

Minnesota Genealogical Society

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MGS Library Saturday, January 24, 2004

Present: John Mercer, Tom Lanman, Eugene Menzel, Lynn Besch, Paula Goblirsch, Harold Hinds, Todd Aldrich, David Cross, Wesley Waring, Linda Balk Gay McClellan, Tom Rice, Kent Driessen, Rosalie Schack, Allan Weinand, Jim Robasse, Kathy Lund, Darlene Joyce.

Not Present: Dixie Hansen, Jean Jensen

President John Mercer called the meeting to order at 9:30. John reminded us of the ground rules to the meetings. He asked that we use the motion forms to write out our motions to give to Linda Balk to include in the minutes. He would also like us to use the report summary form to include with minutes. John said that we are in need of a new treasurer as the treasurer elect has resigned. He is also working on finding a Member at Large, and another Board Member. He will be sending us a Conflict of Interest letter that we will need to sign and return to him. He will also pass around a 2005 calendar for us to check dates for conflicts. One we know of already is the Salt Lake City, January 10-14. We will change the board meeting to the week after January 22, 2005. Any other changes please let Linda Balk know. She will plug them into the calendar for the board to review.

Secretary's Report: Linda Balk handed out the minutes to the November 23, 2003 Board Meeting. She had two changes to make, to correct Rosalie Schack's name and to insert the name "Etenlyn" with the financial report of the estate. Kent Dreissen moved to accept the minutes. Lynn Besch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the two corrections. It was also brought up at this time that Jim Warren has resigned as the FGS Delegate. John stated that he is working on filling the position and that two people have expressed interest in the position.

Treasurer's Report: Gene Menzel explained the financial report for the board members. Kent Dreissen moved to accept the financial report. Tom Rice seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Government Affairs: Tom Rice stated that on his own he has written a letter to the legislature about the cuts in the Minnesota Historical Society budget. He has talked to the people at MHS and they would be very please to have us advertise the fact that this can't go on. About 250 people have been cut from the budget, almost all of the microfilming has stopped, about 80% of the acquisitions have been cut and they don't have an operating budget for this year. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Tom would work with Paula to get a short article in the MGS Newsletter about this. They would put in the key points for the letter along with the website to find your representative.

Education Committee: Todd Aldrich reported that the Education Day was very successful. He thanked Gay, Kathy and Jim for their key help with the event. When all was done MGS took in about \$500. One thing he did learn from the event is to dedicate a person for audio-visual. The dates for the 2004 and 2005 Education day are October 23, 2004 and October 22, 2005. Todd will talk to Tom Lanman about a Spring 2005 Education Day.

Last March Todd had presided over a TOPS meeting with the board with the main concept to revitalize MGS as an organization. We came up with a lots of great ideas and we had them put into groups to work on. We will do that later in the meeting.

Program Committee: He is looking for speakers and places for the other quarterly meetings. John mentioned that he had a call from MHS that they would like to work with us. Wes asked if someone was interested in coordinating volunteers. He brought up the suggestion of having a two day meeting, ie: Friday night, Saturday, we could tie it into the education day. Other states do this. There was a brief discussion.

Web Site: Jim Robasse reported that on Dec 30, 2003 he sent out an email that we had 2563 visits to the website in December. He checked the counter before he came to the meeting today and so far we have had 2809 visits this month. We've been averaging over 105.7 visits per day the last six days. He has been adding to the web site. He sent out 364 letters last June to the Historical and Genealogical Societies in Minnesota and so far he has had 178 respond to the letter. They are still coming in. As they come in he is putting them on the web site. He has also put several state genealogical and historical societies on the site. Surprisingly several of the sites give directions on how to get to the society but never give the address. He added a form to the website. He has asked for feedback from the group and so far no one has responded.

Cemetery Committee: Darlene Joyce reported that she still needs volunteers for Pine and Polk counties. What should we do with the information? Should we publish it. Should it be free and open to all or should it be members only?

Sesquiential Committee: Darlene Joyce reported that a proposal was put in front of the FGS board to hold their conference in Minnesota in 2008. She has not heard back from them. We need to make a decision as to where we would hold the meeting. Darlene asked that we take home the handout she gave us and brainstorm ideas. It was suggested that she contact the Visitors Bureaus as they are a good source of help in planning. Duane Swanson is the person to contact at MHS.

Newsletter: Paula Goblirsch reported that the newsletter has been redesigned and would like feedback. Please send it to Paula.

Library Acquisitions: Paula reported that the acquisition position is quickly becoming overwhelming. John asked for volunteers to help Paula. What she needs is for people to keep their eye out and email her about books that we might acquire. Harold Hinds reported that the newsletter has not been effective in

getting people to respond with donations to the library. Paula made the motion that "The Library Acquisition Committee no longer publish a full, complete list in the newsletter but will publish antiquarian listings for donations." Harold seconded the motion the motion was carried.

Speakers Bureau – Harold is concerned that the newsletter is not effective in getting people to come forward. They have had no responses to the call for topics for the future meetings. Tom Rice and Harold have had no one contact them for the Speakers Bureau. There was a discussion on who is responsible for doing this. There was a suggestion to put the Speakers Bureau on the web site when it is updated. The Branches need to be contacted about the Speakers Bureau as most of the branch members are not MGS members.

Project Growth: Kathy Lund reported that the strategy for the project was to establish groups in connection with genealogy. At last year's Branching Out Meeting a survey was handed out. From the response two groups were established, a writing group and a research group. Contributors were John Mercer, who wrote the survey; Gay McClellan, who analyzed the survey; Stephannie Martineau and Gay worked with the research group, Duane Swanson, worked with the research group; Wes Waring, part of the planning committee, Mary Corcorin and Kathy worked with the writing group. Targets for 2004, finding a chairperson; establishing east and west metro groups; identifying additional groups and publishing these groups.

Darlene Joyce mentioned that Rochester is having their sesquicentennial. They have a website, Rochester150.com. Please visit it.

Strategic Planning: Todd reviewed what we had gone over in the last meeting to bring us up to speed for this session. What we are to do in this session is 1. To develop action items to move forward on the ideas, 2. To review groups.

Review of sessions:

Branch Relations: Publish library training dates, Initiate agenda items for meetings, brand the branches with MGS logo.

Volunteers: Volunteers open house, awards for (points for service program), promotion of need for volunteer training, new member orientation.

Web Site: Speakers list, get Harold's advice on speakers list, Darlene Joyce's advice on researchers list, membership brochure on website.

Publicity: 1. standardize and update membership brochure. 2. Standardize branch membership brochures. 3. PR announcements, develop standard announcement. 4. Identify publications and newsletter to distribute current events. 5. Meet with local historical and genealogical groups, offer to have a local feature corner in newsletter. 6. Work with library to promote library 7. state fair – involve branches. 8. promote estate planning endowments.

Outreach: Write to genealogical and historical societies as to help them and publicize their organization and vice versa, think of out of the box ideas as to

what other societies, brainstorm on how to appeal to people in the out state area, ask project growth leaders to evaluate groups.

Education: continue education day in October, developing a day length topic, partnering with the branches on classes, developing alternative media, developing mailing lists, marketing to senior groups

Todd would like the group leaders to review and compile their notes and send them to him by February 7, 2004. Todd will review them by February 21, 2004. Please send them to toddaldrich@allina.com. He would like to reiterate that these are outside, above and beyond the regular committee. This is not to take away from any other group or committee. John will be sharing these ideas with the branch council February 5, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Executive committee with work the report into the structure of the plan for the next two year. They will meet February 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

President's Report: Darlene moved that MGS into to co-sponsor with the FGS conference in 2008 to honor Minnesota's sesquiential or if not then sponsor a conference. There was a discussion about the motion. Darlene made a substitute motion to accept a co-sponsorship of a conference with FGS in 2008. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

The board will meet on March 13, 2004.

Jim Robasse has been contacted by Everton Family History Magazine. Their May-June issue will have the directory of national genealogical libraries. They want to know to if we want to be included in the directory for an annual \$10.00 fee.

Wes informed us that Lloyd Bonstruck is willing to do our September meeting but he is booked for September. He is open in October. The Moorhead conference is October 2 which would be in conflict with us if we had it the first week in October. We could switch things around and have Education Day the 25th of September and Lloyd the 9th October. We decided to switch days. Wes will talk to Lloyd about our October meeting.

Tom Rice moved to have the meeting adjourned. Lynn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Balk, Secretary