



# Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014

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

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Minnesota History Center  
345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN  
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

**Present:** Robin PanLener, President, Jay Fonkert, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheila Northrop, Secretary, Mary Wickersham, Treasurer, Kathryn Otto, Executive Ctte, at large

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:30 p.m.

## **Secretary's Report:**

Sheila Northrop had provided copies of the August 7, 2007 Executive committee meeting's minutes via email. A motion was made to approve the minutes. That motion was seconded and passed. Sheila also provided drafts of the 2007-8 Master Roster and Master Calendar and asked that dates be set for upcoming Executive committee meetings. That request was tabled until later in this meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Wickersham provided a report on the budget and also a report on profit and loss. Robin PanLener reported that a recent Budget and Finance committee meeting had discussed our deficit. He reported that there was concern about the publications budget. The Budget and Finance committee will be submitting a recommendation to the Board that the Journal budget be halved, even if this means that there will be fewer issues of the journal published in the future. There was discussion of this recommendation touching on postage costs, results of the recent member survey concerning publications, and alternatives for the Journal if the budget is cut. Jay Fonkert offered to send out the results of the aforementioned survey via email to all Executive committee members.

Mary detailed fine points of the reports and outlined the outcome of a recent finance committee meeting. Robin mentioned that he will be contacting the Norwegian group soon for a membership number so that a rental rate for that group can be set. Mary recommended that we suspend written donation verification letters for donations smaller than \$25 due to postage costs and time constraints. There was discussion of the need for various internet genealogy subscriptions versus cost. The committee referred this matter for input from acting Librarian John Schade. Robin reported that Jim LaValle is resigning most of his MGS commitments at this time. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer reports. That motion was seconded and passed.

## **Property:**

Robin announced that he has purchased ads in the St. Paul Pioneer Press supplement advertising our upcoming move and open house. These will appear in two issues preceding the open house on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Robin also reported that he has sent flyers and letters to several National and local genealogical societies advertising the same. Kathie Otto offered to create more flyers for this purpose. It was reported that there is still great need for volunteers to help with the move, both at the Golden Valley location prior to the move and also at the new South St. Paul location after the move. There was some discussion of the address change and the postal permit, and the timing of this change. It was recommended that we keep the branches informed.

## **Publications:**

Kathie reported that Paula Goblirsch will have envelopes and letterhead ready for the move and that Kathie has taken care of brochures and flyers. Kathie also reported that the summer issue of the journal is being proofed.

## **Open House:**

A 'Dry Run' Open House at our new location on November 10 will coincide with Irish Day at the Library. The Irish Genealogical Society, International has taken most of the responsibility for this. Our formal, December 1, Open House will mainly consist of tours of our new location. There will be an area for booths and tables for our branches. Robin suggested that food be offered.

## **President's Report:**

Robin reported that the Ostfriesland group is considering joining us. And the Swedish group is also considering joining us, particularly since they are losing their current location.

## **New Business:**

Dates were set for upcoming Executive Committee meetings, all to be held at the Minnesota Historical Society from 4:00 – 6:00 PM: November 27, 2007, February 19, 2008, April 15, 2008, June 17, 2008, August 19, 2008 and October 21, 2008.

Jay Fonkert reported that the Program committee is suggesting that we hold our annual Awards Banquet on September 19, 2008 to coincide with our September 20<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. The suggestion involves tying these events together as a benefit, even possibly extending the event to include Friday afternoon. He outlined a possible scenario of speakers, banquet, etc. There were several suggested speakers. There was much discussion about pricing. There was also discussion about details of the banquet. Robin recommended that we suggest to the Board that we create an Awards nomination committee.

Kathie reported that she has heard that there will be a Sesquicentennial meeting soon. MGS does not have much information about this event yet.

Jay asked the Executive committee if they had any opinion on making the Spring Quarterly meeting an out-state meeting. Because this meeting is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, he recommends holding it in a south rather than a north location if it is an out-state meeting, dependant on availability. The Executive committee decided to recommend this change to the Board. Jay will start making some contacts about possible locations. The Executive committee further recommended that Jay offer a formal proposal to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary