AGS Board of Directors Meeting

March 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Members in attendance:

Belinda Brouette **Y** Ann Elbert **Y** Richard Gruetzner **Y**

Diane Harvey **N** Reneé Lasswell **Y**  Karen Liston **Y**

Tracey Marcelo N Patricia Murphree **Y** Elizabeth Price **Y**

Adeliza Tiffany **Y** Max Trenck **Y** Debbie Ulczynski **Y**

MINUTES

The minutes of the March Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

* Account Balances: Elizabeth reports: Checking $ 11,941.90, Savings $ 15,734.86.
* The Financial Review will be done this Sunday, March 10; Elizabeth anticipates no problems.
* Ann has reworked the budget, with larger categories, less details. An example is for the Web, Software and Zoom all together in one category. The income and outgo expenses anticipated are equal, including those for the Summer Seminar.
* Diane sent email about Mindy’s charge for webpage modification.
* Ann reported that the old PO Box has been shut down.

OLD BUSINESS

* Programs
  + Diane emailed that the March 26 mtg will be at 6 PM, and that people could have dinner at Kerbey Lane Mueller AFTER meeting. The topic is “Roll Call! Researching Your Veteran Ancestors: Civil War, WWI and WWII”. Speaker is Melanie McComb, from American Ancestors.
  + Diane had stated that a Summer Seminar may not be feasible or financially viable for this year; but the door is not yet closed on this subject.
  + The April meeting will be on the 23rd. People could meet at 5:30 at the Kerbey Lane Mueller location. The speaker is Thomas MacEntee, and the topic is on Artificial Intelligence and the problems that could arise.
  + Blaine Bettinger will speak on May 28, and Diane needs help in selecting the many topics available. Bettinger is fine with the Hybrid Meeting model. Looking forward to 2025 and a possible Spring or Summer Seminar, he charges $400 per lecture. There was some discussion about dates, including working around Spring Break calendars.
* Membership
  + Karen reports a couple of new members, total 121; after the last meeting. Several “old” members attended the last meeting, thinking they had renewed; Karen is sending reminders, encouraging them to renew their memberships. Also, Karen is reviewing old lists, and will be sending invitations to join us at future meetings. Some MAY come back if a physical in-person gathering.
  + March may be a good test of how many will show up
  + Debbie suggested the Board revisits in June whether the $100 monthly cost is worth any membership increase
  + There was discussion on meeting at DRC, near main highways intersection, inexpensive, technology is built-in. The Church, our previous meeting place, seemed not receptive to having us meet again there; cost there is about $300/month with convenience, but with zero tech and higher cost.
* Tech
  + Mas reported that Blog files and images have been sent to Mindy for her to setup the Carousel and Blog
  + Bbpress – used for forum is no longer supported; ergo, security threat as no updates. We need new plugin to recreate the forum; Renee said while Slack is not exactly a forum, but members could join Slack for open discussions. She states that Reddit could also be used. We need to eliminate bbpress NOW.
  + Adeliza offered that we could survey our members to see what form of forum discussion package that might be favored.
  + Debbie said that in a survey we could ask peoples’ opinions about in-person vs Zoom meetings.
  + Max stated that he will need the new debit card information this month as there is a pending charge at InMotion Hosting for the website SSL Certificate @ 109.99 with tax at $118.79, Ann said she has the card and will provide the needful.

NEW BUSINESS

* Austin Archives Bazaar
  + Debbie said a coordinator is still needed, as well as help on SWAG. There are still pencils (but with old URL) and lots of stickers. Someone needs to volunteer for the “Lightning Talk.”
  + Diane had looked online at different items . We may want more stickers, only smaller, and put them onto notebooks from Amazon or Target; ; who did stickers previously? Maybe Kris ordered them previously, but there should be a receipt on file;
  + We can get Stickynotes 200 at 80 c ea,
  + Elizabeth said we still have Pedigree Charts, Relationship Charts. This is a good event for networking with potential speakers, not so much an event for recruiting new members.
  + Expenses will be if we order ADDITIONAL SWAG items. We have decided no donation this year due to loss of ’23 Summer Seminar. Renee suggests we could get a couple of $20 books to give away off to attendees.
  + Renee made a motion to order 2 genealogy books to be given away in a drawing off to AAB attendees. And still use leftover SWAG. The motion was approved. Renee found copies of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy Paperback*, (August 13, 2019) and *Genealogy Standards Second Edition Revised* (March 5, 2019) Elizabeth will order the books
  + Renee volunteered to be the coordinator.
  + Karen suggested that Diane could do the Lightning Talk

NEW BUSINESS

* Renee said it would be good to have links on meetings, for example, to have “Add to Calendar” links setup
* Renee suggested that we have, at our meetings, a couple of basic slides for 1) who we are, and 2) Next month’s meeting. We could add a third slide to promote a Summer Seminar, Carver, Archives Bazaar or any other special event.
* Karen showed Belinda where there is a current membership list for her emailings.

REMINDERS

Upcoming board meetings – NOT COVERED

Meeting adjourned at 8:45