

## De's Dazzles

*July 2019 – Feeling Grateful, Mostly!*

I just returned home from a weekend away with our family, *celebrating the small joys of life!* I'm grateful for our freedom to travel when and where we want, to be surrounded by family, for opportunities to connect, face-to-face and to explore this great country we live in!

*We are grateful* to the IA Department of Cultural Affairs who awarded us a \$5,000 Capacity Grant, for operating expenses. It will be used to improve our branding, by hiring a photographer to take professional photos at events for the website and brochures and to help cover some monthly expenses like insurance, inspections for elevator, fire sprinklers, utilities, etc.! Smile pretty for the camera!

The board recently met Justin & Diana Hill from Hill Productions & Media Group as they presented us with a \$2,500 check for windows! They both spoke on the impact and benefits of growing up in small Iowa towns. *We were encouraged and very grateful for their gift!*

The opera house is in need of about \$40,000 to repair all the windows. The fixes in mid to late 2000s acted like band-aids but now, they need repaired, rebuilt, and or replaced. If you have any questions or would like more information on them, please don't hesitate to call. We are waiting to hear from another grant and you will be hearing more about our windows as we forge ahead.

*Feeling blessed & scared* - I belong to the League of Historic American Theaters and have attended a few national and regional conferences through the years. Much of what I've learned about operating a performing arts venue I have learned through them. This year's conference is in Philadelphia and I'm excited to go soak up some new ideas. Plus I'm excited to be a presenter for our ticketing agent, Vendini's, session. If you have any comments, good or bad, about our ticketing system please let me know.

*Very thankful* – for Liberty Winds concert, it's not often we can offer something free! And for all the supporters of the opera house.

Grateful,

*De H*