

Minnesota Genealogical Society

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MGS Board Meeting MGS Library Saturday, March 13, 2004

Present: John Mercer, Tom Lanman, Lynn Besch, Harold Hinds, Todd Aldrich, Linda Balk, Gay Mc Clellan, Tom Rice, Kent Driessen, Rosalie Schack, Allan Weinand, Jim Robasse, Kathy Lund, Darlene Joyce, Dixie Hansen, Wesley Waring, Jean Jensen

Not Present: David Cross, Paula Goblirsch

President John Mercer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 13, 2004. John reminded us of the ground rules to the meetings. John introduced Don Kratsch to the board. Don has responded to our plea for a Treasurer. John also introduced Larry Lundblad who is responding to the call for a one year board member. Harold Hinds moved to approve the nominees for the position. Kathy Lund seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Congratulations Don and Larry.

We would also like to Congratulate Tom Rice for his latest achievement. Tom has passed his certification exam. John extended congratulations to Rosalie, Darlene and Lynn, all of whom are certified.

Another round of congratulations this time to Todd Aldrich who became a father for the third time last Saturday. Joshua Henry Aldrich joins Ryan and Emily in the Aldrich family.

John reported that Duane Swanson is the new MHS Representative. He has arranged for the board to meet at MHS on July 17, 2004. After the meeting there will be a potluck at John Mercer's.

Linda Balk distributed the 2004 and 2005 Calendars to the board for review and suggestions. The Irish meet the 4th Saturday in August. Darlene Joyce suggested that we check the out the Jewish holidays for conflicts in 2005.

John will be sending the letter for Conflict of Interest to us.

Secretary's Report: Linda Balk handed out the minutes to the January 24, 2004 Board Meeting. Harold Hinds moved to accept the minutes and Allan Weinand seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Don Kratsch presented the treasurer's report. He was impressed with the low administrative expenses for the organization. He also asked what sort of reports he should be bringing to the board. There was talk about the building fund.

Marketing: Allan Weinand reported that he had been working with Dixie Hansen on a revised logo for MGS, something that could be used for both brochures and correspondence. He is also working on a standard format for publicity handouts. He would also like two volunteers to help set up a database. The brochure racks were discussed briefly. The State Fair was discussed briefly. Endowments were discussed briefly. We should look at Channel 2 for examples of how to advertise and solicit endowments.

Branch Council Meeting: John Mercer reported that he presented a report to the Council about the State Fair booth and asked the branches to consider making a donation for each member to help support the booth. The Pommern group sent a check for \$50.00. They are supportive of the library volunteer training. They are also willing to be more involved in the Minnesota Genealogist. He brought up that he had asked the groups to try to have 2 representatives at the meetings for more follow through with ideas and suggestions.

Education: Todd Aldrich talked about the discussion to restart holding education classes at the library. We would start out with 1 or 2 classes a month. He needs volunteers to help him with this. The Irish already do classes on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Publications: John Mercer reported that his first issue is at the publishers. The second and third issues should be going to the reviewers next week and should go to the publishers about 2 weeks after that. Dixie volunteers to help sharpen images for John. If you send pictures please put them in jpeg or tiff. John still needs someone to be a book review editor. He has five reviews coming up.

John discussed the situations with the MGS publications and where we stand with them at this time.

Sesquicentennial: Darlene Joyce reported that she put the proposal to ask FGS to help sponsor a conference in 2008 to coincide with Minnesota's Sesquicentennial. Paul Warren was on the committee but asked to be excused do to possible conflict of interest. Paula Goblirsch would be the co-chair with Darlene. They have not heard back from FGS. Darlene has talked with Duane Swanson about helping also.

Speaking of FGS, we are still looking for an FGS liaison. John asked Tom Rice to consider taking the position.

Cemetery Committee: Darlene Joyce reported that there are only 2 counties left to be adopted, Pine and Polk. She would like to get the committee together to get the momentum going again and have most of the counties done by the middle of October. She reported that the 3" notebooks have gotten a lot of use and we already need to replace about 4 notebooks.

Library: Jean Jensen reported that the library received huge donations in October and November. January and February she has only had a small amount of donations.

Speakers Bureau: Tom Rice reported that he received a list and is developing a questionnaire to update the speakers on the list. He was questioning how much information we should put on the Web Site. He will call the people on the list to see if they are still interested and then

send them a questionnaire to fill out.

Government Affairs: Tom Rice reported that MHS has had a 30% reduction in staffing and a 3% cut in operating cost. He urges all of us to write to our representatives and tell them this is not a good thing. He also urges all of us to tell others to write.

Project Growth: Kathy Lund reported that turnout of members to the meetings for project growth has not been good. Please come to the meetings. We need to make MHS aware of MGS and help them promote us.

We also discussed the fact that people do need to be made aware that we are an all volunteer organization and have no paid staff.

John thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Balk, Secretary