



# Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 N. Concord Street  
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

<http://mngs.org>

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MGS Board Meeting  
1185 Concord Street North  
Saturday, January 19, 2008

**Present:** Robin PanLener, President  
Jay Fonkert, First Vice President  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary  
Mary Wickersham, Treasurer  
Paula Goblirsch, Director  
Bergetta Monroe, Director  
Valerie Morrison, Director  
Kathryn Otto, Director  
David Suddarth, Director  
John Schade, Library Committee Chair

**Not Present:**  
Kathy Lund, Director  
Terry Kita, Director  
Myrtice Orr, Director

**The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M.**

## **Announcements:**

Robin PanLener announced the recent passing of Joseph Lund, husband of Board member Kathy Lund. The Board expressed their condolences to the family.

Robin PanLener reported that we need to schedule another Open House for the library, due to the reduced turn out in December because of bad weather. The Board agreed to add April 19, 2008 and April 26, 2008 to the calendar.

## **Secretary's Report:**

Sheila Northrop reported that the Board had received the last Board meeting's minutes and the December Quarterly meeting's minutes via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and passed.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Wickersham presented a draft of the year-end reports and pointed out pertinent statistics. She asked the Board to express its recommendation for a

preferred method of accounting for prepaid dues. Mary also provided a membership report provided by that committee and explained the cost/profit difference of membership. Mary then introduced a brief discussion of investment options. A motion was made to approve the finance committee the authority to invest up to \$60000 at their discretion within the guidelines of the options presented to the Board. That motion was seconded and passed. A motion was also made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and passed.

### **Membership:**

Mary Wickersham had already circulated a report from Rick Rusinak created by the Membership committee. There was no further discussion. It was reported that the Membership committee currently has only two members and that they are struggling without a chair.

### **Library:**

John Schade provided a book count from the library with details. He requested that a notice be included in the newsletter explaining missing books and asking for return or replacement. He also noted that we are still receiving exchange journals at our old mailing address. He would like information on journal exchanges, so he can better grasp what we should be expecting from other organizations. A suggestion was made that John contact Rick Rusinak. John also outlined his continuing organization of the library. He reported that there have been some problems with our computer system shutting down unexpectedly, possibly due to power issues in the building, and he suggests that everyone working in the library be trained to reboot the router. John had a few requests for equipment, but they were all very minor expenses and did not need approval from the board. Mary had a question about our copy machine service contract and asked John to investigate.

### **Program and Education:**

Jay Fonkert reported on the first session of the educational spotlight series which had been held this morning. The session went well with just a few minor issues. The attendance was short of breaking even, but Jay expects that to pick up in the future. He requested a volunteer and a budget for public relations and publicity.

Jay reported that we have a contract and a local coordinator for the March 29<sup>th</sup> quarterly in Rochester. He hopes to have the program finalized very soon.

Jay reported that the June 14<sup>th</sup> Quarterly would be held here at MGS. A chair is needed for that program to deal with logistics.

Jay reported that we need to start publicizing the September quarterly meeting, conference and awards banquet as soon as possible. We have a contract for that event, though it has not been confirmed yet.

Jay reported that the Intermediate Classes are continuing. There was one last week and there is one more to go at MHS on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Jay is trying to set up a repeat of this series, but so far has been unable to get commitments.

Jay reported that there is still no information available for us on the state Sesquicentennial. It is becoming more unlikely that we will be able to participate with so little notice.

### **Technology:**

Jim LaValle was not available to provide a report.

### **Awards:**

Robin PanLaner reported on current nominations. There was some discussion about the nominations process. The awards committee set a meeting for 12:00 noon on March 15<sup>th</sup>, prior to the next Board Meeting.

### **Operation's Executive Position:**

Robin revisited the idea of hiring a contract employee. He had an outline of what he feels the job would entail. There was much discussion. There was a suggestion that we might actually need 2 contractors – an office manager and a fund-raiser. There was also a suggestion that a fund-raiser also provide publicity. There was a suggestion that we have a budget addition for these positions for 2009. Robin reported on the current status of the fund-raising committee. There was additional discussion. It was recommended that the finance committee investigate the budget implications of implementing this plan for 2 contractor positions.

### **New Business:**

Robin asked that we provide someone to run for the Board of the Dakota County Historical Society. Bergetta Monroe volunteered.

We are still in need of a refrigerator and microwave for the MGS library kitchen. Paula Goblirsch volunteered a microwave. Robin offered to find a used fridge on-line and Bergetta Monroe volunteered to help transport it.

Robin reported that a Long-range Planning committee has been formed, including Gerald Maher as chair. The committee will be overseeing the management of MGS and making specific recommendations.

Robin reported that he is trying to form an Advisory Panel, hopefully including members of local societies, libraries and corporations. They hopefully would make suggestions and provide feedback on our operations. There was much discussion again. The board found the idea of both committees very favorable.

Kathie Otto requested content submissions for the newsletter.

Robin reported that he and Gerry Maher are putting together a year-end report on MGS and will be presenting it to the Board, the branches and the affiliates. John offered input on library use in conjunction with the year-end report.

Mary Wickersham reported that we have received an additional donation of more books from the Mary Leonard collection.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary