



Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 N. Concord Street
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

<http://mngs.org>

MGS Board Meeting
1185 Concord Street North
Saturday, January 24, 2009

Present: Jay Fonkert, President
Terry Kita, First Vice President
David Suddarth, Secretary
Valerie Morrison, Treasurer
Robin PanLener, Past President
Bergetta Monroe, Director
John Schade, Library Committee Chair
Sandy Thalmann, Director
Dick Thill, Director
Sandy Stadtherr, Director

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

Introductions were made of all present.

Secretary's Report:

David Suddarth reported that minutes from last meeting were distributed via email. He mentioned that there was one correction in the spelling of a name. A motion was made to approve the updated minutes, seconded and passed.

President's Report:

Jay Fonkert reported the items which he planned on covering during the meeting, including a review of committees. He reported that he had received a newsletter for the Maine Genealogical Society from Mary Bakeman. The newsletter contained an item about the things of value to members of a society. Jay passed the newsletter around for the Board to look at.

Jay then passed out a sheet which listed the members of the various committees and spoke about the need for people to take charge of different operations.

Treasurer's Report:

Val Morrison reported that Mary Wickersham had completed the year end profit and loss statement and that she will email a copy to Board members. Bergetta Monroe inquired as to the amount made at the November 22 meeting. Val reported that the information was not noted. Bergetta requested that the figures be examined more closely in order to determine the profit from that meeting.

Finance Committee Report:

Val Morrison passed out and reviewed the investment policy. She talked about our investment portfolio and the management of our finances. She spoke of the objectives, asset allocation and policy modification. The committee may wish to change where we keep our money. Terry Kita mentioned that this is a general policy and that the committee would meet with UBS to fine tune it. Bergetta Monroe suggested that we have a review of the policy and our investments more often. In addition, she wanted to ensure that we had been contacted by UBS regarding the current market conditions.

Jay Fonkert then talked about the need to generate income to support our programs so that we do not need to spend down our principal.

Budget:

Jay Fonkert distributed a sheet detailing the budget as it now stands. He mentioned that we have two sources of income – dues and rental payments. Jay spoke to the budgeting issues and of different ways of resolving those issues. He talked about the need to lower the amount drawn from our investments.

Jay then talked about online subscriptions and suggested dropping Heritage Quest and picking up Genline. He reported that the Swedish group would split the cost with MGS 50-50. Robin PanLener suggested that we keep Heritage Quest. John Schade reported that there have been no requests for Heritage Quest in the last two to three months. Jay mentioned that we get more requests for Ancestry.com.

Jay then went through the budget spreadsheet item by item and the Board discussed. Jay mentioned the need for fundraising. He then spoke to the fact that the major income for our library is from the rent paid by branches and affiliates. The amount of rent is determined by a formula which attempts to treat all groups evenly. Several of the branches have expressed discomfort with their financial situation.

Jay also reported that the journal is our second largest expense and is also one of the expenses we can control the most. Jay anticipates that there will be changes in the journal.

In addition, he mentioned that the programs we conduct need to at least break even. Dick Thill asked if any of our programs are out on the web. Dick also asked about travel expenses. Terry Kita recommended that the travel policy and the speakers' compensation policy be forwarded to the education committee for review.

Val Morrison commented on the fact that nothing has been budgeted for travel for any of the programs. Jay mentioned that it is the responsibility of the program chair for each program to put a budget together which brings in money.

Bergetta Monroe inquired about the June meeting and Jay responded that the June meeting has not been planned for this year. There is still a possibility for a meeting in June. However, there is no plan in place at this time.

Jay reminded everyone that all the numbers in the budget are estimates. Robin PanLener moved that the budget be accepted as is. The motion was seconded by Dick Thill and approved.

Calendar:

Jay Fonkert passed out a proposed calendar for the year. He reviewed the calendar and talked about the November meeting. A motion was made to lock in November 7, 2009 and November 20, 2010 for the Winter meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jay then mentioned that we have a number of different organizations which want to use the space at MGS. Therefore, there is a need to schedule the MGS calendar far in advance. He suggested that we limit branch requests to 15 months out. John Schade mentioned that in Golden Valley the Irish group was able to use the building on the second Saturday of every month. He mentioned that he would like that agreement to continue.

