



# 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, July 12, 2008

**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  
Kathryn Otto, Director  
David Suddarth, Director  
John Schade, Library Committee Chair

**Not Present:** Valerie Morrison, Director  
Myrtice Orr, Director

**The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M.**

## **President's Report:**

Robin PanLener congratulated Bergetta Monroe on her appearance in the Burnsville newspaper. He then gave the floor to Vice President Jay Fonkert, who announced a September Conference committee meeting following the Board meeting. Robin then introduced our September Conference Brochure and outlined our agenda for today.

## **Secretary's Report:**

Sheila Northrop reported that the Board had received the May Board and June Quarterly meetings' minutes via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and passed.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Wickersham presented the Board with a detailed report and explained the pertinent details. Mary also distributed a report from Jerry Maher outlining our Library valuation. Mary asked for a discussion and vote on this valuation for the purpose of reporting an amount on our taxes. There was much discussion. An agreement was made to make several changes in the report, and to allow Mary to make any future adjustments as she saw fit. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and passed. Mary then reported on our impending Tax return and the updates mandated by the Finance committee. A motion was made to authorize Mary and the committee to file this return. That motion was seconded and passed.

### **First Vice-President's Report:**

Jay Fonkert reported on the June Quarterly meeting. He reported a successful event and noted several great comments. He also reported that we did not lose money on this event. Jay reported that the Intermediate Education Series is going well with one more class to go. This Series is also in the black and attendance has been good. Our next big event is the Star of the North Genealogy Conference coming in September, 2008. Registration has begun and publicity is underway. Our goal is to draw 125 attendees. There was some discussion about on-line registration. Jay also reported on preliminary plans for the September, 2009 conference. There were many helpful suggestions. Jay reported that there are no plans yet for a December Quarterly meeting. A suggestion was made that we change that meeting to a more informal program meeting at MGS on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jay asked Bergetta to organize this meeting and she agreed. There were many great suggestions for the event. Kathie Otto provided a mock-up of the September Conference brochure and there was discussion of options and changes. A final version incorporating these changes was approved. It was also decided that we would offer library time for the Thursday preceding and the Sunday after the conference and the hours were set. Many other details were discussed.

### **Library:**

JohnSchade reported on the state of the Library. He reported that missing books are being listed and that list will be posted on the website soon. He is hoping that copies of these missing items will be donated. He is still cataloging new items and is expecting more to come. There was some discussion of where these items will be stored. John reported on the success of Library volunteer training. He also reported that membership is up since the library use fee increased for non-members. He also reported on the status of the loss problem.

### **Membership:**

Robin outlined the report sent in by Margie Deutsch.

### **Publications:**

Kathie Otto outlined the problem of multiple automatic publicity and member email notices. Mary Wickersham offered to look into it and asked those that have mailing

lists to send them to her and she will merge them. Mary noted that she will need periodic updates to these lists in the future. Kathie made an urgent request for this because of an impending notice before the September newsletter deadline. Robin reported that Kathie will be resigning as Editor of the newsletter at the end of the year, and we are looking for someone to take over that position. Robin volunteered to serve in this capacity in the interim.

## **Old Business:**

Speaker's compensation policy – Kathy Lund reported on the proposed policy suggested by the committee. She provided an outline. There was much discussion about the details. There was a motion to approve the policy with amendments, seconded and passed.

Continuing Improvement Committee and the Responsibilities of MGS Officers - Kathy Lund provided a model and detailed suggestions she had for committee oversight for Board members. There was some discussion. A motion was made, and seconded, but it was decided none was needed and that we would accept the model as a guideline. Kathy also reported that work on the handbook has been going very slowly.

Long Range Planning – Robin reported that the meetings have been going well. The committee has divided responsibilities into separate areas and some divisions have completed their reports. Once all of the reports are in, they will be presented to the Board.

Investments – Robin reported that this is on hold due to the volatile stock market.

Nominations – Valerie Morrison will be running for treasurer, Jay Fonkert for President and Terry Kita for First Vice President. Robin reported that we are still looking for nominations for Second Vice President and Secretary, as well 2 Directors. There will be no ballot sent out this year, but the election will be held at the annual meeting. A suggestion was made to include a notice about the election in the next newsletter.

Robin reported that the Cookbook project is coming along well. He asked that those interested please send recipes to Paul Sternberg.

Branch Constitutions - Robin reported that the Executive committee had gone through both the new Canadian and new Irish branch constitutions and discussed them at length. A motion was made to accept the Canadian constitution, seconded and passed. There was discussion about the IGSI constitution and their new dissolution clause which does not appear to fall within their status as a branch/subsidiary in the MGS constitution. Therefore MGS is unable to accept this constitution. There was much discussion and several suggestions were made. A recommendation was made that we ask IGSI to delete the questionable section.

## **New Business:**

Dakota County Fair – Robin circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers. He also made a request for a display and brochures.

MN State Fair – Robin has a donor lined up to cover our fee if we are accepted for a booth at the State Fair. There will be 66 volunteer slots that will need to be filled. There was a lot of discussion about set-up and many suggestions were offered.

Scouts – Sheila reported that a Boy Scout event was being planned as a cooperative project between MGS and IGSI. It is tentatively scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>.

IRS – Mary reported that we are in need of a conflict of interest policy. It was requested that a policy be slated for our next agenda. A suggestion was made that we review this policy every year with each new board.

Robin reported that we will have a table at the MN Teachers convention.

Mary made a request for a transferal of bank signatory.

Sheila reported that the Awards committee had met and voted on award recipients from the nominees.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Northrop, Secretary