

Form **990**

**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.  
 Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**INSPECTION COPY 2015**

Department of the Treasury  
 Internal Revenue Service

**A** For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

**B** Check if applicable:  
 Address change  
 Name change  
 Initial return  
 Final return/terminated  
 Amended return  
 Application pending

**C** Name of organization: ST LOUIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 Doing business as \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite: 506 W MICHIGAN ST  
 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code: DULUTH, MN 55802

**D** Employer identification number: \*\* \*\*\*3781

**E** Telephone number: (218) 733-7586

**F** Name and address of principal officer: JOANNE COOMBE  
SAME AS C ABOVE

**G** Gross receipts: 567,454.

**H(a)** Is this a group return for subordinates?  Yes  No  
**H(b)** Are all subordinates included?  Yes  No  
 If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)

**H(c)** Group exemption number: \_\_\_\_\_

**I** Tax-exempt status:  501(c)(3)  501(c) ( ) (insert no.)  4947(a)(1) or  527

**J** Website: WWW.THEHISTORYPEOPLE.ORG

**K** Form of organization:  Corporation  Trust  Association  Other

**L** Year of formation: 1951 **M** State of legal domicile: MN

**Part I Summary**

Activities & Governance		Revenue		Expenses		Net Assets or Fund Balances	
1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>TO DISCOVER, PRESERVE, AND DISEMINATE THE HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE OF ST LOUIS COUNTY AND THE STATE</u>						
2	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.						
3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	14				
4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	14				
5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a)	5	15				
6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	60				
7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.				
b	Not unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-E, line 34	7b	0.				
8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year				
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	362,646.	546,411.				
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7c)	9,652.	9,771.				
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	109.	51.				
12	Total revenue. Add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	10,567.	5,166.				
13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	382,974.	561,297.				
14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.				
15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	0.	0.				
16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11a)	215,354.	207,379.				
b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 2b)	0.	0.				
17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	193,938.	239,019.				
18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	409,292.	446,398.				
19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	-26,318.	114,899.				
20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year				
21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	3,538,633.	3,646,334.				
22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	30,626.	28,424.				
		3,508,007.	3,617,910.				

**Part II Signature Block**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer: JOANNE COOMBE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type or print name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Preparer: Print/type preparer's name: DEBORAH MEDLIN Preparer's signature: DEBORAH MEDLIN Date: 08/04/16 Preparer's PTIN: P00020263  
 Firm's name: WIPFLI LLP Firm's EIN: \*\* - \*\*\*8449  
 Firm's address: 1502 LONDON ROAD, SUITE 200  
DULUTH, MN 55812 Phone no. 218.722.4705

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III [X]

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission: THE GENERAL NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE THE DISCOVERY, PRESERVATION, AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE HISTORY AND PREHISTORY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY AND THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. IN ADDITION TO COLLECTING AND PRESERVING OBJECTS OF MATERIAL CULTURE AND

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [ ] Yes [X] No

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? [ ] Yes [X] No

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 283,958. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 12,379.) DISCOVERY, PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ST LOUIS COUNTY AND THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL PROGRAM COLLECTS AND PRESERVES AND PRESENTS THE STORIES OF REGIONAL VETERANS THROUGH MUSEUM AND ARCHIVAL BASED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A WEBSITE.

HISTORIC UNION DEPOT RECORDS SHOW 68,176 PAID MUSEUM VISITORS WERE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL EXHIBIT GALLERY AND APPROXIMATELY 1,000 VISITORS VIEWED THE GALLERY AFTER HOURS OR WITHOUT CHARGE. THE VMH WEBSITE (WW.VETS-HALL.ORG) WAS VISITED 3,311 TIMES BY 3,857 VISITORS AND RECORDED OVER 11,657 PAGE VIEWS. (THESE STATISTICS REFLECT A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE FROM 2014 DUE TO WEBSITE PERFORMANCE

4b (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4c (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4e Total program service expenses 283,958.

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	X	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ?	X	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4 <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		X
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		X
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>	X	
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	X	
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	X	
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		X
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>		X
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	X	
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		X
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	X	
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	X	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>		X
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		X
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		X
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		X
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		X
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 8 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i>		X
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	X	
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X

**Part IV: Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		X
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II		X
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III		X
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J		X
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a		X
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to release any tax-exempt bonds?		
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		X
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-E? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		X
26 Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II		X
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III		X
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		X
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		X
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		X
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M		X
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	X	
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I		X
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II		X
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I		X
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1		X
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		X
b If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		X
37 Did the organization conduct more than 8% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI		X
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for line numbers (1a-14b), descriptions of questions, and Yes/No columns. Includes sections for Form 1099, Form W-2, unrelated business income, foreign accounts, prohibited tax shelter transactions, charitable contributions, and Form 990 filings.

**Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure** For each "Yes" response to lines 7 through 16 below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

**Section A. Governing Body and Management**

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year. If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.		
1a	14		
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent.		
1b	14		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		X
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		X
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		X
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		X
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	X	
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	X	
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	X	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a	The governing body?	X	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?		X
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O.		X

**Section B. Policies** (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	X	
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	X	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	X	
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13.	X	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	X	
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done.	X	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	X	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	X	
16	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official.	X	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization. If "Yes" in line 16a or 16b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		X
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

**Section C. Disclosure**

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **MN**
- 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-1 (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.  
 Own website  Another's website  Upon request  Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
- 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: **ROBERT LARKIN - 218-834-5590**  
**409 3RD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616**