

## **President's Report, GCBMA Annual Meeting, December 9, 2024**

The year 2024 continues the activities of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association and Presidential Library. This past year, we had the challenge of having the facility closed for the renovation of the Carriage House and renovation of the first floor. The Board Members of the GCBMA are very proud to have kept activities going while our facility is being improved.

The 2024 Annual Meeting being planned for Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> will take place in our new "multipurpose" Carriage House room. In addition to the elections of trustees, Trustee Louis Picone will be our speaker. This meeting will serve as an "informal" opening to our new room. A more "formal" opening is scheduled to take place for Grover Cleveland's Birthday in March. There are many people who deserve credit for the new facility but a special "shout out" to Birthplace Administrator Sharon Farrell and GCBMA Officer and Former President Dr. David Cowell. Both individuals worked for many years with the State of New Jersey and Historical Architects Connelly and Hickey to get us to the long-awaited opening.

We continue and value our relationship with Ms. Farrell. In addition to her regular duties, Ms. Farrell worked with the contractors on the new room and with the trustees on the renovation of the first floor of the birthplace.

As mentioned above, we are also in the process of renovating the first floor of the birthplace which will put emphasis on Cleveland and his family life. As part of our plans with our Presidential Library and Museum, we are planning displays for a presidential museum in the Visitor's Center.

We held our Annual Grover Cleveland Week in April instead of March this year. Our speakers included Becky Diamond, Author of "The Gilded Age Cookbook" and Board Member and Presidential Author, Louis Picone. Later that same evening, the GCBMA had their Second Annual Trivia Night organized by Board Member James Gardner.

Our website at <https://presidentcleveland.org/> continues to inform the public about our activities. Maintained by Francesca Picone, there are also links on the site to our Presidential Library. Our social media specialist Akiko Axe continues to keep the public informed with Facebook and Instagram.

Our Fourth of July Ice Cream Social was relocated to the St. Aloysius Church gym this year. Children's games; refreshments from Cloverleaf, Guerriero Gelato, West Caldwell ShopRite, and Jack's Foodtown; and the postcard collection of Richard and Linda Gibbs were part of the celebration. Contributions and volunteer help from the Caldwell Women's Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, and Boy Scout Troop 6 also made the day a success. We are very grateful to Msgr. Emery and St. Aloysius Church for the use of their gymnasium for use of their site for this event (and the Grover Cleveland Birthday activities). State Museum Administrator Elizabeth Dowd was also on hand to help with the birthplace activities.

In September, the GCBMA Board Members participated in the fourth annual retreat designed to review policies, set goals, and review activities in 2025.

A committee is currently in place to establish policies for when the GCBMA rents out the facilities for community and private groups. We are looking to revise our "By-laws" for our organization this coming year.

Under the direction of Akiko Axe, the GCBMA Gift Store continues to be very profitable. In October, the Gift Store was on hand at the Kiwanis and Rotary Club Street Fair.

We continue being registered as an Officially Recognized Friends Organization, held all regular monthly meetings, resubmitted our five-year plan with the Department of the Environment, Division of Parks and Forestry, and created and passed a new budget.

Details about membership are provided in an upcoming report by Board Member Don Stevens. (See report in this packet.)

Thanks to Board Member Marjorie Jameson and the West Essex Garden Club for decorating the grounds of the birthplace for the holidays.

We are continuing our "Traveling Trunks" program with artifacts available for loan to schools and historical institutions.

Goals in 2025 include developing museum displays and continuing programs. Board Members Louis Picone and Paul Maloney are scheduled to present at the Grover Cleveland Middle School "Make a Difference Day" on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Third Annual Trivia Night will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Our Homefront Heroes Day will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We plan to continue participation in the West Essex Memorial Day Parade. With our colleagues from First Presbyterian Church and the West Caldwell Historical Society, the GCBMA is working on festivities for the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Stay tuned in 2025 and 2026.

We look at our organization not only a tribute to Grover Cleveland but as a tribute to American History. Our organization is honored to provide such as tribute to the Caldwell Community, New Jersey, and the United States. We're just getting started!

