AGS Board of Directors Meeting

February 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was 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 **Y**

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

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

MINUTES

Minutes from the previous month were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

* Account Balances: Checking $ 11,941.90, Savings $ 15,734.86
* Elizabeth reported she had applied dues for several new members from Jan and last of Dec.
* The Treasurer’s report accepted as submitted.
* Jim and Gail responded to Elizabeth concerning the Audit Committee. Janet responded to Debbie, who will send me these names.
* 2024 Budget numbers was on the financials that were distributed.
* Considerations for the 2024 Budget are:
  + Eliminating Summer Seminar, if we do this will change the financial outlook.
  + And we have increased website costs as well as software and peripherals expenses.
  + Speaker fees are up.
  + We need to add $100/mo if we are to meet at DRC.
* Ann asked how many meetings will be at the DRC this year? We will use for the Feb meeting with a virtual presenter. We could meet there every month. Do we have enough for web expenses? With $2500 for web enhancements, and $100/mo for DRC, we still are looking good.
* Debbie says we should budget money for the Summer Seminar now, but hold off on a final decision. Perhaps we should do another survey on the Summer Seminar? Budget accepted as submitted, with minor revisions.

SLACK TRAINING

Renee covered in Basic training on Slack,

* Joining the Workspace,
* Logging in,
* Channels,
* Threads, Pin a thread in a channel,
* Direct Messaging,
* Asking questions and Posting responses.

OLD BUSINESS

* Programs
  + January 23 meeting evaluation
    - 28 were on-site for the meeting in Jan. Many stayed online even through the Q&A period. We need a way to have people indicate they have a question, when we have an in-person speaker.
    - Need microphone with cord that would connect to mic input on presentation laptop, perhaps with a plug adapter. Max will work with Diane on connecting a mic to laptop, a mic that would allow speaker to move around. Belinda posted a link to a mic used by DAR. A motion to purchase such a mic was approved. Elizabeth purchased one immediately during the meeting.
    - Diane is optimistic about hybrid approach, we had a small group but a happy group, and is looking forward to seeing how the next one goes. About 30 signed up for Feb mtg, some for in-person.
    - Nancy Loe, European Ancestry search, is next speaker.
    - Mar – nothing confirmed, seems going rate for speakers is $250.
    - American Ancestors, fee is $250 and is willing to speak.
    - Ari Wilkins is $350, she could be a speaker for a full day. We could possibly have 4 diff lectures, and possibly partner with Carver Center and have a place through them, and perhaps have greater attendance. Another topic she has spoken on ”How weather affected ancestors.” She would love to do a full seminar. Will this fit? Are we up for it? Renee would like to see what she might put together for an all-day seminar.
    - APR – Thomas MacEntee
    - Could look at American Ancestors in MAR is a possibility. American Ancestors cover Rev War thru Vietnam. $250 for MAR
  + March meeting - Hybrid or Zoom ?-
* Membership
  + Karen reported that we have 117 members, down about 50 from 2023.
  + Renee has asked for a trending analysis, Karen has last four years of data as a bar graph. Karen will share trends with us next month. With more in-person mtgs, Karen will email folks who dropped out during the pandemic to let them know about our in-person meetings.
  + Concerning Assisted Living facilities, how could we leverage those interested at these facilities? Karen has names of a few facilities, not Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Independent Living Facilities. Karen will start a channel re such communities.
* Tech
  + Web page photos and Tech blog – Diane and I are scheduling an online work session with Mindy, hopefully, the week after next.
  + Max asked if we want the Blog link to be for only Members, or Under RESOURCES maybe.
    - Karen suggests a “tease” to show folks what is behind the member wall, and make it a selling point to joining the AGS. She also suggested to have a “teaser” somewhere as an enticement.
  + Max said that we need to talk to Mindy about this. Discuss this in tech-committee Slack Channel

NEW BUSINESS

* Austin Archives Bazaar ­- Sunday, Apr 14, Scholz Garten and Saengerrunde Halle – Debbie needs to fill out form tomorrow.
* Diana has tablecloth & where is AGS banner
* Goodie items – charts, stickers, pencils, should get one other new giveaway says Diane; 100 items in an order should be fine. Goodie item purchase approved. Debbie asks if we need a new line item in budget, Ann says it goes under Publicity.
* Hours are Noon to 4pm; setup begins at 10:30 am.
* Coordinator for participation and volunteer scheduling is needed.
* We need an individual to do lightning talk (1-2 minutes) on who we are, quick, basic talk.
* March board meeting needs to be rescheduled.

Ann says we may need to remove documents from the Shared Drive to follow Record Retention policies, including minutes. And minutes, Max needs to review to ensure a valid copy for each month is present

Debbie says we need new folders, and we need to organize all documents into the proper folders.

REMINDERS

Upcoming board meetings

* March 7
* April 11
* May 16

1845 Timeline stories needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07