



Minnesota Genealogical Society

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

Minnesota History Center
345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Present: Robin PanLener, President, Sheila Northrop, Secretary, Mary Wickersham, Treasurer, Kathryn Otto, Executive Ctte, at large

Not Present: Jay Fonkert, 1st Vice-President

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:35 p.m.

President's Report:

Robin reported that the June Quarterly meeting had gone off very well. The catered lunch was much appreciated and many good comments were made. The speakers were also well received and there were future topic suggestions. One topic suggestion that Robin found of particular interest was titled: 'what was the real name'. There was also a reported complaint about a lack of response to publications submissions and Kathie Otto promised to look into it. Robin also reported that MGS had been contacted by the Boy Scouts organization and they were looking for help educating boys interested in the genealogy merit badge. Robin suggested that we should investigate the needs of the Girl Scouts organization too. Sheila Northrop volunteered to contact both organizations. Robin also reported that we had been invited to rent a table at the annual Minnesota Teachers' conference October 16 & 17, 2008 and he recommended that we do so.

Secretary's Report:

Sheila Northrop had provided copies of the April, 2008 Executive committee meetings' minutes via email. A motion was made to approve the minutes. That motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Wickersham announced that she did not have a report currently available. She explained that she has been working on the organization's taxes and they are almost completed. She reported on two possible problems that we need to deal with. These involved reported familial relationships within the organization and compensation of directors. It was agreed that we will need to build a conflict of interest policy. Mary suggested a policy addition to the By-Laws, hopefully before the next Board meeting. Kathie offered to look into that. Mary also

reported that the management company of our building has questioned the amount of rent that we are paying. She reported that we had never been presented with the final numbers and we've been paying what we thought we owed. There is apparently some discrepancy. We will need to decide now if we are going to rent the full storage area for an additional amount. Robin and Terry Kita will be negotiating with the management company representative.

Mary also mentioned that she wanted the Finance Committee to meet and review the tax forms before presenting them to the Board for an email approval.

Mary reported that Jerry Maher and John Schade are working on book valuation for the library. Mary thinks that checking our insurance level is an immediate concern and Robin informed us that Jerry has been asked to check on that.

Old Business:

Robin reported that details of a tentative Speaker's Policy have been outlined for July Board approval.

Education:

There was a discussion about overlapping PC and Beginning Genealogy classes and a conflict of authority. Several committee members recalled that Bergetta Monroe had been authorized to handle Beginning Education opportunities at a previous board meeting, so there should be no question of a conflict if she has authorized the PC classes. Robin reported that John Schade would like to begin training library volunteers, though he has had no response from the Technology committee or the Education committee. The committee agreed.

Kathie announced that she will be retiring as Newsletter Editor at the end of the year. She would like the Board to have a plan in place for her replacement. A suggestion was made that the newsletter could possibly go under the authority of the Marketing committee in the future. Robin mentioned that the Marketing committee will be looking into the website also. Mary noted that we should remember this as a budget item.

Branch Constitutions:

We reviewed the Canadian and Irish Constitutions against the MGS constitution. There was a welcome change of date of the Irish fiscal year to line up with MGS. There was also a change in the IGSI dissolution clause that was discussed in detail by the Executive committee. Robin decided that there was cause for concern and will talk to IGSI about clarifying their intent. The Canadian constitution did not appear to have anything that we need to pursue. The Executive committee decided to let Robin make the final decision on what to present to the Board.

It was reported that Jay Fonkert has requested that MGS pay the FGS conference fee for him as our representative. It was suggested that since we do not now have a precedent or policy concerning this situation that we agree to pay

part or all of his conference fee as a special situation. There was much discussion and it was decided to present the entire situation to the Board, and at that time also set a future policy.

Robin had an idea for the certificate for graduates of the Intermediate Education Series. He is working on the wording and would like to have the certificates awarded soon.

It was reported that the deadline for Awards nominations is July 4th, 2008. Robin called for an Awards committee meeting and Sheila volunteered to work with the other members of the committee to set one up between July 7 and July 19, 2008.

Robin asked Kathie to work with Jay to review his Publicity brochure for the September conference. Kathie also provided information on renting tables and on the MHS book signing regulations. She suggested inviting additional authors for the book-signing, so that we can have the bookstore open. She plans to confer with Jay on this matter.

Kathie also broached the subject of finding a managing editor for the journal. Kathy wondered if a stipend could be paid for some for the work. Mary pointed out that branches have to report any board members receiving stipends. There was much discussion. Kathy suggested that we consider reorganizing the committee to lessen the workload on individuals. There was much discussion, but no decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Northrop, Secretary