#### **Officers**

Paul Maloney – President

Bunny Jenkins – Vice President

Don Stevens – Second Vice President

Greg Cowell – Treasurer

Dave Cowell – Corresponding Secretary

EJ Rogacki – Recording Secretary

**Committees listed on next page.**

**Committee for Annual Meeting (November 18th)/ Grover Cleveland Day (March 22nd)/  
Homefront Heroes Day (May 10th)/Trivia (April 5th)**

James Gardner– (Chair)  
Louis Picone  
Greg Crump  
Akiko Axe  
Paul Maloney

**Committee for Memorial Day and 4th of July.**

Diane McMahon (Chair)  
Roxanne Douglas  
Bunny Jenkins  
Greg Crump  
James Gardner  
Paul Maloney (Chair)  
Greg Cowell

**December Holiday Decorations and Tours**

Marjorie Jameson  
Sharon Farrell

**Communications Committee**

James Gardner (Chair)  
Diane McMahon  
Akiko Axe (Social Media)  
Roxanne Douglas  
Sharon Farrell  
Paul Maloney  
(Francesca Picone is webmaster.)

**Middle School Programs/ Upcoming Middle School Anniversary/All Education Programs**

Louis Picone  
Paul Maloney (Contact for Traveling Trunks)  
James Gardner  
Evan McLaughlin

**Presidential Library**

Louis Picone (Chair)  
Sharon Farrell  
James Gardner  
Akiko Axe  
EJ Rogacki  
Carlos Pomares  
Paul Maloney



**USA 250 (Chair still has to be designated.)**

Roxanne Douglas  
Dave Cowell  
Bunny Jenkins  
Akiko Axe  
Greg Crump  
Evan McLaughlin  
Paul Maloney

**Buildings and Grounds**

Greg Crump (Chair)  
Don Stevens  
EJ Rogacki  
Akiko Axe  
John Hamilton  
Matt Rollins  
(Don Stevens, Evan McLaughlin, and Adele Meyer---AdHoc Committee on room rentals.)

**Nominations Committee**

Bunny Jenkins (Vice President) works with two Board Members.

**Finance Committee**

Greg Cowell  
Akiko Axe (Gift Shop)

**Interpretation Committee**

Paul Maloney (Co-Chair)  
Dave Cowell  
Roxanne Douglass  
Bev Crifasi  
Janet Markman  
Sharon Farrell  
Jake Hamilton (Co-Chair)  
Elizabeth Dowd

**Membership Committee**

Don Stevens  
Adele Meyer

Thank you for your support!

The mission of the “**Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace, Caldwell, New Jersey, USA**” is to preserve, collect, and make available material documenting the public and private life of Grover Cleveland (1837-1908). Manuscripts, artifacts, and exhibits will cover his life from his birth in Caldwell, to his presidencies in the White House, as well as his post-presidential years in Princeton, New Jersey. The Library also includes archives related to First Lady Frances Folsom Cleveland (1864-1947).

### **Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum Committee Members**

- Louis Picone (GCBMA) – Chair
- James Gardner (GCBMA)
- Akiko Tawarada-Axe (GCBMA)
- Sharon Farrell (State of NJ) - Grover Cleveland Birthplace Caretaker
- Paul Maloney (GCBMA President, Ex officio committee member)

### **Annual Report:**

The initial concept for the **Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace** was first discussed thirty years ago, but for various reasons was unable to gain traction. With the new visitors’ center and the recent establishment of Presidential Libraries for our early (pre-Herbert Hoover) presidents as an impetus, the concept was rejuvenated in 2020. Plans for a Grover Cleveland Presidential Library were approved by the GCBMA board of trustees in 2021 and by the State of New Jersey in spring 2022.

The Grover Cleveland Presidential Library Committee was established in August 2022, and meets monthly. However, due to uncertainty over the carriage house construction and the Grover Cleveland Museum, the committee did not meet from April through August 2023. Once the Grover Cleveland Museum was approved by the GCBMA board, the committee resumed meetings in September 2023.

Between contraction at the site and the loss (without replacement) of two key committee members from the state (Meggan McGuire & Patty Hyland), progress has not been as extensive as hoped.

Note with the election for Donald Trump, Grover Cleveland is no longer the only non-consecutive president. Given this, he has been and has been receiving national attention so this upcoming year is critical to completing our work to engage the public. Coincident to Grover’s resurgence is the nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday at a time when civil engagement and responsibility, democracy, and civil discourse is more important than ever.

