

# Minnesota Genealogical Society

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## MGS Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 27, 2002 MGS Library

Present: Lynn Besch, Todd Aldrich, John Mercer, Gerry Stifter, Jean Jensen, Dixie Hansen, Mary Swanson, Jim Robasse, Paula Goblirsch, David Cross, Linda Balk

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by president Lynn Besch.

**Secretary's Report:** Linda Balk presented the minutes for the May 11 Board Meeting. Gerry Stifter moved to accept the minutes. Paula Goblirsch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Yahoo Site:** Lynn reminded everyone to check the Yahoo site for the meeting schedules as through a lack of communication, the meeting reminders had not been attached to the calendar. *Linda will put the reminders on the calendar.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Lynn Besch presented the financial report for Gene Menzel. Lynn reminded the board that Gene leaves for Arizona, November 1, 2002. He would like all budget concerns to him by October 1, 2002.

**President's Report:** Lynn Besch talked to the board about having the Distinguished Service award as an annual event at the September meeting. **Lynn moved to present Pat & Dorothy Chandler with the award this year.** John seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**2002 Calendar:** Because of the mix up mentioned earlier about the meeting reminders, Lynn reviewed the events for the rest of 2002:

August – 7 – 11 Finnish Festival

22 to Sep 2 State Fair

September – 17 Executive Board Meeting

21 Quarterly Meeting

28 MGS Board Meeting

October – 9 Branch Council Meeting

19 Education Day

November – 12 Executive Board Meeting

23 MGS Board Meeting

December – 7 Quarterly Meeting

7 Board Holiday Party (Jan Mitchell usually holds this, John volunteered his house as back up)

**Finnish Festival Booth:** The Finnish Festival is being held August 7-12, 2002, MGS has a free booth at the festival and Lynn is looking for volunteers to man the booth. Please contact Lynn if you are willing. The Festival is at the Anderson Library on the West Bank.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Cemetery Committee:** Darlene Joyce could not make the meeting but did email the board members on the current status, tentative project schedule and completion date.

**Education Committee:** Todd Aldrich passed around the schedule for the October 19, 2002

education day at the Diamond Head Education Center. There will be three sessions with a total of 18 classes. Todd needs help on October 17 to put prepare student packets, instructor packets and signage.

**Executive Committee:** Due to the lack of reminders only two people showed up for the July Branch Council Meeting. John Mercer with present Project Growth to the branches at the next Branch Council Meeting on October 9. With Project Growth in mind the Scottish Branch has been inactive for some time. **Dixie Hansen made a motion to dissolve the Scottish Branch as an account and a favorable nod if they decide to reband.** John Mercer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Library Acquisition Purchase Committee:** Paula Goblirsh stated that there was some response to the list of books and publications printed in the last MGS Newsletter. They will go ahead and purchase the remaining items from the list. Paula stated she had been to a used book fair. There were two local books stores had a large selection of books on Minnesota. She thought we should let Wes know and maybe they could be invited to the September quarterly.

**Membership Committee:** Dixie Hansen stated that membership was below 1500. She also stated that Bulk mail had changed we no longer need to bundle our mailings.

**Program Committee:** Wes Waring was not present but had printed up a report for the board. The September Quarterly meeting will be at Luther Seminary.

#### **Publications:**

**Minnesota Genealogist:** Lynn presented the report for Erv Chorn. The winter issue is at the publisher. About one third of the Spring issue is done. Erv stated that MGS should try to find a replacement for him. We will have an article in the MGS Newsletter to start a search for a new editor. Lynn suggested the thought of a part-time paid position but questioned where the money would come from. The Executive board needs to get together to discuss the situation.

**MGS Newsletter:** Paula Goblirsch stated that the Newsletter was out as a draft for review. It will go to the printer on Wednesday or Thursday and should be in our mailboxes in about two weeks. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 1, 2002. Dixie stated that our newsletter is one of the best in the country.

**State Fair Update:** *Jim Robasse will look into the security for the State Fair. We can bring in our material on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday before the fair starts. We can tear down and pack up on Labor Day and pick up the material the next day. We need a call for last minute volunteers for the Fair. Lynn will take care of the flyers for the fair. Jim, Dixie and Wes need masters in case we run low of flyers then they can print them.*

#### **New Project Reports:**

**Project Growth Update:** John Mercer stated that he was to bring the Project Growth Proposal so the Branch Council Meeting but with the lack of members at the meeting in July *he will bring it to the Branch Council Meeting in October.*

**Past Member Survey:** Todd Aldrich presented the results for the Past Member Survey. He received 66 returned surveys. Eleven past members rejoined taking advantage of the membership discounts. He did get some useful information. He has 3 ½ pages of varied comments. In numbers of returned surveys, 21 were from the 1998 past members, 15 were from the 1999 past members and 30 were from the 2000 past members. Now we need to ask several questions. What are we going to do to help retain members? What are we willing to do differently? We need to stress the "Value vs. Cost of Membership". We need to remind the members of the benefits of membership. It was mentioned about putting the benefits in bullets in every newsletter. We should also have articles on the benefits, the library, and publications.

**Annual Fund Drive:** Gerry Stifter talked about the fund letter. After receiving several different suggestions he is not at the point to present a draft letter. One of the suggestions was to give a number of ways to help. Another suggestion was to provide more detail as to why. We decided that would look like begging and making excuses. It was decided that the annual support campaign should be just that. *Gerry will send another letter to the executive board for review, with a mailing being scheduled for early October.* It should be sent on quality paper, the addresses printed on the envelopes, with a return envelope. We will concentrate on the MGS membership.

**Record Retention Policy:** Gerry Stifter reported that he did not have a complete draft available for the board. We need to identify the committees and reorganize the file drawers for each committee.

Web Site: Jim Robasse stated that the Web Site will be moving to another provider in October. The provider will be rivalpro.net and will cost \$58 per year.

**Old Business:**

**Dues Increase:** We have announced the request for a dues increase in the MGS Newsletter twice and now we need to get the membership to vote on the increase at the September Quarterly Meeting.

**Known agenda items for September 28, 2002:** Draft Fund Drive Letter; Record Retention Policy Draft.

**New Business:**

**MHS and MGS Network Meeting:** John and Lynn will be meeting July 31 with two representatives from the Minnesota Historical Society to promote Project Growth and to discuss doing joint projects with MHS.

**Donations:** Jean Jensen noted that the Minneapolis Public Library donated a full set of bound Minnesota History and 1991 and 1992 editions of the IGI microfiche. The map files were donated to the Polish Group.

John Mercer moved to adjourn. Gerry Stifter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Balk, Secretary