

Austin Genealogical Society Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021, 7:02 – 8:30 pm.

Present:

Diane Harvey Anderson, Karen Liston, Tracey Marcelo, Belinda Brouette, Pat Murphee, Elizabeth Price, Nan Kilkeary, Erin Garcia, Max Trenck.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. We *have* a quorum.

Program Committee will be the proper term for those planning the meeting programs.

Financial Statement and December Board Meetings

- Reports were approved through consent approval.
- No financials from previous month available.
- Erin will workup the new year projections budget to present at next meeting.
- End of 2020 Financials were approved as sent out.

Website:

- New website URL is AustinGenealogicalSociety.org, and the site should take minimal maintenance.
- Members need to join or rejoin at new URL.
- On the “Contact Us” link, Diane should be the recipient of those inquiries.
- Nan has new membership database.
- There was a brief discussion on the readability of fonts, sizes and colors, with alterations to be made later.
- Orphan Train has been posted and March speaker will talk on this.
- Rob assembled articles, blogs and channels for the DNA Resources.
- The Resources list for Austin and the surrounding area are up to date, as well as the Cemeteries Lists. AGS is the owner of Austin’s Cemetery List.
- Pioneer Families, those with ancestors in Travis County prior to 1880, are listed; the feeling is that we can do more with Pioneer Society.
- Copies of Quarterlies are posted and it is uncertain whether Quarterlies will make a return.
- New item is “Opportunities,” things a member can do or should know.
- Under the Members Only section is the Member Directory, there will not be any more printed lists.
- Video Presentations and Meeting Handouts are also available for Members, as well as Audits and Board Minutes, as we need transparency to the members.
- The old site will be turned off but will remain for one year.
- The new site can have photos of members available to other members, but not to the public.

Programs:

- January - Alan Rabe will speak on German genealogy.
- February – Ari Wilkins, Library Associate at Dallas Public of Texas Genealogy Society will address the organization of information about the associated families, relatives and boarders.
- March – Linda Fulmer will talk on the Orphan Train and orphans who cane to Texas.
- April – Christine Cohen, speaker of “Why, When and Where of Lineage” will talk about the DAR, state societies and other organizations.
- Concerning a contract for a speaker, Diane is the only person authorized to sign a contract for AGS.
- May – Thomas McKenzie will talk on “Using Internet and Social Groups to do Genealogy”
- No other months’ programs are yet planned.
- The question of a Summer Seminar was brought up. Do we want to use 2021 as a building year? As we are reliant on Zoom for gatherings, could/would people endure a 4-hour seminar? Would a seminar of 1 ½ hours on successive weekends be acceptable? No decision was made
- One interesting idea is to have a local media personality take a DNA test, and have Pat work on his/her family tree. This could be used for upcoming meetings in summer or fall. Perhaps the local station could air a segment on AGS and this DNA process. There was mention of a KXAN weatherman going into semi-retirement who could be the subject of this test.

DropBox

- Elizabeth – Signed into Dropbox, all AGS stull. ID is “[AGSArchivist@GMail.com.](mailto:AGSArchivist@GMail.com)” Showing Personal DropBox. Will get this moved over to AGS DropBox. To see about accessing this account through Slack. Nan will turn this task to Max.

Diane found Ari’s bio and will distribute that as necessary.

Helping Others

- How can we encourage interactive events? To help people interact in a quarantine as this will likely last into 2022. Maybe not as a program but as an Extra.
- Elizabeth mentioned the AGS FB group and FB has a meeting feature which could take the place of the third Saturday seminars.
- Part of the AGS FB Page, is “Members Helping Members.” Does anyone else have any ideas on this? Diane is admin on FB page, Karen will help. We should all (the Board) should be in Austin Genealogical Society FB group. Tracey has ability to create an event. Diane will create an event, post it at 6:30 pm, will Slack us for 7 pm.

Scholarship Funds

- Jean and John Marostica Scholarship Fund needs applicants. Should the recipient be a member or family of a member?
- Erin stated the balance is \$ 1,127. We could postpone one year or could give one in Jean's name and one in John's name. We could have people submit an application, then pull names from a hat.
- Need info from Nan on what this is a scholarship to. The Texas Institute for Genealogical Research, price is around \$500, last time one was held. Diane can contact them to get current cost, but we need to have parameters for scholarships.
- It was agreed that board members are excluded. Erin suggested pull a name from a hat, a random drawing. Nan will add this to email for applying.

Next Meeting

FEB MEETING: 11th, 2nd Thursday. At 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.