

FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**Featuring the
FY 2022–23
Annual Report**



FY 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT FOR FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Looking Back: FY 2022-23**
- 4 Our Team**
- 5 FDW Financial Highlights,
FY 2022-23**
- 6 Drake Well Updates, FY 2022-23**
- 8 Events & Programs**

OUR MISSION

Friends of Drake Well, Inc., is a non-profit community based organization that actively supports Drake Well Museum and Park in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Drake Well Museum and Park uncovers, preserves, and shares Pennsylvania's rich petroleum history, connecting past to present through a diversity of perspectives and inspiring our global audience to strive for a sustainable energy future.

CURRENT FDW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Baker, President

Emily Altomare, Vice
President

Steven Coleman, Treasurer

Carole Hall, Secretary

Barry Cressman

David Dubois

Robert Felton

Art Jennings

Gerald Knickerbocker

Alfonso Rickerson

Jason Ruggiero

Megan Sternagel

Ann Warner



LOOKING BACK: WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!

The 2022-23 fiscal year was a year of transition as both Friends of Drake Well and Drake Well Museum welcomed changes in staffing and experienced an overall change in atmosphere from the past three years as visitation numbers at Drake Well climbed back to where they were prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Friends of Drake Well hired a new Executive Director, Emily Weaver, in February 2023 following the departure of the previous two directors, Erin Wanninger and Arlene Rodriguez, at the end of 2022. Emily hit the ground running and has been going full speed ever since, learning the ins and outs of the site and the FDW organization. The Site Administrator for Drake Well Museum, Michael Knecht, was able to begin working on-site full time in April 2023 after the PHMC filled his former position at Old Economy Village. Other staffing changes for both FDW and PHMC throughout the past year led to the site being short-staffed for much of spring 2023 and lasting into the summer season. Despite this challenge, Drake Well was able to pull through and is now close to being fully staffed again - we have no where to go but up!

It was great to see pre-Pandemic visitation numbers start to return this past year, and it promises to only get better as we move further away from the Pandemic. We were able to hold many of our events and programs again without restrictions, and a sense of "normalcy" has returned to Drake Well after the tumultuous pandemic years.

Our goals for the current 2023-24 FY and beyond are to continue the increase in visitation not only at Drake Well but also Historic Pithole City, to enhance our events and programming at both sites, revamp our outreach efforts, and to continue improving the interpretation of the sites and their stories through updated signage and exhibits.

Another year comes to a close at Drake Well Museum, but stay tuned - this coming year promises to be one of our best yet!



OUR TEAM

We had quite a few staff changes during FY 2022–23! By the end of 2022, Friends of Drake Well saw the departure of two Executive Directors, Erin Wanninger and Arlene Rodriguez, as well as the retirement of the Drake Well Replica Operator Bill Stumpf. David Mock, Gene Hale, and John Hetrick were trained by Bill during the summer of 2022 and came back again for the 2023 season. Emily Weaver started as the new Executive Director in February 2023. FDW also hired Vicki Gilson in June 2023 as the part-time seasonal Coordinator for Historic Pithole City.

Drake Well Museum's PHMC staff also experienced changes with the retirement of Maintenance Repairman Jerry Dowling in September 2022 and the departure of Clerical Assistant Heather McFadden later that December. Jerry was replaced by Tom Lindsay in March 2023; maintenance also hired Larry Moore in June as the seasonal Semi-Skilled Laborer. Site Administrator Michael Knecht began working full time at Drake Well in April 2023. The month of May was bittersweet as we said goodbye to longtime Curator Susan Beates who retired after serving Drake Well and its collections for 25 years.

Friends of Drake Well continues to have success in finding student interns to help with education, interpretation, and collections. Denali John and Mackenzie Hill both served as interns under Friends of Drake Well during the summer of 2022. FDW hired Abigail Vinson and John Hetrick as student interns for summer of 2023 while PHMC hired Keystone Intern, Sonya Kokus, to help specifically with collections. All five students were outstanding in their work and a huge help to both Drake Well and Historic Pithole City!

Staffing was tight at times during 2022–23, but we are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Mark Entwistle as the new FDW Bookkeeper (August 2023) and Sarah Bell as the new Curator for Drake Well Museum (November 2023). PHMC is also looking to fill the Clerical Assistant position within the next few months, which means that by spring 2023 Drake Well Museum will be fully staffed!

Current FDW Employees

- Emily Weaver, Executive Director (*FT*)
- Toni Brown, Collections & Custodial Assistant (*FT*)
- Mark Entwistle, Bookkeeper (*PT*)
- Vickie Ruppensburg, Museum Store Manager (*PT*)
- Frances "Corky" Fulton, Museum Store Clerk (*PT*)
- Seasonal Replica Operators (*PT*)
 - Gene Hale, John Hetrick, David Mock
- Vicki Gilson, Seasonal Pithole Coordinator (*PT*)
- Israel Power, Contracted Accountant

Current PHMC Employees

- Michael Knecht, Site Administrator
- Sarah Bell, Museum Curator 2
- Sarah Goodman, Museum Educator 2
- Stewart McKinley, Facility Operations Supervisor
- Tom Lindsay, Maintenance Repairman 2
- Larry Moore, Semi-Skilled Laborer (seasonal)
- *Vacant*, Clerical Assistant 3

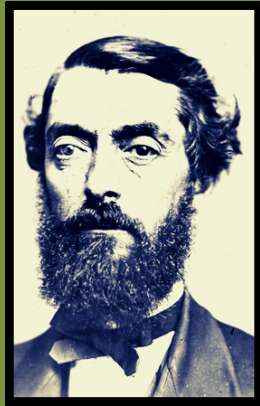
FDW FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2022-23

GRANTS

Grant funding received during FY 2022-23 was used for educational programming, student interns, site support, and promotional needs. NOTE: Some grants are received within one fiscal year but are used for needs during multiple fiscal years.

FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
\$90,000	\$90,000



FDW MEMBERSHIP

A membership drive was not conducted in 2022 due to turnover in FDW staffing. Memberships were actively sold, however, in the Museum Store throughout the year. Beginning in May 2023, the FDW executive director updated the membership application, replacing a flyer with a brochure that could be better displayed in both the Museum and the Museum Store. Brochures were also handed out at events, programs, and outreach activities. Proceeds from memberships go directly to Friends of Drake Well, Inc., for unrestricted use in support of Drake Well Museum and Park.

FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
\$7,510	\$4,369

FDW TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT

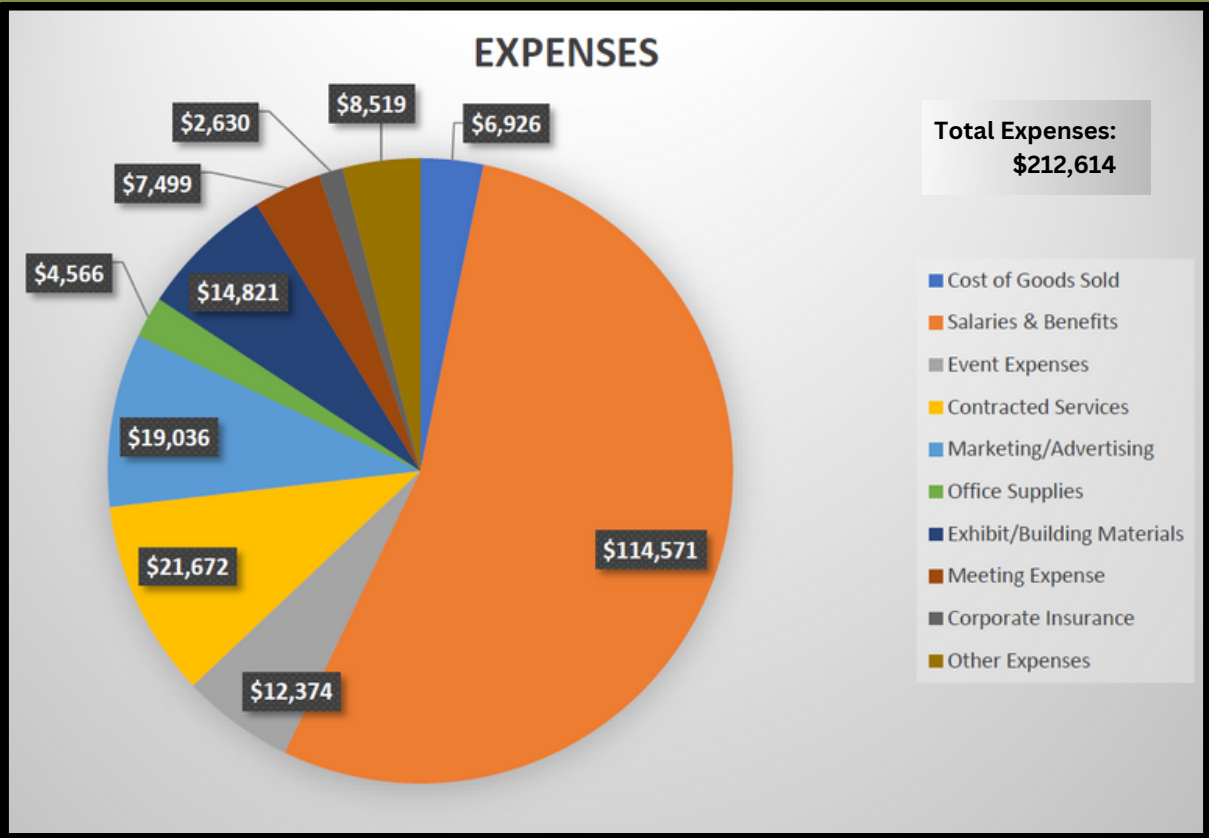
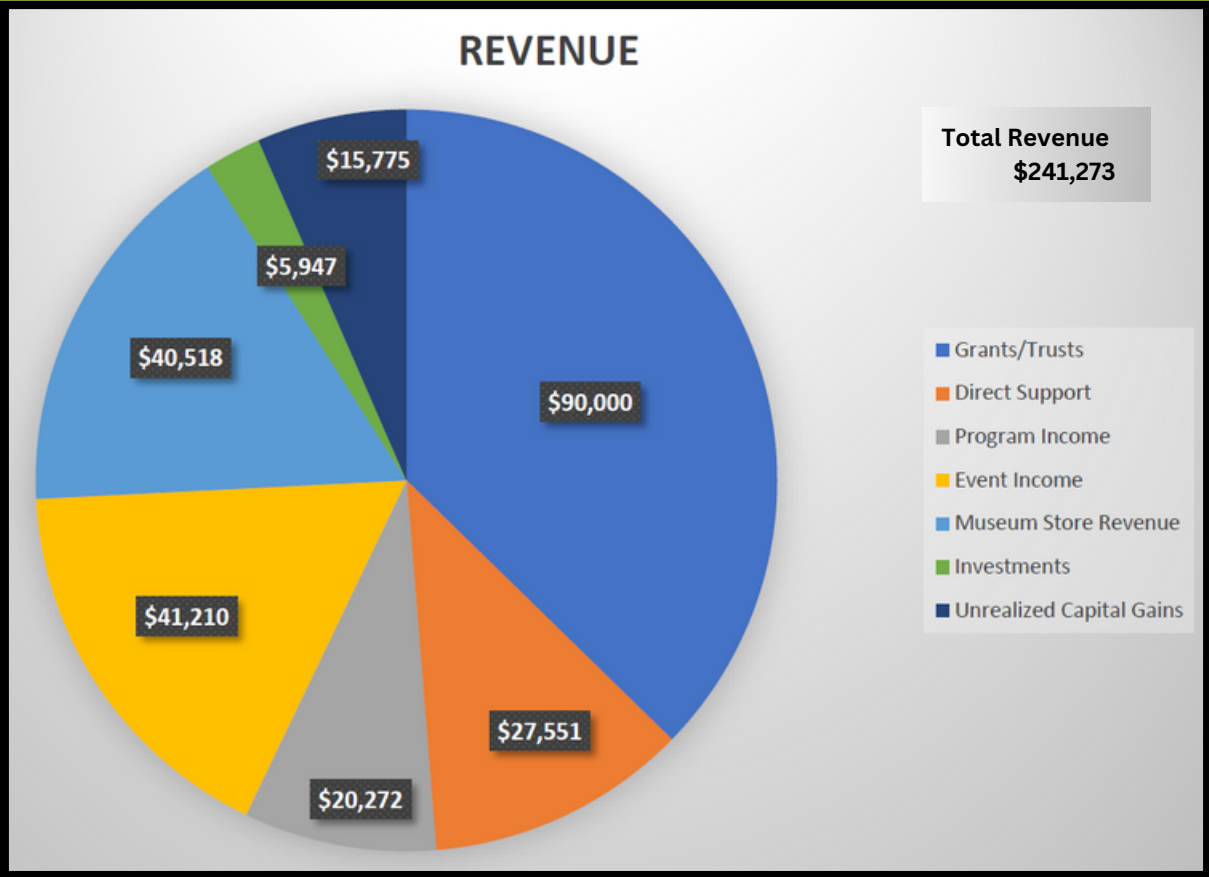
FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
\$12,674	\$27,550



