

MEMBERSHIPS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All Glidden Homestead memberships expired in December, so if you have not renewed and your mailing label DOES NOT have an asterisk, your membership has expired.

Now more than ever, your membership is critical to the work at the Homestead! For a very reasonable membership rate, you help preserve one of DeKalb's most important historical landmarks. Your membership also entitles you to free tours of the Homestead and the chance to participate in interesting, worthwhile activities there. Your membership also entitles you to at least four issues of "The Winner" newsletter throughout the year.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO: Glidden Homestead (Mail to 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ \$25 Individual Membership _____ \$15 Student Membership
_____ \$40 Family Membership _____ \$5 Youth Membership (high school & below)
_____ \$100 Heritage Membership _____ Other Special Donation
\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Thank you! Your membership allows the Homestead to continue work at this important historic site!

Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center

921 W. Lincoln Hwy.
DeKalb IL 60115

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Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center

"The Winner"

Membership Newsletter – March, 2007



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb IL 60115
www.gliddenhomestead.org

Annual meeting highlights fund drive, plans for museum

A \$1,500 donation from AT&T Illinois has helped kick off the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center's \$2 million fund drive.

The Glidden Homestead is seeking the community's help through the fund drive as it prepares to "tell an American story" by expanding its DeKalb museum campus – the site where Joseph Glidden invented "The Winner" barbed wire.

Past president, Jim Morel, announced receipt of the \$1,500 grant at the Glidden Homestead's annual meeting Jan. 29.

The Glidden Homestead was among two local organizations announced by AT&T Illinois to earn special recognition for making a difference in the DeKalb County area. For their outstanding efforts, they have been named as recipients of "AT&T Illinois Beyond the Call Community Awards." The other group honored is the Midwest Museum of Natural History in Sycamore.

"The Joseph F. Glidden Homestead is working hard to establish itself as an educational facility and museum that will be a premier destination for students and adults alike," said Morel, who just completed three terms as board president.

"It is a special honor to receive this recognition from our community partner AT&T Illinois and we appreciate their commitment to our community and those we serve."

State Senator Brad Burzynski assisted AT&T Illinois in nominating recipients for Beyond the Call Community Awards.

"Both of these organizations make a significant impact on the quality of life in the DeKalb County area. They do important work in educating our residents and they have earned a reputation for doing it well," said Sen. Burzynski.

Chairing the fund drive is long-time DeKalb resident and business leader, Kathy Siebrasse, recently-elected president of the Glidden Homestead board.

"Glidden's invention is a true American story. His innovation not only affected DeKalb County, but it had far-reaching impact on the development of the American West and the world," said Siebrasse.

"We have a unique opportunity to develop the property as a center for education and innovation that secures its place in history and also enriches our area as a cultural destination point," she said.

"The Museum will tell not only Joseph's story, but the story of icons



The Glidden Homestead received a \$1,500 grant from AT&T Illinois as part of the "Beyond the Call Community Awards" program. From left, are State Senator Brad Burzynski; Jim Morel, past president of the Homestead board; and Brad Jensen, AT&T Illinois.

and innovation, paying tribute to pioneers both past and present while serving as an important educational resource and tourist destination."

The vision for the museum campus includes a Welcome Center where a state-of-the-art media department will share video-biographies of local icons, said Morel.

"It will be an educational center where the stories of this area's inventors and innovators, visionaries of social progress and philanthropy come to life. To help the fund-raising effort, we will be contacting local residents, businesses and organizations to give them the opportunity to have their stories told through video-biographies produced by NIU's Dr. Jeff Chown," said Morel.

The Glidden Family has offered the Homestead board an option to purchase a retail building on the property. In order to complete the purchase of the building, funds must be raised in the next three years, Morel said. That building will become the museum's Welcome Center.

Other funds raised during the \$2 million effort will help restore the barn where Glidden first manufactured his barbed wire invention. The barn will then become additional museum space for the Homestead. Funds also will be used to continue restoration efforts in the house where Joseph and his ancestors lived since the 1860s.

The Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center was established in the mid-1990s to preserve the site where Glidden's world-changing invention was made. As a not-for-profit [501(c)3] corporation, the Homestead is run by a 15-member board, including two Glidden family members.

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Newly-elected Glidden Homestead board president, Kathy Siebrasse (standing center), distributed information about the \$2 million fund drive at the Jan. 29 annual meeting.