The work underway by the Grover Cleveland Presidential Library Committee is organized into 3 essential parts:

1. **Grover Cleveland Research Library:** A Grover Cleveland Research Library has been established in a room at the Visitors Center and is available to scholars upon request via <https://groverclelandpresidentiallibrary.org/research-copy-copy/>. The room includes books directly and tangentially related to Grover Cleveland which, while individually owned by either the GCBMA or State of New Jersey, are collectively available to researchers regardless of ownership. Work is in progress to review boxes of folder material owned by the GCBMA to make pertinent papers available in file cabinets. As well, work is also in process to make limited physical archives available to researchers (under proper supervision) and all archives available digitally. However, during construction, the research room has been used for storage and will require time & effort to restore it as a research area
2. **Grover Cleveland Museum:** While a research library is mandatory, no Presidential Library is complete without a museum for visitors to learn about the president's life, administration, and lasting significance. In summer 2023, the GCBMA board voted to dedicate a room in the Visitors Center as a museum interpreting Grover Cleveland's life, achievements, and guiding principle "A PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST," in historical context and its significance to a modern audience. The Museum proposal has been approved by the Interpretation Committee, however, like the research room, during construction the museum room has also been used for storage. Within the next few weeks committee members plan to meet and create an "initial museum 1.0" as a starting point for future revisions.
3. **Online digital presidential library:** The Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum established a website at <http://groverclelandpresidentiallibrary.org/>. We have hired a dedicated webmaster. New pages are dedicated to the research room, pending museum, and a collection of Grover Cleveland papers and videos. We also have created a digital archive for sharing the GCBMA collection online. At present we have 51 items digitized (same as last year) and with the staff reduction no further items have been digitized since last report, but hopes work will resume soon.

The Grover Cleveland Presidential Library Digital Archives is accessible from the Grover Cleveland Presidential Library website or can be accessed directly at <https://groverclelandpresidentiallibrary.omeka.net/>.

It is noteworthy that since the website has been established, we have fielded numerous inquiries and donation requests.

## Grover Cleveland Presidential Library & Museum Committee 2024 Annual Board Report

Louis L. Picone

November 24, 2024

Pending work will include creating the Grover Cleveland Museum, prominent road sign & building signage, promotional material, and an impressive statue of Grover Cleveland on the property. However much of this work is dependent on the yet-unknown carriage house construction timeline.

The grand opening for the “**Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace, Caldwell, New Jersey, USA**” is dependent on the carriage house construction, museum completion, signage, etc. We are optimistically targeting late 2025 (was 2024 last annual report), but that date may prove too ambitious.

Stay tuned!





## Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association

P.O. Box 183, Caldwell, NJ 07006-0183

[www.presidentcleveland.org](http://www.presidentcleveland.org)

[www.facebook.com/ClevelandBirthplaceAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandBirthplaceAssociation)

email: [info@TheGCBMA.org](mailto:info@TheGCBMA.org)

November 2024

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The membership committee of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association would like to report in 2024 a total membership count of 78. Of this number, there are 35 Individual/Family/Student Memberships and 43 Lifetime memberships. The 78 members in 2024 represents a slight decline from membership totals in 2023.

Membership forms were distributed during the July 4th Ice Cream Social and were available for other events during the year.

The membership committee has been diligent to distribute advance notice of events such as Grover Cleveland Week activities, the July 4th Ice Cream Social, Trivia night, book talks and the Annual meeting.

Respectfully,

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Membership Committee

Don Stevens, Chair

Adele Meyer



**1) Fence**

The fence along Bloomfield Avenue continues to function but does need some repair. There has been some discussion of the repairs being performed by a local Scout troop but this may be a bigger project than they could reasonably be expected to do.

**2) Period Herb/Vegetable Garden**

This is something that we have discussed for several years. One issue is the many, voracious deer that frequent the property may decimate any garden we plant. Building a "period appropriate" fence around the garden that stop the deer may be a challenge.

**3) Driveway Lighting and Outdoor AC Receptacles**

It is desirable to add lighting along the driveway and around the parking lot. We also would like some AC receptacle added around the property for outdoor events so we do not need to run extension cords thru the trees. Any AC wiring would need to be buried at least 3' deep by code or put into conduit which can be buried much shallower. With low voltage landscaping lighting the wiring is easier. Turning the lighting on could be: manually from the Visitor Center, motion activated (deer may set this off) or a dusk sensor and a timer.

**4) Ground Signage**

Adding outdoor signage describing the history of the Birthplace would enhance visits for off-hour visitors. Presumably the exact text would need to be approved by The State. Durable, long-lasting, outdoor rated signage could be expensive. Note also that there is no signage on the visitor center building indicating what it is. Was this ever considered as part of the design?

**5) Alice Gibson Memorial Tree**

Getting permission from the State to plant the tree has proven to be more involved than we anticipated. We will now need to wait till next spring at the earliest.

**6) Tables for Visitor Center**

We have purchased two "farmhouse" style tables; these seem that they will be appropriate for our use for meetings or presentations. The use of these style tables for rental events needs to be further evaluated.

**7) Rental Events**

We have decided that for now; only rentals of the new meeting room will be considered.

Form **990-EZ**Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service**Short Form**  
**Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code  
(except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990EZ](http://www.irs.gov/Form990EZ) for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2023**Open to Public  
Inspection**A** For the **2023** calendar year, or tax year beginning **7/01**, 2023, and ending **6/30**, 2024**B** Check if applicable:

- ☐ Address change  
☐ Name change  
☐ Initial return  
☐ Final return/terminated  
☐ Amended return  
☐ Application pending

**C**  
GROVER CLEVELAND BIRTHPLACE MEMORL. ASSN  
207 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE (P.O. BOX 183)  
CALDWELL, NJ 07006**D** Employer identification number

22-3205721

**E** Telephone number

(973) 226-0327

**F** Group Exemption  
Number**G** Accounting Method: ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual Other (specify):**I** Website: [WWW.PRESIDENTCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.PRESIDENTCLEVELAND.ORG)**J** Tax-exempt status (check only one) — ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527**H** Check ☒ if the organization is **not**  
required to attach Schedule B  
(Form 990).**K** Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other:**L** Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total  
assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ \$ **82,429.****Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances** (see the instructions for Part I)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I. ☒

Revenue	<b>1</b>	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	<b>1</b>	73,586.
	<b>2</b>	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	<b>2</b>	166.
	<b>3</b>	Membership dues and assessments	<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b>	Investment income	<b>4</b>	4,562.
	<b>5a</b>	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	<b>5a</b>	
	<b>5b</b>	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	<b>5b</b>	
	<b>5c</b>	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)	<b>5c</b>	
	<b>6</b>	Gaming and fundraising events:		
	<b>6a</b>	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	<b>6a</b>	
Expenses	<b>6b</b>	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	<b>6b</b>	
	<b>6c</b>	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	<b>6c</b>	
	<b>6d</b>	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	<b>6d</b>	
	<b>7a</b>	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	<b>7a</b>	4,115.
	<b>7b</b>	Less: cost of goods sold	<b>7b</b>	2,168.
	<b>7c</b>	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	<b>7c</b>	1,947.
	<b>8</b>	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b>	<b>Total revenue.</b> Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	<b>9</b>	80,261.
	<b>10</b>	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	<b>10</b>	
	Net Assets	<b>11</b>	Benefits paid to or for members	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>		Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	<b>12</b>	
<b>13</b>		Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	<b>13</b>	975.
<b>14</b>		Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b>		Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	<b>15</b>	496.
<b>16</b>		Other expenses (describe in Schedule O) SEE SCHEDULE O	<b>16</b>	8,105.
<b>17</b>		<b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 10 through 16	<b>17</b>	9,576.
<b>18</b>	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)	<b>18</b>	70,685.	
Net Assets	<b>19</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	<b>19</b>	257,528.
	<b>20</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O) SEE SCHEDULE O	<b>20</b>	-324.
	<b>21</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	<b>21</b>	327,889.

**BAA** For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.Form **990-EZ** (2023)



**Part II Balance Sheets** (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

X

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments .....	248,941.	22 316,711.
23	Land and buildings. ....		23
24	Other assets (describe in Schedule O) ..... SEE SCHEDULE O	8,686.	24 11,205.
25	<b>Total assets.</b> .....	257,627.	25 327,916.
26	<b>Total liabilities</b> (describe in Schedule O) ..... SEE SCHEDULE O	99.	26 27.
27	<b>Net assets or fund balances</b> (line 27 of column (B) <b>must</b> agree with line 21) .....	257,528.	27 327,889.

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)</b>
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Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part

## Expenses

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? SEE SCHEDULE O

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

(Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)

28	VARIOUS EVENTS HELD TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROVER CLEVELAND AND TO FOSTER AN INTEREST IN THE ASSOCIATION.		
	(Grants \$ ) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	28a 4,807.
29			
	(Grants \$ ) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	29a
30			
	(Grants \$ ) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	30a
31	Other program services (describe in Schedule O)		
	(Grants \$ ) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	31a
32	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)		32 4,807.

**Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees** (list each one even if not compensated — see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV.

X

[illegible]