

History and Purpose of The Yadkin Valley Historical Association, Inc.

Since county governments are being encouraged to utilize more regional cooperation in order to increase economic development, the Yadkin County Historical Society decided to encourage more regional cooperation in order to increase historic preservation in the Yadkin River Valley. To that end, the Society sponsored the 1st Yadkin Valley History Fair and Conference on August 12, 2006, at the new Yadkin Center, Surry Community College, in Yadkinville, NC. The Society invited historians and representatives from history-related organizations in the following counties to attend: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin. At this conference, about 60 historians, representing nine of the fourteen counties in the Yadkin River Valley, formed the Yadkin Valley Historical Association. Its stated purpose is to encourage more regional cooperation in order to preserve more local history.

At this conference, each county selected one director and one alternate to serve on the Board of Directors for 2006-2007. Seven counties chose to participate: Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin. About 60 conferees, who declared themselves members of the new Association, approved the new Board of Directors. At its first meeting, in order to have enough members to elect officers, the Board decided to approve Bylaws naming two directors from each county, with no alternates.

In order to have an inclusive membership, the Board also decided to create two at-large directors for specific groups of people, such as Native Americans, African-Americans, and Hispanic Americans. The Board also decided that terms of office should be two years, with half of the Board seats becoming open every year, beginning in 2008.

The Yadkin Valley Historical Association, Inc. is incorporated by the State of North Carolina and has 501(c) (3) non-profit status by the United States Internal Revenue Service.