

## **FRIENDS OF LORINE NIEDECKER**

**A Short History – May 12, 2010, Ann Engelman**

Revised 2010

Revised 2016

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker was officially formed in June of 2004 when we were granted 501c3 non-profit status. The first indication that "friends" in Fort Atkinson were caring about Lorine's legacy is a 1971 article "Reminiscences of a Friend" by Juanita Shreiner. In 1987 Jane Shaw Knox's "Lorine Niedecker, an original biography" was published.

Activities began in earnest at the Dwight Foster Public Library in the late 1980's. Reports and meeting minutes began to document acquisitions, visitors and expenditures. In 1990 work began to get a Wisconsin Historical marker at Lorine's home on Blackhawk Island. Gail and Bonnie Roub, Mary Gates and Marilla Fuge worked diligently. The marker was erected in 1991 Mary and Marilla also conducted interviews with people that knew Lorine.

In 2003 Marilla Fuge and Mary Gates "retired" from leadership of Niedecker activities. In 2005 Amy Lutzke, Assistant Director and Reference Librarian and Ann Engelman a volunteer in the community began to refocus and officially establish The Friends of Lorine Niedecker. Annual Activities Reports are generated each year.

In 2006 FOLN became a non-profit 501c3, a Web site was established a newsletter established and a study unit was created. In 2009 the Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival began and public art projects were initiated. The Solitary Plovers study group began in Fort Atkinson in 2013 and a Monograph "What Region" began in 2015.

There is currently a fifteen member board.