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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lakewood, Ohio – The Lakewood Historical Society announces the hiring of Jonathan Wotring as its new Executive Director. Mr. Wotring of Chicago, Illinois replaces long-time Executive Director Mazie Adams and will begin his duties December 1, 2011.

Mr. Wotring received degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has completed post-graduate, continuing education programs in Museum Administration and History of the Arts and Crafts movement at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and an internship in Irish architectural conservation practices with the Dúchas (Irish Heritage Services) in Ireland. Additional study abroad includes programs in preservation in Prague, Czech Republic lead by preeminent Chicago art historian Rolf Achilles.

Currently an independent consultant in the area of historic preservation and architecture, Mr. Wotring spent many years developing an organization to preserve and restore the Historic Second Church in Chicago, Illinois. As Director of Preservation, his responsibilities included oversight of preservation/restoration, historic interpretation, fundraising, marketing and volunteer recruitment.

Selected from a pool of nearly sixty applicants, the search committee and directors of the Lakewood Historical Society determined Mr. Wotring's qualifications matched the needs and priorities the organization faces today.

In accepting the position, Mr. Wotring stated that "he is very excited about the opportunity to lead the organization, enhance the collection of Lakewood related artifacts and continue to build the alliances and partnerships within the community that will help Lakewood appreciate

its history and how that contributes to the community and neighborhoods of the city today. This is a great community organization and I plan to help it grow.”

The Lakewood Historical Society was formed in 1952 by Margaret Manor Butler, a Lakewood resident interested in local history. At that time, the old stone house located at St. Charles and Detroit had to be moved or razed for the expansion of Babin Furs. The house, built in 1838, and the last of its type in Lakewood, was donated by Stephen Babin to be used as a museum. Margaret Manor Butler raised the funds to move the house to its current site in Lakewood Park and formed the historical society to maintain the house and preserve Lakewood artifacts. From the initial membership of 18 individuals at the first organizational meeting in 1952, the Lakewood Historical Society now has over 400 members.

In 1985, the Lakewood Historical Society, with the aide and support of the City of Lakewood, purchased the Nicholson House. The Nicholson House is the oldest frame structure in the City of Lakewood. The home, still on its original site, is available for rental to the public and civic groups throughout the year. The Lakewood Historical Society manages the property.

The mission of the Lakewood Historical Society is to enhance the quality of life in Lakewood by offering educational programs for all ages; providing stewardship of artifacts and buildings; and advocating for our historic community. The Lakewood Historical Society is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization.