Chicago
   444 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 3600
   Chicago, IL 60611
   Phone: 312-645-0392 Ext 59712
   Email: kerith.iverson.vosten@em.gov.qc.ca

5. Barbara Redmond
   Redmond Bartlett Design
   Publisher, A Woman's Fair
   Communications/advertising/
   Promotion expertise
   10 South 5th Street
   Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
   Phone: 612-669-1331
   Email: design@barbararedmond.com

6. Steve Madson
   SRO Productions, Inc.
   Productions and Promotion Company.
   Creates and Produces Festivals and
   Events
   6524 Walker Street, Suite 210
   St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426
   Phone: 612-341-4110
   Email: madson@propro.com

7. Jacqueline Regis
   District Court Judge, former Assistant
   Attorney General, and President of
   Minnesota Women's Lawyers. Born and
   raised in Les Cayes Haiti. Strong
   Francophone interests and member of
   Alliance Française.
   Phone: 763-205-5215
   Email: jacqueline.regis@comcast.net

8. Dr. Fatima Lawson
   Principal, L'École du Nord Immersion School
   1305 Prosperity Ave (Upper Campus)
   St. Paul, MN 55106
   Phone: 651-221-1480
   Email: Fatima.Lawson@spps.org

9. Rev. Jules Omalanga
   Pastor St. Boniface Catholic Church
   Francophone African Chaplaincy
   629 2nd Street N E.,
   Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
   Email: joomalanga05@gmail.com
10. Annie Muske
French Teacher since 1995. Currently French Teacher at Lakeville South High School. Coordinator, A Vous la Parole Minnesota AATF
21135 Jacquard Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone: 952-232-3999 ext. 6397
Email: avoulagacile@hotmail.com

11. François Fouquezel
Dean of French Vocations Program for Concordia Language Villages. Native of Normandy, France
901 8th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56562
Phone: 1-800-222-4750
Email: fouquezel@cord.edu.com

12. Christine Loïs
Author, Director and Producer of “En Avant” which is a film about French Heritage in Minnesota. See website www.enavantfilm.com
Resident of France
Phone: +33(0)6 51 25 48 73 &
US phone: 1-612-562-4214
Email: ch.lois@gmail.com

13. John Schade
Librarian, Minnesota Genealogical Library. Former President of Minnesota Genealogical Society. Expert in French Canadian Genealogical Research
911 Scheffer Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 651-224-7988
Email: johnschade@comcast.net

14. Joëlle Vitiello
Associate Professor
Department of French and Francophone Studies
Macalester College
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Phone: 651-698-6437
Email: vitiello@macalester.edu

15. Guy Vadeboncoeur
Professional museocologist and Vice President, Muséology for the Musée McCord Museum in Montreal, Quebec
543, 20e Avenue
Deux-Montagnes, Quebec
Canada J9R 0A7
Mobile Phone: 514-531-9784
Home: 450-473-4619
Email: vadeboncoeur@hotmail.com

16. Professor Daniel Brewer
Professor, Department of French and Italian, University of Minnesota
314 Folwell Hall
9 Pleasant Street SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Phone: 612-624-0565
Email: dbrewer@umn.edu

17. Rev. Ronald G. DesRosiers, S.M.
Assistant Professor (ret.), Department of Religious Studies & Philosophy
Monash University, Livonia, Michigan
Church of St. Louis King of France
300 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2280
Phone: 651-224-3379
Email: rgdesm@yahoo.com

18. Carrie Heuling
Owner of Carrie On Travel. Advisor on travel accommodations for out of town entertainment, guests of Franco-Fete Festival. Also interested in helping with Festival.
Website: www.carrieontravel.com
Phone: 612-226-9482
Email: carrieontravel@yahoo.com

19. Simeon A. Morbey, Esq.
Legal Counsel for Foundation Attorney at Law
Former resident of Ottawa, Canada is both Canadian and U.S. citizen. Proficient in French Language Morbey & Olsen P.L.L.P.
1302 2nd Street NE, Suite 216
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
Phone: 612-331-3667
Email: simeon@morbeylaw.com

20. Jordi Tellard
Dean, Site Manager, Academic Programs French Program Coordinator, Lac du Bois, Stillwater Concordia Language Villages at The Forest
Phone: 651-433-4375
jteillard@cord.edu

21. Michael Rainville
Partnership Marketing Manager
Meet Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association
250 Marquette Ave South
Suite 1300
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
Phone: 612-767-8074
Email: MikeR@minneapolis.org
Membership Structure

The Membership was structured so that 100% of the membership payment is tax deductible. IRS rules state that membership payments are fully deductible where there are no services given to members. Membership is annual and for the calendar year.

