



Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 N. Concord Street
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

<http://mngs.org>

MGS Board Meeting
1185 Concord Street North
Saturday, March 15, 2008

Present: 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
Kathryn Otto, Director
David Suddarth, Director
John Schade, Library Committee Chair

Not Present: Robin PanLener, President
Myrtice Orr, Director

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

Announcements:

Jay Fonkert reported that Lillie Suburban newspapers recently made a tour of our library. He anticipates an article published in their March 24th week issues.

Jerry Savage has donated a white board and Jay has donated a bulletin board to the library. John Schade will figure out where to place them. There was some discussion about use of these items. The general agreement was to emphasize topical changes.

Jay reports that Spring Quarterly registration numbers are good. He also commented on the site and the program set-up.

No one present had details on the upcoming Open House days and Robin was not available.

Jay announced that the June Quarterly will be marketed as a Family History Fair and will serve as our traditional "Branching-Out" meeting. Jay also reported that we now have information on the Sesquicentennial and that it will include an event on the Capitol grounds. There is a \$250 charge for a non-profit booth. There will be 3

pavilions and the one that we might consider for our table space will be call "People & Heritage". We would need to organize and recruit volunteers immediately if we are going to participate, though he noted a concern about the cost. The State estimates attendance of about 80,000. Jay asked for a Board member to volunteer to undertake or be responsible for the leadership of this project. There was discussion. Jay asked for a show of hands on interest in this project. The Board decided not to participate in this event.

Jay elaborated on the program for the September Quarterly. He reported that all featured speakers are now under contract. The event will be called 'The Minnesota North Star Genealogy Conference'. There is some national publicity already in place and heavier local publicity should start in April. The entire event will be held at MHS. The MGS library is scheduled to be closed on that Friday and Saturday, but will be open on Thursday and we could decide to open it Thursday night, Friday morning or Sunday in addition. We may also offer an optional tour of the MHS library on Friday morning.

Jay reported that Harold Hinds has tendered his resignation as Chair of the Education committee effective September 1, 2008. Jay detailed the progression of the educational lecture series. He reported that the Intermediate series will be repeated starting in May.

A projection screen has been purchased and is already being used. It was installed on Thursday. Terry Kita is soliciting donations towards the purchase from the branches. He is asking the Board to authorize \$300 towards it. A motion was made to authorize a maximum of \$300 for this purpose. The motion was seconded and passed.

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Wickersham reported that the Board had received the Treasurer's report via email. She detailed the highlights of that report for the Board. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and passed.

Library:

John Schade reported on the state of the Library. Excess copies of books are being moved to the archives. He is also trying to organize a committee to look at the books available and the possibility of storing books that are of limited value to researchers as a means of saving space. John also announced that he will be updating the card catalog soon. He intends to create a list of missing books to be posted on the website in the hope that we will receive them back or replacements for them.

Membership:

Sheila Northrop had already circulated a report from Margie Deutsch created by the Membership committee.

Technology:

Terry Kita reported that we are working on internet access for the auditorium.

Awards:

Jay Fonkert outlined our time considerations for this year's awards banquet. Sheila reported on details of Awards committee recommendations. She made a motion that the Board approve several new awards for 2008 (list attached). The motion was seconded and passed. Jay reported that Robin has already asked each Branch to nominate individuals for recognition. These awards will not be determined by MGS.

Old Business:

It was reported that the long-range planning committee is discussing many ideas and are open to more.

Jay did not have any new information on an Operations Executive position at this time. It is being discussed by the long-range committee.

Kathy Lund reported that we are dependent on just a very few people as volunteers in the library. She would like to see more and put out a call for volunteers. Library hours may be cut due to this volunteer shortage.

New Business:

Jay Fonkert asked for approval of the Canadian and the Irish Genealogical Association constitutions. A motion was made that someone be appointed to study these constitutions against the MGS constitution and make a resolution to present to the Board for vote at the May Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Robin had suggested via email that we sell ads for an expanded version of the newsletter once a year. He was requesting Board approval to accommodate these ads. Jay read the proposal to the Board and it was agreed that this issue should be reviewed by the Publications committee before we discuss.

We don't have a formal proposal yet for an MGS cookbook, but there is already a great deal of interest. It was suggested that a presentation be made and that the publications committee be involved in this undertaking.

Terry volunteered to look into purchasing a refrigerator for the MGS offices.

There was no report on an Advisory committee yet.

A question was asked about carrying records for members that have died. There was discussion about the bookkeeping aspects, but no conclusions were made.

Jay revisited the Intermediate Genealogy Series. There will only be 3 speakers for the second series versus 5 for the first round. There was much discussion about the speakers' fees and how this would be set up for the second round, as many aspects of the series have changed such as the location of the classes. The Education Committee is asking for a fee policy for future educational series. They suggest an honorarium of ½ of the tuition proceeds with a \$135 guarantee per day which would include 3 classes. They also request a travel allowance for any instructors traveling more than 25 miles one-way to reimburse mileage and an allowance for those speakers/instructors traveling more than 100 miles in a day of mileage reimbursement plus the cost of 1 night of lodging on a case by case basis. There was a proposal made to accept this agreement. There was discussion. A suggestion was made that this be reviewed by the finance committee. Another suggestion was made that a motion be made to accept this policy for just the Summer, 2008 Intermediate Series at this point. A motion was made that the Board agree to pay the 3 speakers of the Summer, 2008 Intermediate Series that half of the tuition fees with a minimum of \$135 for their day. This motion was seconded and passed. A suggestion was made that the Executive Committee review ideas for a future policy. Several suggestions were made that the Education Committee make a specific proposal. There was much discussion.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Northrop, Secretary