

Minnesota Genealogical Society

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MGS Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, January 18, 2003 MGS Library

Present: John Mercer, Linda Balk, Todd Aldrich, David Cross, Dixie Hansen, Darlene Joyce, Paula Goblirsch, Kathy Lund, Jim Robasse, Gay McClellan, Tom Lanman, Wes Waring, Jean Jensen. Guest: Bill Holmquist

1st Vice President John Mercer brought the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Linda Balk presented a rough draft of the November 23, 2002 minutes. With the additions of making John Mercer the Contact person for the Minnesota Genealogist core group and clarification of the contact with Concordia College, Dixie Hansen moved to accept the minutes. Kathy Lund seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report.

Special Report: Bill Holmquist, Danish Branch, reported to the board. The Danish group holds their meetings as the Danish American Center. Because they bring in new members for the Center, the center has been letting them hold their meetings for a discounted price. In order to circumvent the problem of other groups registering complaints about the price the Danish American Center has proposed to establish the Danish Group as a committee of the Center. The Danish group does not want to drop the affiliation with MGS and is seeking their opinion of the proposal. The board feels that as long as the Danish group does not change its constitution or its bylaws that the board has no objections to them becoming a committee of the Danish American Center.

Orders of the Day:

English Branch: Dixie Hansen moved to suspend the English Branch. Kathy Lund seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Officers and Directors: John Mercer reminded the board that we are in need of a 2nd Vice President, a board member and a member-at-large. Please *think about candidates for the positions and e-mail Tom Lanman with your suggestions*. Paula will publish a message in the MGS Newsletter that we are looking for candidates.

Committee Reports:

Building: David Cross reported the Czech's have moved and all the rearrangements have been done.

Cemetery: Darlene Joyce has been having discussions with Jean Jensen on the cataloging system for the cemetery project. Kris Hendrickson has been helping with the books, Mary Watson has been helping with the computer entry, and Gay McClellan has

been helping with the volunteers. There are 44 members on the committee, 9 counties are done and 22 counties still need volunteers. She is hoping to declare the project done at the end of 2003. Darlene asked *Paula to publish the list of volunteers and to ask for volunteers*. She has been thinking about ways to raise money from the project. Some of these are publishing books of the results and making CD's of the results.

Program: Wesley Waring presented the MGS Program Committee report. He has reserved Fort Snelling for next December 6, 2003. The March 22 "Branching Out" meeting plans are almost completed. The meeting will be held at the Lake Junior High School in Woodbury. There were issues with the 21 June "Greater Minnesota" Meeting. Roseau asked MGS to have a booth for their Scandinavian Festival and there were thoughts of having the meeting there. With everything that will be going on there it was felt that it would not be productive to have the meeting there. Wes is looking for a place in western Minnesota as we have not been out there for a quite a while.

Education: Todd Aldrich reported that there was not enough time to coordinate a Technical Education Day for April so that plan has been cancelled. The Committee will do the Fall Education Day in October.

Membership: Dixie Hansen presented the membership information to the board. We are not gaining members. It was noted that this is not exclusive to Minnesota. There was much discussion about ways to increase membership. This has been an ongoing discussion at most board meetings. It was decided that the *majority of the March meeting will be devoted to developing ideas for increasing membership*. Todd Aldrich will facilitate the meeting. We will start at 9:00 instead of 9:30. Because the Irish have been working on the same problems we will invite them to the board meeting.

Library Acquisitions: Paula Goblirsch presented the list of acquisitions and a draft of the items to be listed in the February 2003 Newsletter.

Publications:

MGS Newsletter: Paula Goblirsch stated that the February Newsletter is just about ready to go to publication. April 1 is the deadline for the May issue.

Minnesota Genealogist: John Mercer stated that they have the plans for the Spring and Summer issue of the Minnesota Genealogist. The Spring issue will be on the 1930 census. They are looking for articles and online sources. They are also looking for graphic design assistance. They are also looking for articles on examples of research at the MGS library.

Reports on Activities and Projects:

Library: Jean Jensen reported that she is in need of volunteers for the library. Please sign up.

Book Reviews: John Mercer presented some books for review. There were no volunteers for review. Those that have books out for review, please have the reviews done by May 31.

Annual Fund Drive: Gay McClellan reported that we have received \$4,300 so far. Gay

is writing formal thank you letters to the contributors. *Paula will publish an article in the newsletter.*

Project Growth: John Mercer reported that he and Lynn Besch had a meeting with the Minnesota Historical Society. Since then the budget for MHS has been cut and the collaboration with MHS has been put on hold. It now means starting over again.

Women's Expo: David Cross and Linda Balk reported that the booth at the Women's Expo went well. It remains to be seen if we gain any new members from the event.

Branch Council, 8 January 2003: John Mercer reported that there were five groups represented at the meeting, the Finns, Polish, Computer, Yankee, and Norwegian. He reported that they are going to provide a more formal structure to the meetings. As a result of the meeting the Finns and the Norwegian group to have a meeting together.

Minnesota County Genealogy Resource Book: Linda Balk reported that she and Darlene Joyce have not had a meeting yet. *They will bring a project outline to the March Board Meeting.*

Other Business:

Jim Robasse stated that there were a couple of issues about the web site. After some discussion about the issue of the CD Rom Listing, there were some board members that were not comfortable with the listing being on line because of copy write issues.

Tom Lanman moved to adjourn the meeting. Darlene Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda Balk, Secretary