Members may make contributions to the website in the form of articles on French-American heritage, information on their genealogy and family history, and share resources that deal with French-American Heritage. Members are encouraged to volunteer to assist in activities the foundation sponsors, especially the Franco-Fête festival.

Please encourage family and friends to join and support the French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota.

2015 Accomplishments

Your Board of Directors is pleased to note the following accomplishments in our third year of existence:

- Regularly maintained our website at http://fahfminn.org/ and added articles on French heritage, genealogy materials, and family history related to French-language cultures.

- Continued to formulate a future Franco-Fête by establishing a committee chaired by Noël Labine and reaching out to other French-related Minnesota organizations.

- Sponsored three educational events:
  - **April 13 to May 5, 2015**- Lake Harriet School. With the leadership of Board Member Jerry Foley, created a four-day course entitled “Minnesota History with a French Accent”. Presenters were Jerry Foley and Jane Peck (Week One: Early French Presence in Minnesota), Mark Labine (Week Two: Minnesota’s Early Settlers), Pierre Girard (Week Three: Ethnic Tensions Facing French in Minnesota), and Dick Bernard (Week Four: The Richness of our Heritage).
  - **June 5 to June 26**- Washburn Library- The same five presenters again taught the course “Minnesota History with a French Accent”.
  - **October 2, 2015**- A dinner presentation by John Schade, Librarian at the Minnesota Genealogical Library, titled “Beginning Canadian-French Genealogical Research” held at Dehn’s Country Manor in Maple Grove. Special displays about the nearby French-heritage communities of Dayton, Rogers, and Otsego enriched the evening.
• Wrote to the City of Minneapolis of our concern for the safety and stability of the landmark Our Lady of Lourdes Church, neighbor to a proposed re-development project in the St. Anthony Falls and Main Street historic district.

• Established and maintained a Facebook Page for F-AHF events and other Minnesota French-related events, including voyageur festivals and re-enactments, historical and cultural programs, and Alliance Française events. Notable postings to the new Facebook Page:
  
  o Photos and information from previous F-AHF programs—the June 2014 program on the discovery of Salpetre Caves on Lake Pepin by early French Explorers, presented by Dr. Greg Brick; the October 2014 French-Canadian Heritage Day celebration
  o Announcement of the Afoutayi Haitian Dance Company’s Open House in February 2015
  o UND Professor of French and F-AHF Board Member Dr. Virgil Benoit’s presentation of “History, Memory and Forgetting: Minnesota’s Métis and French Canadians” in May 2015; a podcast is still available via a link on our Facebook Page
  o Notice of the August 21-23, 2015 Chataqua and French-Canadian/Métis Festival near Red Lake Falls, Minnesota
  o An invitation to Minnesotans of French-language heritage to post family history accounts for eventual publication by the F-AHF
• Established and awarded two scholarships to the Voyageur Program headed by François Fouquerel of the Lac Du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages. The two scholarships are $400 each and will be awarded annually.

• Established a $500 scholarship for the study of French language and culture at the college or university level. Hearing of a threat to discontinue the French program at St. Cloud State University, the board voted to offer the scholarship there as a firm gesture of support. The program was terminated and the scholarship has not yet been awarded.

First F-AHF Publication Nears Completion
The board is especially proud to recognize the first F-AHF book, created under the leadership of President Mark Labine and titled: They Spoke French: French Heritage in Minnesota

Board members and friends of the F-AHF who have contributed chapters are Greg Brick, Jerry Foley, Pierre Girard, Mark Labine, Rev. Jules O. Omalanga, Jane Skinner Peck, Jacqueline Regis, and John Schade. An application for funding for editing and publishing costs has been made to the Minnesota Historical Society. Donations will be welcome.

Cover of “They Spoke French”

Second F-AHF Publication
The board has decided to make the issues of the newsletter Chez Nous of the former Société Canadienne Française available in print in three-volumes. There is a large variety of interesting stories and information about French Heritage in Minnesota in these newsletters. These volumes will be made available for sale at Heritage Events and on Amazon.com.
2016 Plans

- Continue planning toward a Franco-Fête in Minnesota. The committee chaired by Noël Labine includes Thierry Ajas, Christina Bouzouina, Michael Rainville, Anna Scallon, Christopher Tutolo, Jodi Petrich, Julie Dunlop, Jerry Foley, Pierre Girard, Mark Labine, Noël Labine, Shaina Praska, Anna Ouattara, Sherry Sivo, Elise Weinberg, Louis Wendling. Your participation would be welcome, too. Contact Noël Labine via our website.

- Host or participate in three educational events:
  - June 2016, a possible dinner and program featuring French Heritage in Minnesota.
  - July 2016, participate in the festivities related to a visit by representatives of Minneapolis’ Sister City Tours, France
  - November 2016, celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Chapel of St. Paul in 1841.

- Award two scholarships to the Voyageur Program of the Lac du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages, of $400 each.

- Award the post-secondary scholarship of $500 for study of French language and culture.

- Maintain and add to our website fahfminn.org and our Facebook Page so that we develop a large database of family websites, heritage articles, and resources for learning about the French-American Heritage in Minnesota.

- Present the course “Minnesota History with a French Accent” again, over four weeks March 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2016 at the Nokomis Library in Minneapolis.
• Explore developing brochures with information on French Heritage sites in Minnesota.

• Publish *They Spoke French: French Heritage in Minnesota* in both English and French. The Board will explore funding ideas to pay for the cost of translating the book into French.

• Publish the three volumes of *Chez Nous*.

**Donations**

The French-American Heritage Foundation needs donations in order to survive. We need those interested in preserving and promoting French-American Heritage in Minnesota to donate to our Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. As a way to assist the Foundation to raise donations, rack cards have been printed that provide prospective members with information about our foundation. Copies of these rack cards are shown below.

For donations or to show your support, simply write a check made payable to the French-American Heritage Foundation and mail to either Jerry Foley, Treasurer, 4736 Coffey Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55406, or to the French-American Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Donations can also be made by credit card thru PayPal on the French-American Heritage Foundation website at [www.fafhminn.org](http://www.fafhminn.org).

**Financial Report**

Below is the 2015 financial report for the Foundation.

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<th>1. 2015 Income</th>
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<td>Supporting Members</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Net Cash Flow (loss)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets End of Year</td>
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### 4. Assets

<table>
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<td>Current Asset Value</td>
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These designs and logos were created for the Franco-Fête and are copyrighted to the French-American Heritage Foundation.
French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota Members

List of 2013 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Bernard, Dick  
2. Durand, Mike  
3. Foley, Gerald  
4. Labine, Mark  
5. Weller, MaryEllen  
6. Beiring, Jacqueline Demeules  
7. Benoit, Virgil  
8. Fillion, Barbara  
9. Horn, William B.  
10. Loys, Christine  
11. Regis, Jacqueline M.  
12. Peck, Jane  
13. Ruffing, John J. and Patricia

List of 2014 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Benoit, Virgil  
2. Bernard, Dick  
3. Bomier, Bruce  
4. Brunelle, Philip  
5. Caldwell, Brian  
6. Collette, John  
7. Cronin, Jackie  
8. Demueles, Christopher  
9. Dufault, Dustin  
10. Dufault, Robert and Lana  
11. Dufour, Roger  
12. England, John S.  
13. Foley, Gerald  
14. Gagne, Paulette  
15. Girard, Pierre  
16. Horn, William  
17. Labine, Mark  
18. LaBrosse, George  
19. Mayers, Carole  
20. Mayers, Paul and Caroline  
21. Petty, Mark  
22. Proulx, Marie-Jean  
23. Ruffing, John and Patricia  
24. Weller, MaryEllen  
25. Wolsey, Mary Lou
List of 2015 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Beiring, Jackie
2. Bernard, Dick
3. Brunelle, Philip
4. Caldwell, Brian
5. Cronin, Jackie
6. Daniels, Treffe and J.M.
7. Dufault, Dustin
8. England, John S.
9. Foley, Gerald
10. Girard, Pierre
11. Hedeen, Florence
12. Horn, William
13. Labine, Mark
14. Labine, Noel
15. Landreville, Jerry and Jean
16. Petty, Mark
17. Proehl, Anita
18. Ruffing, John and Patricia
19. Sylvestre, Eugene
20. Weller, MaryEllen
21. Wolsey, Mary Lou