

AGS Board Meeting Minutes

Oct 14, 2021

Housekeeping

Present are Karen Liston, Tracey Marcelo, Elizabeth Price, Brenda Brouette, Pat Murphree, Diane Harvey, Max Trenck; meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Minutes of the September Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report – Elizabeth

- Many have said they are paying for 2021 membership and some for 2022.
- People have a choice of year when they pay, as Karen set this up early October or so.
- Previously, those joining after October 1 were credited with membership for the following complete year. We could leave this alone, as some folks may not remember that they paid twice. Likely, issues arose as the website was down, they had trouble logging in and were confused so they paid multiple times. It needs to be clearly stated that membership runs for an entire calendar year, not merely any 12-month period starting when dues are paid.
- All previous membership issues have been resolved.
- Biggest expense is PO Box at UPS store.
- AGS made \$1,700 on seminar. Karen explained that an individual event can make money, but the organization needs to remain non-profitable. The funds need to be designated for some function in the future.
- Pat asked if we could increase our fee from \$100 to \$150. Elizabeth suggested we could start with a higher fee in January. Diane says we can propose and vote on this when a new budget is set; could be done in Nov meeting. Karen will help Elizabeth, as she has considerable experience in creating budgets.

Issues for discussion:

Technology

- Zoom and Voting:
 - Use of Zoom (including voting feature) – Karen is logged in via our Joint Zoom account. She is unable to see out how to do Voting/Polling, which needs to be enabled, somewhere in Settings. Karen shared screen but we don't see anything. Belinda searched on how to do this, and found that, for the host, on the bottom Zoom "taskbar," there should be a "graph bar" icon for polling/voting. (Ref <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/213756303-Polling-for-meetings>)
 - Diane changed the setting. We all logged out and restarted the meeting, and the option is available now. Karen created a test poll, and we all voted Yes. It reported that no one

voted No. Karen can download the results and save them with names, so that we can ensure that only AGS members vote in the elections.

- **Vertical Response and communications**

- Nan wants to roll off the board at EOY, and we need a replacement to communicate to the members, using Communications@A.G.S...org as logon at <https://app.verticalresponse.com>.
- Diane asks Belinda to take a look at Vertical Response, to be used in communicating with the membership. This is free to us, the classic version, as we are a non-profit. This shows old membership lists, we are not supposed to use them, but we can glean information from these lists. Many listed here are still members. Diane has not had time to figure out how to use this. Diane asks for volunteers, Belinda stepped forward. Same password and email for the Zoom account. Karen will create a test “member list” for the board so Belinda can test.
- Diane – Keep in mind we will be using this – we will need people to write stuff, perhaps it may fall to a new board member, but we all need to be prepared.

Website

Small changes were made. There is now a “JOIN US” button near the meeting Section. Diane moved the button, and it took about 24 hours for it to take effect. The delay could be due to a widget, Simple Editor.

Membership update

We now have over 200 members.

Board nominations

- Three have agreed to run for board positions, Ann Elbert, Chris Murphy (does not want to be in charge) and Richard Gruetzner (latter associated with German-Texas Heritage Society). We are waiting to hear from Diane Boyce and Debbie Czynski; Karen asked them to get back with her by Sunday next.
- Diane – will check bylaws on new Board members. Pat suggests the Bylaws be re-written, need to include pandemic protocols made flexible and practical.

Programs

Upcoming programs

- Oct – Thomas MacEntee – will speak on the soon to be released 1950 Census
- Nov Tracey – Sue Kaufman, Senior Manager at the Clayton Library and Past President of the Texas State Genealogical Society, speaking on “Using Social History to Fill in Family Stories.”
- Dec – No general meeting
- Jan – Laura Hedgecock, from Michigan – Topic is Storytelling, How NOT To Revise History.
- Feb - Tamara Halo, from Florida – Topic is Telling Family Story Using Google Earth. Show and tell demonstration ending with the movie having been created telling the story.

15 October 20213

- March – Women’s History Month – originally, Gina Philbert Ortega, but she cannot speak in March and has asked for another month, possibly Apr or May
- Re East Texas Genealogy Society – Pat attended a meeting, with a woman speaker from SFA – “What To Do with Photographs and Papers” including how to unroll a scrolled photo, cleaning old pictures. Another speaker was Melissa Barker, “The Archive Lady” from Tennessee who is recommended by Thomas MacEntee. Pat wants to ask her to speak. This meeting was done as a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting and it was not a well-integrated presentation, as the speaker would hold up documents or photos to the camera to be shown over Zoom. A different, on DNA, used Zoom and a shared screen to show slides. This presentation was significantly better.

Partnering with Carver Genealogy Center

Volunteer opportunities:

- Diane talked with Alan (Rabe) of WCGS, and he said there is a Black population that we are not getting to and we should have some event to reach out to them. Austin may be more amenable to this, as opposed to Williamson County, as there are more Blacks in the Austin/Travis County region.
- Faith, from Carver, got Diane’s contact info from Debbie Tipping, and emailed concerning any seminar that may be pertinent to Blacks. She also asked if the AGS members may be interested in volunteering as “helpers” at the Carver Center where they assist others when necessary, and would be free to do their own research during their “down time.”
- Tracey suggests that Arie Wilkins could be a speaker.
- The Carver Center may be able to offer some training to the volunteers.

Partnering with LLI

- They are back again and want to know if we want to teach any classes on Genealogy, at 2 hr/week. John M left all of his binders with his notes.
- Elizabeth and Karen voiced interest in doing this but not during the week.
- Basic Genealogy is the subject at Lifetime Learning Institute – Julie Sanford is the contact
- LLI is already having meetings this fall. The spring semester would run from Feb 14 – Apr 8., 2 hrs/week for 7 or 8 weeks. Karen suggests Sat 10am – noon. John M taught these and has to setup and takedown chairs and tables – Pat says it was very physical. He used guest speakers; one subject was the FAN club.

Book donations

- We have received donations of books from the Marosticas, Blake Tollett and Kent.
- Diane would like books to be available to members, at least for a while, then put them/donate someplace.

Other issues

LOGO – Karen: We need a new logo. We voted on two and vote was split 50-50, she feels we need to keep this within the board, pick something and go for it. It will be on Agenda for Nov meeting

<https://D.Docs.Live.Net/229014f91f92df02/Mydata/AGS Board 2021/AGS Board Meeting Minutes Final 20211014.Docx>

15 October 20214

Next board meetings:

- Nov 11
- Dec – 9 – abbreviated, get acquainted session with all current and incoming members

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm