



Board of Directors

Current and Past Members



Linda Kennedy	1985-88, 2000 to present	Debe Rasmussen	1984-85	Bud Sutherland	1990-2006
Jay Stoddard	1985 to present	Dave Smith	1984-85	Shirley Thobe	1990-2007
Kim Manning	2006 to present	Donnabelle Miller	1985	Bob Coyle	1992-2001
Molly Kahler	2006 to present	Rae Riebe	1985	Paul Nielsen	1992-2007
Chuck Frost	2006 to present	Jim Mudd	1985	Brenda Truelsen	1992
Susie Hines	2007 to present	Bob Beach	1985	Sue Schultz	1992-2007
Pete Downs	2007 to present	Bob Justis	1985	Chuck Linhart	1993-2007
Rose Miller	2007 to present	Cokie Irvin	1985	Mary Carlson	1993-95
Jan Benson	2011 to present	Richard Brownell	1985	Jim Reidy	1994-95
Jill Thorpe	2013 to present	Dick Eades	1986	Bob Anderson	1996-2008
Laura Sweeney	2015 to present	Laurie Griffin	1986-89	Michelle Swanson	1997
Seth Hadenfeldt	2015 to present	John Kelly	1986	Susan Higdon	1997-2006
Greg Grover	2017 to present	Virginia Lund	1986-91	Doc Grauberger	1997-2005
Jen Jacobson	2018 to present	Dee Vandeventer	1986	Mary-Sue Bartlett	2000-16
Tom Klemuk	1976-90	Lauri Young	1986-91	Sandy McDonald	2001
Rosemary Beach	1976-86	Debbie Blake	1987	Melinda Doyle	2002-06
Judith Cutler	1976-89	Julie Fischer	1987	Mark Lyman	2002-09
Dana Woodbury	1984	Kathy Goranson	1987-88	Dean Williams	2002-07
Aileen Anderson	1984-85	Pam Pearson	1987-90	Clark Goltz	2006-07
Diane Wagner	1984	Jim Wells	1987-90	Penny Sund	2007
Lee Miller	1984-87	Bob Whitt	1987-88	Joe Burum	2007
Sandy Jo Messingham	1984-85	Diane Lansink	1988-91	Michael Drey	2007-11
Diana Havenstrite	1984	Sally Young	1988-89	Tom Sullivan	2008
Mary Stapes	1984	Terry Arnold	1988-89	Brian Herzog	2008-11
Judd Truax	1984-85	Lynda Jobman	1988-91	Lauri Miller	2008-14
Dick Smith	1984-85	Jim Larson	1989	Nicole Myszka	2010-13
Gene Lehman	1984-85	Nancy Osborne	1989-91	Marcus Kjeldsen	2010-12
Mary Bro	1984-85	Marianna Delafield-Melichar	1990-91	Jack Jennings	2012-14
Norma Bloomer	1984-92	Larry Hays	1990	Maureen Dietz	2012
Sam Scherf	1984-85	Lila Morris	1990-92	Scot Starbeck	2012-16
Gerald Getty	1984-89 and 1993	Dennis Nebbe	1990	Bett Peterson	2014-17
Roy Justis	1984	Cheryle Raukar	1990	Don Sweeney	2014
Jane Mertesdorf	1984-85				



The Sturgis Falls Celebration grew out of the 1976 Cedar Falls, Iowa Bicentennial Celebration. It is named after William Sturgis, who founded the community of Sturgis Falls in 1845 when he settled here with his family. (William's claim encompassed most of what is now downtown Cedar Falls.) In 1850, the name was changed to Cedar Falls. When searching for an appropriate name for an annual Cedar Falls Celebration, it seemed fitting to once more honor the man who first settled this great community.

The United States Bicentennial was the impetus for planning that first Citywide celebration. To celebrate the United States Bicentennial, each State established a committee to organize the cities in their state. The State of Iowa's Bicentennial Committee appointed a person from each of the 99 counties. The Committee chair from Black Hawk County requested the Junior League in Black Hawk County organize the Black Hawk County cities. The Black Hawk County Co-Chairs were Wilma Paup and Jean Dobson. The Cedar Falls Bicentennial Committee consisted of many people, including Tom Klemuk, Chairman; Judith Cutler, Vice Chairman; Rosemary Rasmussen Beach, Secretary; and Trenna King, Treasurer. This committee organized the Bicentennial Celebration for Cedar Falls, the plans for which began in 1975. This Celebration became what is now known as the Sturgis Falls Celebration.

The organizers of the 1976 Celebration enlisted the support of individuals, local organizations, city government, the Chamber of Commerce, the University of Northern Iowa, and the State of Iowa. Working together, they planned a one-time event, an event that made such an enormous impact and received such positive support from the community that they did it every year since.

The Sturgis Falls Celebration incorporated in 1985, acquired non-profit status and created an all-volunteer board of directors. Each board member has specific responsibilities which he or she oversees during the course of the year as well as during the Sturgis Falls Celebration weekend, i.e. entertainment, parade, publicity, street fair, memorabilia, food and beverage, etc. Since its beginning, 95 community members have served on the board with over 340 years of Sturgis volunteer experience.

The board works with due diligence to coordinate the best and most varied entertainment possible, while keeping a close eye on expenditures. An important aspect of the Sturgis Falls Celebration is its role as a fund-raiser for local groups. Many service groups depend on Sturgis Falls as their largest fund-raiser of the year. In addition, profits from the Celebration are funneled back into the community as donations, large and small, to civic groups, police and fire organizations, senior citizens groups, scholarships for college-bound area students, Cedar Falls Parks Department improvements, Community Main Street causes, Recreation Department needs, etc. Since its inception, the Sturgis Falls Celebration has donated over \$500,000 to a variety of local community projects, causes and scholarships.

The board wishes to express its gratitude to the countless individuals and community service groups who give their time and talent to help make the Sturgis Falls Celebration a success each year. With their support and the support of the City of Cedar Falls, the Celebration continues to flourish.

On behalf of the past, current and future board members, Sturgis Falls Celebration is honored to receive 2018 Peter Melendy Spirit Award. Thank you!

For more information about the Sturgis Falls Celebration, visit www.sturgisfalls.org.