Marketing Committee Report:

Robin PanLener introduced the members of the Marketing committee. He then passed out a report detailing the publicity process and what the committee will do to market events. The main responsibility of the committee is to market MGS events, but it will also assist with other events as well. Jay Fonkert mentioned that the committee will also develop a plan to market MGS. Terry Kita asked about the research book for schools and the marketing of the book. Robin reported that copies were sold at the teachers conference. In addition, the book is for sale in the MGS bookstore. Robin then mentioned that we will be at teachers convention next year. He also reported that the Marketing committee would like to raise money by asking for donations and asked the Board for permission to do so. Jay mentioned that all donations are to be to MGS. The donor may specify a specific use for the donation, however. Val reviewed last year's donations and recapped specific dedicated donations.

Old Business:

Intermediate Genealogy Course 3 Instructor Compensation:

Terry Kita presented a proposal for dealing with the instructor compensation for the course. He recommended that the speakers be compensated per a formula as follows: 30% to speaker, 20% to MGS, 50% to MHS of the total gate. The original contract states that instructors are to be paid out of the MGS half of the gate.

He recommended that MGS renegotiate for future contracts. He suggested that MGS must establish a policy and that the Education Committee should be in charge of establishing this policy. He would like the Education Committee to develop a policy and report back at the March Board meeting. Jay Fonkert asked that we restrict the present discussion to only compensation for the Intermediate Genealogy Course 3. Terry asked if we would extend this contract to a fourth course, to which Jay replied that we do not need to, the Education Committee would take care of that. It was also suggested that each event should have a separate book of accounting for income and expenses. A motion was made to accept Terry's recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business:

Genline Database Subscription:

Jay Fonkert reported that we have been offered a one year subscription to Genline at a discount rate of \$250, which may be extended into the future. He reported that the Swedish group has offered to split the cost with MGS 50-50. A concern was brought up about setting a precedent for the future. Jay recommended that MGS do this in order to bring in more members and make the library more useful. Robin suggested making a \$200 donation to the Norwegian American Genealogical Association in addition to helping pay for subscription. A motion regarding this was made and seconded. Terry Kita asked that someone familiar with Swedish genealogy advise the board on Genline versus other subscription databases. Jay mentioned that the Swedish group is attracting new members and is revitalizing their organization. He mentioned that we may also bring in new MGS members because of this. Terry asked if there are other databases we would purchase as well. Robin addressed that \$250 is an extremely good deal and that we need to bring the Swedish group back in. He felt that this would be an excellent opportunity to do that. Robin rescinded his motion. A motion was made to acquire Genline. The motion was seconded and passed. The payment for this is for one time only.

Website – Members' Only Section:

Jay Fonkert reported that we will put together a short term committee to decide whether to put together a members' only area on the website, what to put on it and to decide if it is feasible. Jay mentioned that Tom Rice will be on this committee and has asked for others to volunteer.

MGS-Branch Futures Committee:

Jay mentioned that he is working to set up a short term committee to address how MGS relates to the branches. This committee would look at options for the branches to continue in some other type of relationship with MGS and would be more focused than the Long Range Planning committee. Jay mentioned that this committee is a continuation of what the Long Range Planning committee accomplished. He stressed the need to find a way for the branches and groups to continue to function. He then asked for volunteers. Bergetta Monroe volunteered.

Program and Activity Managers:

Jay passed out a table of committees and teams. He would like each committee to have a board liaison associated. Val Morrison mentioned that she should be the Finance committee liaison in place of Terry Kita. Robin PanLener is the liaison for the Fundraising committee. Jay mentioned that we need to have an organizer for an event four months in advance of the event. If no one volunteers, the program will be dropped.

Awards Program:

Jay mentioned the awards program and proposed a new award on the request of the Yankee Genealogical Society in memory of Mike Clark. The award would be the Michael Clark Family History Writing Competition Award. The Society has a group of judges set up who would judge. This award would be open to anyone who writes a family history. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Suddarth, Secretary