AGS Board of Directors Agenda

January 11, 2024

7 pm – Zoom conferencing

 Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Members in attendance:

Diane Harvey **Y** Ann Elbert **Y** Max Trenck **Y**

Karen Liston **Y** Tracey Marcelo **Y** Patricia Murphree **N**

Elizabeth Price **Y** Belinda Brouette **N** Richard Gruetzner **Y**

Debbie Ulczynski **Y** Adeliza Tiffany **Y** Reneé Lasswell **Y**

Minutes from the previous month were reviewed and approved.

TREASURERS’ REPORT

Elizabeth reported:

* The updated EOY 2023 is on the Google Drive.
* Account Balances: Checking $ 10,990.38 Savings $ 15,716.36

On in-person meetings: Do we meet 4 times a year? We should commit to a second in person meeting, and perhaps a third to see if this option is well received. Karen mentioned that some members long time absent are coming back, possibly due to the in-person mtg. Elizabeth suggested we continue to meet at DRC (Dispute Resolution Center), parking good, safe location, easy to get to (US 183 and IH35) intersection, reasonable cost. Karen added that at the in-person meetings we should be ready to re-enroll membership, accepting cash and checks only.

Ann asked about getting approval to move mail box from UPS to USPS to save about half of the UPS $384 fee. Motion was made, seconded and approved to move the AGS mailbox from UPS on Far West to the USPS Far West location.

Max stated that the credit card on file at InMotion Hosting, for the website, is expiring soon and will need to be updated with new card.

Next month, Debbie should designate a committee to complete the audit.

MEMBERSHIP

Karen reported:

* 109 members including the 14 Life members, down about 30 from last year. But that we began the member drive about 30 days later than previous year.
* Some long time missing members are returning after 2-3 yrs absence. No one has complained about the increased membership fee.
* Some may be on to other things, and lost interest in Genealogy. Or not have time as other activities have become a higher priority to them post-COVID.

1845 PROJECT

Diane stated that two stories are in the newsletter, and has received a response from Charles Cresswell, who is definitely interested in this project. He is signed up to attend Jan in person.

Renee mentioned this to her D&D group and someone indicated an ancestor named Johnston, who was instrumental in Texas statehood process. Family was only in Texas at that time and then they moved on. He is not interested in whiting about this.

Diane asked if the 1845 Project submissions works well in the newsletter? We all agreed that it does, and maybe 2 per newsletter.

Diane has learned MailChimp thanks to Adeliza.

TECH CORNER

Max stated that he and Diane worked together to edit the home page and were unable to edit it. We agreed that we need to involve Mindy with site changes for photos on home page and for a blog page.

Max stated that his idea for the blog page was to write about tech news as it relates to our users and their online safety, as things break in the news.

Karen suggested that the newsletter could refer to the blog and drive more people to the website.

PROGRAMS

Diane reported:

* We are ready for the January 23 meeting. Cost of the location is only $100, as she is a volunteer there, otherwise, it would be $200
* Shirley Meyer, was advised of the $150 speaker fee for her January 23 presentation.
* She has been looking through 2022 survey on topics. Thomas MacEntee, who has upped his fee, will be happy to speak with us on AI in Genealogy. He has a genealogy tech newsletter and is ready to confirm for April meeting.
* She is looking at February and March meetings. There is a page in shared drive for ideas on programs. Many are interested in organizing their work, Google for Genealogy, Military Records, using major online repositories.
* Renee watches a Genealogy YouTube channel and found someone who could perhaps present Military Records to us. She will get link to Diane.
* Tracey stated there is a file on 2024 Program Ideas on the AGS Drive. Diane reviewed this briefly, and several topics were discussed.
* Elizabeth suggested a program on how to get into various Heritage Societies such as DAR.
* Karen said we could repeat some older programs as we have had a good turnover in membership in last few years.
* Debbie stated that, concerning the budget, the 2023 Summer Seminar lost money and 2022 was a break even year, and asked if we want to continue this. Renee asks if we can find a way to do this more effectively dollar-wise. It was stated that this level speaker will cost considerably more that $150. Diahan Southard’s, 2023 seminar speaker, costs were high – about $2,200 – that’s her rate, about $800 per hour. Blaine is about the same. We would need 100+ people to attend to make this feasible. Several meeting formats were shown. We should discuss this more in February Board meeting.
* Ann mentioned a speaker who spoke on what s going on at the Alamo. Karen suggested we do an Alamo talk for Feb.

2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Reported by Debbie:

President Debbie Ulczynski

Vice-President/Membership Karen Liston

Secretary Max Trenck

Treasurer Elizabeth Price, Ann Elbert

Parliamentarian Belinda Brouette

Programs Diane Harvey

Technology Max Trenck

Tracey Marcelo

Diane Harvey

Belinda Brouette

Renee Lasswell

Newsletter Belinda Brouette

Adeliza Tiffany

Project 1845 Diane Harvey

At Large Pat Murphree

Renee Lasswell

Richard Gruetzner

Tracey Marcelo

OTHER BUSINESS

Diane stated that the incoming emails to Communications@ should be going to Debbie now, not herself. Max needs to change this at Google.

It was asked if we are interested in Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference and Austin ??? Both are in April; Austin Archives Bazaar; Karen states there are networking possibilities for speakers at these events. Elizabeth and Ann will look for past costs of Austin Archive Bazaar

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

* FEB 8
* MAR 14
* APR 11

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm