

Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014

(763)595-9347
<http://mngs.org>

MGS Library Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 26, 2003

Present: Lynn Besch, Harold Hinds, Tom Rice, Dixie Hansen, Jean Jensen, Darlene Joyce, Todd Aldrich, Paula Goblirsch, Gay McClellan, David Cross, Allan Weinand, Wesley Waring.

President Lynn Besch called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Linda Balk was not present so Lynn presented the minutes of the last meeting for her. She is also taping the meeting so Linda can type the notes later. There was an issue about the New Business Item, the minutes should have read. The cost of \$225.00 was approved by the board. With this appendage, the minutes were approved.

Lynn welcomed Allan Weinard to the meeting. Allan is interested in becoming a board member and was invited to the meeting.

The first item for business was the start time of the meetings. It had been discussed at the last meeting about starting the meetings at 9:00. After a brief discussion Harold Hinds moved to keep the starting time at 9:30. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gene Menzel was not present so Lynn presented the May 31, 2003 financial report. The checks for renewals are coming in slowing. The Scottish seminar had an \$800.00 loss.

President's Report: Lynn presented a draft for a Conflict of Interest Form to the board. After a discussion, conflict is defined as a situation where the board member would personally benefit to the detriment of MGS. The expectation is that the whole board will sign the form. David Cross will look into Minnesota Council of Non-Profits which has an area that has a form on conflict of interest and will bring it to a future board meeting, with the intent of starting with the new board.

Open board positions: Sharon Babcock and Gerry Stifert will not be running for re-election. That leaves two three year positions open. Todd will be vacating his position on the board for the 1st Vice President position so that leaves two one year positions open. Allan Weinard is interested in filling one of the positions.

Building Committee: Lynn reported that there is a definite problem with the airconditioning. There is a problem with the Insurance determining liability. There is the question of renting additional space in 2004 and 2005. Erv Chorn is looking into construction of the handicapped restroom. One space would be where the stairwell is. The stairwell would be taking out, ceiling/floor would be reinforced and the restroom would be put in. That would add additional floor space for shelves. We are looking at also renting the space the Czechs used to have and using that as storage. We would knock out the wall that of the room we now use as storage and put shelves in that room. Jean reported that a gentleman is considering donating his whole library collection to MGS. It covers about 54 feet of book, most of the are genealogical, mostly French Canadian. Dorothy Chandler has been looking at the collection. Al Dahlquist would be willing to take the duplicates for the Little Canada Library. There was a discussion on shelving.

Cemetery Committee: Darlene Joyce reported that there are still a couple of counties that need to be adopted. She is hoping to finish the data entry by the end of the year. She is hoping for a push from her volunteers.

Education Committee: Todd Aldrich reported that the fall education day will be held at the Winnetka Learning Center on November 1, 2003. It would be advertised in the 281 catalog, the local Sun Post, and the Newsletter. Other options of advertising are being explored. See report.

Tom is working with the instructors for the Education Day. There was concern that the last instructors did not get the evaluations from the last Education Day. Todd has these and will get them to the instructors.

There are no classes scheduled for this fall except for the Irish classes.

Harold Hinds reported that progress on the Speakers Bureau is coming along. He hoped to get the information in the newsletter. The Speakers Bureau is a list of people and the lectures that they might give, that we will have as a standby basis here at the society. Tom and Harold have been working on putting it together. It will include information such as fees and other notes. It will then be available for anyone who needs a speaker.

Library committee: Jean Jensen reported that a lot of donations are coming in to the library. MHS donated a large box of books. The Bloomington LDS library donated a box of books. When asked about the books that MHS has donated, Jean explained that these are usually family history books that are not Minnesota related.

There was discussion on the fact that MHS is not accepting donations anymore. Part of this is because of the cut in staff, they have lost about 1/3 of their staff. They are not even excepting donations from the county court houses. This lead

to a discussion on how to let the counties know about donating their material to MGS and the problem we would have finding the space to store the material. It was suggested that we need to do three things. 1. Let the counties know that we are willing to accept donations. 2. We need to access the material as to genealogy related. 3. We need to microfilm the material to save on storage space.

With that in mind we need to check out the mechanics and cost of microfilming the material. There are some firms in La Cross that does both, microfilming and also putting them on CD's.

Jean has the usual reported the usual problem of getting volunteers to work at the library.

Program Committee: Wesley Waring reported on the September meeting. See report. There was a discussion on speakers for future meetings.

Publications:

Minnesota Genealogist: John Mercer was not present.

MGS Newsletter: Paula was still working on the newsletter. She has been working with Nancy Jensen, a graphic designer, with different layouts for the newsletter. She brought in a couple of samples of what they have been working on. This lead to a discussion on the Newsletter as there was one layout with a new name for the newsletter. It was put forward that the Publication Committee was encouraged to take a free rein with the publications to develop a more dynamic publication for the society. Paula said she would work with Nancy Jensen and bring a final layout to a board meeting.

Branch Council: Wesley Waring reported on the last branch Council meeting. NAGA was concerned about linking their new site on the MGS Web site. Jim reported that it was done. The Yankee Branch will be holding their quarterly meeting the Friday night before our Quarterly meeting. Joan Dwyer from the Finish group is working with the NAGA group trying to hold a joint meeting. The branches also discussed setting up a date to train members of their branches to work in the library. As an added note, one of the Branch members discussed the deal that the Holiday Inn in Salt Lake City was offering. She had taken advantage of the offer and was very satisfied with the arrangements and recommended it to all of us.

Web Site Update: Jim Robasse handed out updates of the changes he has made to the web site. He has sent out over 350 letters to the genealogical and historical societies to get the current addresses and information. He sent out the letters on June 30, 2003 and he started getting replies by July 3, 2003. They have been coming in daily since. 38% of the societies have responded. Jim has put this information on the website along with the different states genealogical, historical societies and archives. Jim has this set up in a database so it will be

easy to get information from him. Lynn noted that the computer fund is available for the web site.

Old Business: Wes has been taking care of the ballots as they are being mailed in and many of them have had the member surveys attached to them. He has put them in John Mercer's mailbox.

We are having problems with our answering machine. We need to probably get a new answering machine. If the phone rings and you answer it on the first ring you will get a click and no one will be there. If you let it ring a couple of times someone will be there. There have been a number of complaints about the answering machine. We should either get another answering machine or an answering system. Lynn will talk with Gene about getting the answering system and ask Kathy Lund if she would be interested in being responsible for checking the system.

John Mercer has sent out an e mail about having a pot luck for the board members. Many of the board did not reply to the date as there was some confusion about the message. He has put forth three more dates, August 13, September 2, or September 16. The board discussed having the potluck on the Saturday of the board meeting. We could have the board meeting at his place and then the potluck afterwards. Lynn will talk with John about this.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Balk, Secretary