



# Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 N. Concord Street  
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

<http://mngs.org>

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MGS Board Meeting  
MGS South St. Paul Library  
1185 Concord Street North  
Saturday, November 17, 2007

**Present:** Robin PanLener, President  
Jay Fonkert, First Vice President  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary  
Mary Wickersham, Treasurer  
Paula Goblirsch, Director  
Terry Kita, Director  
Kathy Lund, Director  
Bergetta Monroe, Director  
Valerie Morrison, Director  
Myrtice Orr, Director  
Kathryn Otto, Director  
David Suddarth, Director  
Rick Rusinak, Membership & Technology Committees  
John Schade, Library Committee Chair

## **The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.**

Introductions were made of all present.

## **Announcements:**

President Robin PanLener reminded everyone of the Winter Quarterly Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at Historic Fort Snelling.

Robin suggested that we draft a letter of appreciation to Gerald Maher for his coordination of the MGS move out of our Golden Valley location. An alternative suggestion was made to form a resolution to honor Jerry. Robin also remarked that Jerry had already suggested a thank you to all of the branches for their support and work.

Robin introduced a suggestion from Jay Fonkert that our Annual meeting on September 20, 2008 be an all-day meeting and that we hold our Awards Banquet the night before, on September 19, 2008 as a tie-in. There was some discussion.

Robin reported that he would like to form an awards committee to meet and determine the awards to be given at the banquet and the recipients. There were

several suggestions for both. Bergetta Monroe, Jay Fonkert, Sheila Northrop and John Schade all volunteered to serve on this committee.

Robin also reported that he is looking for someone to more actively pursue publicity for MGS. He mentioned that Tom Rice has agreed to do the Angela Davis interview for WCCO News. Robin suggested that interest in our organization may have been peaked by our recent advertising concerning our move. Kathy Lund explained the roles of various committees and who might handle this function. Robin asked for nomination input for this position.

Robin also reported that our website now contains our constitution, bylaws and minutes.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Sheila Northrop reported that the Board had received the last Board meeting's minutes and the September Quarterly meeting's minutes via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and passed. Sheila then reported that an updated roster and Master Calendar have also been emailed to all Board members and to the Webmaster. Sheila agreed to update the version of the constitution that she has available with the latest amendment voted upon at the last quarterly and to send this updated version to all board members and the webmaster.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Wickersham presented a report current to October 31, 2007 and pointed out pertinent statistics. She also provided information on the cost of our recent move, pointing out that the move was more expensive than originally anticipated. Terry Kita provided details of the extra cost items. Mary also reported that we have purchased two new computers this past week and that also increased our costs. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and passed.

### **Membership:**

Rick Rusinak reported that the Membership committee currently has only two members and that they are struggling without a chair. He presented the following proposal to the Board concerning membership:

For an annual membership in MGS in one of the paid categories:

- A *new* membership become active on the date that payment is received and expire one year from the date payment is received
- An existing membership that is renewed *before* the expiration date extend the membership one year from the date of the current expiration date
- An existing membership that is renewed *after* the expiration date be treated as a new membership (i.e. become active on the date that payment is received and expire one year from the date payment is received)

A motion was made to accept this proposal and seconded. There was much discussion. The motion carried. There was additional discussion about no longer including the journal in the new member packets to save money.

### **Publications:**

Paula Goblirsch reported that the Summer, 2007 issue of our Journal is at the printer and that the Fall, 2007 issue is ready for layout and close to publication. She also reported that the Winter, 2007 issue is also very close to layout and the committee goal is to have that issue out by the first week of January. Next year's issues will be themed to coincide with the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial and will explore our ancestor's lives 150 years ago. Submissions are already coming in.

Kathie Otto provided a mock up of our new brochure. A few changes were suggested and discussed. Robin explained the new membership cost and benefits levels as outlined in this new brochure and our annual fund-raising appeal letter. Kathy Lund provided the new library hours for the brochure as suggested due to volunteer availabilities. Kathie Otto will have 500 brochures printed initially.

### **Library:**

The Board congratulated John Schade on his set-up of the new library. John in turn acknowledged Gerald Maher's and Terry Kita's great service in that regard. John reported on the current status concerning our move. Robin reported that everything was in great shape for the IGSI Open House. He made a suggestion on purchasing lockers for visitors and a new printer. He outlined the new policies that are being put into place concerning visitors to the library. There was also discussion about donations of loose papers and how we will deal with them.

### **President's Report:**

Robin reported that MGS is looking for a refrigerator, a microwave and a toaster oven for our kitchen.

Robin discussed details of the plans for our December 1<sup>st</sup> Open House. He will be bringing food. He invites the branches to do so also and they are free to ask for donations. He suggests that we might sell books as well. The food tables will be in the conference room and kitchen. Terry noted that we will have to have a table count so that we can have them out and available.

Robin reported that our old sign cannot be used on this building. We will have to find a different way to advertise our location. He also reported that the south parking lot is not going to be paved before the winter, so we will have to use it as gravel. The lighting for that parking lot has improved.

We will now be calling our library the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:**

Jay Fonkert brought everyone up to date on progress made by the Program committee concerning the Sesquicentennial. He reported that the State of Minnesota has still not divulged much information concerning their plans. We plan to use this event to promote our June Quarterly Membership Meeting. Jay has been in contact with the Branches about their involvement in program. He is also working on a location for our out-state meeting. He reported many details on the proposed September Weekend. He has verbal commitments on speakers. He is working with Kathie Otto about coordination with MHS. There was discussion about details and concern about our continued use of MHS facilities. It was pointed out that next year will be MGS' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we will be able to highlight our own new location more at that time.

## **Education:**

Jay reported that he and Harold Hines are working on the Intermediate series and provided details. He also reported that the Special Topics series will begin in January and they hope to provide 6 lectures in the next year. He also outlined the Education committee's long range plans.

## **Continuous Improvement:**

Kathy Lund provided a short review of the Handbook revision.

## **Budget:**

Mary Wickersham outlined the preliminary budget as set by the Finance Committee and went over pertinent points. There was some discussion. Mary also mentioned that the Finance committee is exploring investment changes with a financial firm. A suggestion was made that the committee present a recommendation of their investment change proposals at the next Board meeting including the amount of the investment and the timing. The Board made clear that we insist on approval before entering into a managed account fund. A motion was made to approve the 2008 budget as presented by the finance committee and seconded. There was much discussion. A motion was made to amend the primary motion to the budget to include a goal of \$5000 in Fund Raising. The first motion was withdrawn and another was made to include this amendment. There was more discussion. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to increase the publicity expense by \$2000. There was more discussion. This motion was withdrawn and a motion was made to make one more amendment adding the increase in the publicity expense as well as an increase of \$614 to the fundraising expense. This motion was seconded and passed.

## **New Business:**

John Schade made a recommendation that we propose that we purchase a printer/scanner for \$549 for the library that was not in the current budget. He gave details on the benefits of this purchase and the policies of its use. A motion was

made to authorize John and Jim LaValle to purchase the printer and seconded. There was some discussion. The motion passed.

John also reported that he is investigating the possibility of purchasing cabinets for use as lockers. He hopes to provide information at our next meeting.

A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary