

To our members, friends, supporters and lovers of history:

We are living through extraordinary times. The current health crisis sweeping the US and across globe has affected life in many ways, large and small.

In times like these studying, interpreting and understanding our past and how our forebears overcame adversity can be a source not only of understanding, but also comfort. As a people, we have overcome...continually. And we will again.

The Friends of Lindenwald continues to devote its work supporting the scholarship and community education activities of the site and staff, while also working more actively to build greater awareness of and interest in the legacy of Martin Van Buren.

Thanks to the generous contributions by our members and donors, The Friends of Lindenwald has been able to continue supporting the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site – Columbia County’s very own National Park. We also continue to promote the legacy of Martin Van Buren, our 8th president, his role in helping to shape our evolving nation, and the key issues of his generation.

The contributions of our members are used to complement and support the activities of the site staff – providing critical resources that taxpayer dollars cannot. This year, we are calling out to a wider audience to join us as members and supporters so that we can bring our rich local history to the forefront of our national conversation.

While the site’s normal programming and events are currently closed to visitors, due to the social distancing restrictions still in place, the staff and team remain active and engaged in bringing activities online while planning for future events. The “Coffee with a Ranger” initiative, celebrating National Park Week and Poetry Month with Gregg Berninger postings were creative and engaging. Outdoor spaces at the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site also remain accessible to the public in accordance with the latest federal, state, and local health guidance.

When activities move back into the physical realm, The Friends will again be fully engaged in helping move these initiatives forward:

- The Veterans Art in the Park program developed by MVB NHS staff, which will include hands-on work at the site and an Exhibition.
- The expansion by MVB NHS staff of its successful Ranger Time and Junior Ranger programs, which bring history to pre-school and grade school-aged children.
- Funding a virtual lecture series presented by experts who are transcribing Martin Van Buren’s papers and doing research on the women in his life

You can find more information about these projects at www.nps.gov/mava and friendsoflindenwald.org.

This work is in addition to the projects and activities the Friends already support:

- The care and upkeep of the 70-acre Martin Van Buren Trails
- Scholarships for seven area High School students who excel in history
- Sponsoring Environmental Awareness Day at the site and MVB trails
- Supporting special events at the site, including assisting with the annual Winter Celebration and welcoming new and seasonal NPS staff
- Supporting the Dutch Heritage Farming Trail Run

With a hometown president, a presidential home and national historic site, our community holds a unique place in the region and country. We can do more to show our affection and pride. Join the Friends in supporting this local national treasure.

The time is right for renewed interest in this political pioneer: as a politician, governor, president, statesman, farmer and local citizen. You can follow our work on the Friends of Lindenwald Facebook page and website.

While we have had to postpone our Annual Meeting until a later date, now is a great time to renew your membership or join us as a new member of Friends of Lindenwald.

You can do this through our website at <https://friendsoflindenwald.org/get-involved>.

Thank you for your interest and support.

The Friends of Lindenwald Board of Trustees