

Minnesota Genealogical Society

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[Http://www.mtn.org/mgs](http://www.mtn.org/mgs)

Branch Council Meeting
Wednesday April 9, 2003
MGS Library

Present: John Mercer, 1st Vice President; Nancy Grell, Irish; Beth Mullinax, Irish; Stephanie Matineau, Yankee; Paul Sternberg, GGS & Pommern; Terry Kita, Polish; Vickie Gutenkauf, Computer Interest; Wes Waring, Programs; Linda Balk, Secretary.

John Mercer welcomed the Branch Representatives to the meeting. Linda Balk reported that she did not have the minutes from the last meeting.

John explained that the purpose of these meetings was to introduce the branches to each other, to learn from the branches and to inform the branches what MGS is planning.

Linda passed around the MGS Committee and Branch Representatives form that she has and asked for updates. It was discussed that there were two lists that the branches need to keep updated, one is the contact person for the branch interests, which Beth Mellinax takes care of, and the Branch Representative list which the board, committee and branch representatives receive, which Linda Balk takes care of.

Activities and Accomplishments

Computer Interest Group

Vickie Gutenkauf reported that the Computer Interest Group has decided to survive. The current officers will stay on in their positions. They had monthly meetings with the odd months being a question and answer meeting and the even months being a formal program. It was decided to combine the two meetings and have bimonthly meetings. The group has about 80 members with about 25 to 30 present at the meetings.

Danes

There were no representatives present. Let it be noted that the minutes from the January 18, 2003 board meeting state that the Danes meet at the Danish American Center and have become a committee at the center and are still branch members MGS.

Finns

There were no representatives present.

French Canadian

There were no representatives present. There was discussion on whether the group still had officers. Normally Dorothy Chandler is a contact person for the

group but with health problems it was noted that you should try to contact the secretary, Denise Breault, 651-552-1362, dabreault@worldnet.att.net.

Germans

Paul Sternberg reported that the group publishes four journals and 4 newsletters annually. They are redoing their website, to be redone on May 2nd & 3rd. They hold five meetings a year, the winter workshop, the spring conference, the summer festival, the fall conference and the winter business meeting. They have about 800 – 900 members across the nation. The Spring Conference will be held at the Luther Seminary and will be about the German Historical Background. They are currently out of books which is their largest source of income. They currently have a few posts to fill.

Irish

Nancy Grell reported that they staff the MGS library the 1st Saturday of the month. They have quarterly meetings in February, May, August, and November on the 3rd Saturday of the month. This year the exception is August which is the 4th Saturday. They have about 2,000 members across the world. They publish a quarterly, which is going through some changes. They are holding classes at the MGS Library the 1st Tuesday of the month. They are wondering about holding classes in some of the public libraries and MHS and also about doing some day classes. Anyone have any ideas?

Norwegians

Jeri Johnson reported that NAGA holds monthly meetings. They have about 269 members. They have about 40-50 people attending the meetings. They have a speaker every month. Their meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month. They have about \$5,000 dollars to spend on Norwegian books and are actively trying to grow their library which is housed in the MGS Library. They publish a quarterly. Jeri and Joan Dwyer from the Finns are trying to get together to hold a joint meeting.

Poles

Terry Kita reported that the Polish group has about 270 members. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the MGS Library. They conduct about 5 – 6 programs a year and take the summer off. They have a project ongoing. They are extracting the records for one church in St. Paul. They are in the editing phase at this time. They will give the database back to the church and will do another church if permitted. They are indexing the books, the records are from the 1800's to 1930 and include births, christenings, confirmation, marriages and death. They are not sure what to do with the information. They would like to put it on their website but are not sure if they will be allowed to do this.

Swedes

There were no representatives present.

Yankee

Stephanie Martineau reported that the Yankee group has about 65 members with

about 38 being active in the group. They hold four programs a year. Their May 17th speaker will talk on indentured servants. They basically do research for the New England area. They are tentatively planning a meeting for Friday September 19th to tie in with Michael LeClerc from the NEHGS, who will be speaking at the MGS September 20 meeting. They do not have any projects as such.

Branch issues and concerns

Stephanie has said that members of her group are hesitant to volunteer to work in the library because they haven't been trained. She is wondering if there are any training sessions. Beth Mellinax said that the Irish Group has a training session and she was asked to email the group when the next class will be held.

It was mentioned that it would be nice to have a sign with the branches listed on it and a space where you could slide information about the branches in and out. This will be looked into.

It was mentioned that it would be nice to have a sign out front with an arrow pointing to the back so people would know which drive to take. It was discussed that the city of Golden Valley is very strict about allowing signs and it had not approved any signage.

MGS Reports

Minnesota Genealogist

John Mercer reported that he is the coordinator for the journal for this year. There are four issues planned with the Spring Issue just about ready to go to the printer. The Summer Issue will feature genealogical family histories. He is encouraging the groups to contribute stories. The Autumn Issue will contain things you have learned doing research on your family that they did not want you to know. The Winter Issue will focus on the greatest generation, "What did you do in the war, mommy?" The outline for the issues was in the last MGS Newsletter.

Project Growth Survey

John reported that the surveys handed out at the MGS Branching-Out Meeting in March yielded three interest categories: 1. Writing a family history, 2. Planning and Organizing Research, 3. Establishing a genealogy bulletin board for MGS. The study groups are not intended to be classes. They would meet at their own time and place and give feedback to MGS. Most of the people filling out the surveys indicated that they considered themselves to be at the intermediate level.

April Education Day

John reported that the April Education Day was cancelled due to lack of time to organize it.

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Wes Waring reported that the June Quarterly Meeting will be held on June 21,

2003 at Southwest State University with the Prairieland Genealogical Society hosting the meeting. The History Professor from Southwest State will be giving the keynote address on the Civil War medicine. Breakout sessions will feature Jim Warren on Naturalization, Paula Warren on Census, Dixie Hansen on Using Digital Cameras, Beth Mullinax on Military Records, Harold Hinds on The Historical Perspective on Genealogy, and Dixie Hansen on Internet/Being Cautious.

The September 20 meeting will have Michael LeClerc, NEHGS, as the speaker.

MGS vacancies

John reported that the MGS board has a couple of vacancies and is looking for volunteers to fill the positions. We are in need of a member-at-large and two board positions. Please mention to your members that they would be welcome to apply. Ballots will be mailed out in about a month.

Meeting Calendar 2004

John passed around a calendar for 2004 and asked the representatives for input on the meeting dates for the branch meetings. It was decided to change the meeting date in July to the second Tuesday of the month because of the July 4 holiday. The branch council meets the first Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. July 9th will be the next Branch Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted
Secretary, Linda Balk

ljb