Friends of Drake Well, Inc., received a total of \$27,550.51 in direct support for FY 2022-23. Direct Support includes Annual Appeal, Corporate Donations, and Memorials/Donations.

FDW FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2022-23



DRAKE WELL UPDATES FY 2022-23

MUSEUM VISITATION

YEAR	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
VISITORS	11,385	16,815
SCHOOL STUDENTS	919	1,016



VOLUNTEERS

YEAR	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
VOLUNTEERS	75	100
VOLUNTEER HOURS	2,237	2,889

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Densmore Tank Car tanks were restored and installed on the flatbed rail car. The exhibit was moved to a new location along Oil Creek within Drake Well Museum and Park.
- Two pavilions were built – one for over the Densmore Tank Car exhibit and another for over the firewood used in the Drake Well Replica.
- A temporary exhibit, *PA Oil – Racing into the 21st Century* – opened in the Museum's Multi-Purpose Room during Pennsylvania's Birthday on March 12, 2023.
- Significant infrastructure work was accomplished for the pedestrian bridge over the mill race, the relocation of the Grant Well Office, and the creation of the new Blacksmith Shop/Cooper Shop exhibit.



PHMC EXPENDITURES AT DWM, FY 2022-23



Keystone Projects: \$415,713.42

Personnel: \$578,648.22

Operations: \$161,442.27

Total: \$1,155,803.91

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

YES! WE'RE OPEN

1,332

event and program attendees during FY 2022-23!

461

tickets sold for Pithole Lantern Tours '22

11

Special Events & Educational Programs held at Drake Well Museum and Historic Pithole City

25

Happy campers at Discovery Day Camp '22!

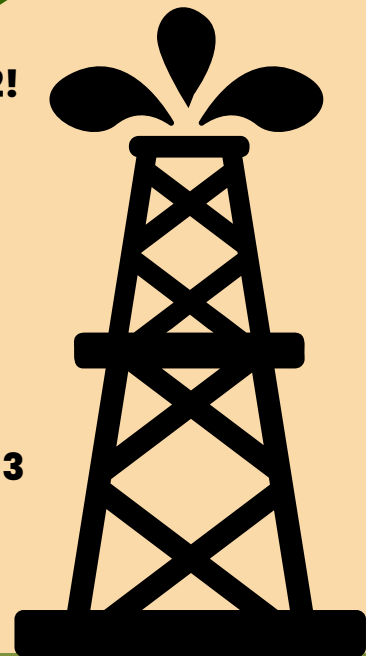
EXPLORE

155

visitors at Fall Gas Up '22

2

amazing races - Oil Creek 5 & 13 Stacked Trail Races and Drake Well Marathon & Half!



SAVE THE DATE

CY 2024 Events & Programs **all dates subject to change**

- Winter Academy, Jan-Feb (multiple dates)
- Cabin Fever Party at Historic Pithole City, Feb 3
- Just Desserts for MEMBERS ONLY, Feb 17
- Pennsylvania's Birthday, March 12
- Wisdom & Wine Series, March (multiple dates)

- OC 5 & 13 Stacked Trail Races, May 18
- Wildcatter Day at Historic Pithole City, June 29
- Discovery Day Camp, July (multiple dates)
- Drake Day, Aug 11
- Drake Well Marathon & Half, Aug 18
- Fall Gas Up, Sept 14
- Historic Pithole City Lantern Tours, Oct 5
- Oil Boom Historic Dinner, Nov 9

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.!



FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.

**205 MUSEUM LANE
TITUSVILLE, PA 16354**

(814) 827-2797

DRAKEWELL@VERIZON.NET

WWW.DRAKEWELL.ORG

