

Minnesota Genealogical Society

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MGS Library Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, September 13, 2003

Present: Jean Jensen, Dixie Hansen, Gay McClellan, Tom Lanman, Paula Goblirsch, Darlene Joyce, Kathy Lund, Tom Rice, Harold Hinds, David Cross, Todd Aldrich, Lynn Besch, Linda Balk

1st Vice President Todd Aldrich called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Secretary's Report: Linda Balk apologized for not having the minutes ready. They will be presented at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Gene Menzel's computer has crashed so there is no financial report for this meeting. We will have a quarterly report at the next meeting.

President's Report: Gene is retiring from the board at the end of the year. There is one person who showed interest in the position but has no accounting experience. Gene would prefer someone with experience, especially non-profit experience. Essentially we are back to square one looking for a replacement for Gene.

The conflict of interest letter is being completed and will be given to President John Mercer, who will have the board members sign it.

The fund raiser letter is being completed and will be sent out the second week in November. Please come Saturday November 8 to help stuff the envelopes.

Education Committee: Todd Aldrich has asked for handouts from the board members who are giving presentations at the November 1 Education Day. Todd wished to thank Jim Robasse for getting the Education Day information on the website. He is looking for volunteers to help get the packets ready for the event. We discussed sending out a flyer to the Family History Centers to post.

Building Committee: David Cross reported that Erv Chorn is looking at implementing a handicapped bathroom. They are looking at two different locations. One of the locations would be where the bathrooms are now, but since it would take up more space the stairway would be blocked off. That would give us more floor space upstairs. The other location is up front by the elevator. No

decision has been made. The Irish Branch has asked about the room the Czech Group has vacated. They have used it a couple of times for overflow at their meetings. We are not renting it at this time. Whenever we need the space we will rent the area and use it as storage.

Cemetery Committee: Darlene Joyce reported that she only has 5 counties left to be adopted. The progress has been slowing down as far as getting the last part of the information from the volunteers. She will be asking them for reports on how far they are with their counties. She is still looking at completing the project next year.

Library Committee: Jean Jensen reported that she had another large donation. She is still working at getting it all cataloged and placed on the shelves. Her other problem is the ongoing volunteer shortage for working at the library. Please feel free to volunteer some time for this important aspect of MGS.

Paula is looking for volunteers to help out with the Library acquisitions.

Discussion about subscribing to Heritage Quest online was presented. The cost is only \$60.00 per year. After the discussion it was noted that Heritage Quest is no longer offering membership.

Membership Committee: Dixie Hansen reported that there was nothing new in membership changes. She restated that she will be resigning as of the next elections but that she is willing to keep up the database.

Program Committee: Wesley Waring was unable to attend but did send a report. Please send Wes suggestions for coming meetings. It was discussed and decided that we would start passing the hat again at the quarterly meetings. There will be a specific item for the donations. The first donation collection will be at the September 20, 2003 quarterly meeting and will be designated for the Cemetery committee.

Publications:

MGS Newsletter: Paula Goblirsch stated that the Newsletter is out. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 1st.

Minnesota Genealogist: John Mercer was not in attendance.

Elections: Wesley was not in attendance to give results of election. Lynn Besch will contact Wes and give the information to John Mercer.

Old Business:

State Fair: It was stated that the State Fair booth went well. Jim Robasse set up a slide presentation. It was hot!! We should consider purchasing a fan if reasonable priced for next year. Darlene suggested doing magnetic business cards with our information on them for next year. We also talked about doing a

coupon next year either a discount on a membership or a publication.

Minnesota Historical Society: With the budget cuts about 1/3 of the MHS employees have been cut along with services. The research staff has been decimated. Darlene has been given a small talk about this when she does her presentations. We have asked her to do a small write up for the next newsletter. We should urge our members to speak up about the cuts and the effects. We could put a sample letter on the website for members to write to their legislators to help to reverse this change. Maybe Jim could put a link to the legislator info to help our members find out who their representatives are. The Board should write a letter to the appropriate committee to address their concerns about the cuts. Tom Lanman will draft the letter. Darlene will send the letter to the county societies for their information and to have them draft their own letter of concern.

New Business:

Sesquiential: Darlene presented the idea to co-host a national meeting in Minnesota for the Sesquiential. She was wondering if the board was interested in doing this. It would bring recognition to the Society and also hopefully bring in members and revenue. This would depend on the organization holding the meeting. The board expressed interest. She has contacted NGS and they recommended the FGS for the meeting. Darlene will talk with Jim Warren about this.

Special Conference: Darlene also presented working with The Loft to do a special day long workshop. We would be looking out about 2 years for a date. The focus would be on writing family history. Harold could give a class on how to flesh out the lives. The main room holds about 120 people. The other rooms hold about 30 – 40 people. The board expressed interest in this. Darlene will bring more details to the January Board Meeting. If there is enough interest in the workshop there could be follow up workshops. Tom will work with Darlene on this.

Lynn Besch moved to adjourn the meeting, Paula seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Balk, Secretary