

# Minnesota Genealogical Society

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MGS Board Meeting  
Minnesota Historical Library  
Saturday, July 17, 2004

Present: David Cross, Kathy Lund, Gay McClelland, Paula Goblirsch, John Mercer, Wesley Waring, Duane Swanson, Don Kratsch, Darlene Joyce, Tom Rice, Rosalie Schack, Jean Jensen, Linda Balk

Not Present: Allan Weinand, Jim Robasse, Kent Driessen, Todd Aldrich, Harold Hinds, Dixie Hansen.

Special Guests: Michael Fox, Jean Nierenhausen

John Mercer brought the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. John greeted the members and guests and thanked everyone for coming.

Duane Swanson introduced Michael Fox, Assistant Director, Library and Archives, Minnesota Historical Society. Michael talked about the different projects that the society is working on. One of these projects is the electronic imaging of birth certificates. These will be limited to use in the Weierhauser room. They will start with 1900 and go up to 1934. For privacy issues only records older than 70 years will be available. MHS hopes to have the first ten years up by this fall. It will take about another two years to get the rest done. They are also working on Mypeople finder and hope to have that on line sometime this fall with the 1895 census.

MHS is looking into plans to expand the microfilm room. They are working on getting the Minnesota Biography on line. These will all take time as they are working with a 25% cut in their budget.

Michael introduced Jean Nierenhausen who works in the Volunteer Services Office coordinating volunteers. Any who would like to volunteer please contact Jean.

They are also working on a new Guide to the MHS Library. They are thinking about doing a members only section. This would help to raise revenue.

The board thanked Michael and Jean for coming to our meeting.

Linda Balk presented the minutes of the May 22, 2004 board meeting for approval. Tom Rice moved to accept the minutes. Paula Goblirsch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Don Kratsch reported on the finances. He is looking into different agencies to get Visa and Mastercard on the website.

David Cross reported on the library space. We have run out of space faster than we thought we would due to some recent large donations. We have three options. The first option is a temporary fix and that is to add more shelves by the Canada section in the microfiche area. The second option is expensive and after consideration will not add as much space as originally thought. This is to board over the stairwell and add shelving in that space. The third option is to move the storage area into the old Czech office and use the old storage area as library space. This will be looked into further.

David is also looking into how we hose the library catalog in order to save us some money. He discussed the CD collection. It is getting hard to manage the collection. We talked about this and felt that it doesn't have to be one person handling this. Maybe the Computer Interest Group could oversee it. David would like his sole responsibility to be complete charge of the Card Catalog.

Tom Rice reported on the Speakers Bureau. Tom made an effort to contact everyone on the old list and he has had only four responses back. He has had only three responses back on the researchers list. We will need to keep these lists in the library for the Research committee to use.

Wes Waring reported that he needs help in calling to recruit volunteers for the State Fair. Jim is looking at a new place at the State Fair.

The September program will be at the Olson School, the same place as last fall. Alan Mann will talk about 1. Internet Connection, 2. Documentation, 3. Family Search. He will also give a talk Friday night at the MGS Library.

Wes still needs topics for the December meeting.

Darlene Joyce reported that she will be taking a year off the board. The Cemetery Project has all but one county adopted. She is pushing to get the project done by the end of September. She reported that she has some issues about the project. Her goal is to have it freely available on the internet and in book form to sell. She has seen cemetery books for other states and feels we could make money on the book or CDs of the information.

Darlene reported that she has finally heard from FGS and they have chosen not to partner with us for the 2008 Minnesota Sesquicentennial. They feel that there have been several conferences in the central states recently and that they need to go to other portions of the country. Darlene talked about going to MHS for a partnership. Duane explained that MHS had put a major proposal through legislature for 2008 but they received no support. They are starting over again. They would be willing to work with MGS. We would need a clear proposal to present to the budget agency. Maybe we could also partner with the Historical Preservation Society.

John Mercer reported that the executive committee approved adopting the slogan "2005 in 2005, Members that is! Recruit one for MGS today". He also reported that the Douglas County Genealogical Society has been reformed and is up and running. He reported that we need to bring fundraising to the forefront. We need to organize a committee for annual fundraising.

John reported that Lynn Besch has not done the ballots for officer elections. John will get this

out. He reported that Todd Aldrich is not running for re-election. He is also dropping the Education Committee. Because of this, there will not be an education day this year. We are also losing Rosalie so we will need to look for new members. John reported that it had been a while since our policies and procedures have been reviewed and this should be done in the near future. We also need to do something for volunteer recognition. Kent is being overwhelmed at his new job and cannot take this on. John would like some ideas as to what we should do. We talked about the need to get Visa/MasterCard on our website to help bring in revenue.

John reported that the Branch Council was meeting at his house on August 3, 2004 for a garden party and meeting. Attendance is looking good. Anyone from the board who would like to attend is welcome.

Darlene asked that people email her with ideas for the 2008 Sesquicentennial so that she can get a feel of what should be planned for the event.

Darlene moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Balk, Secretary