**Austin Genealogical Society**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 13, 2024**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. In attendance were Debbie Ulczynski, Ann Elbert, Belinda Brouette, Diane Harvey, Karen Liston, Renee Lasswell, Adeliza Tiffany, Richard Gruetzner, Pat Murphree

**Minutes:** Richard moved and Ann seconded to approve April meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously. Pat moved and Ann seconded to approve May meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Elizabeth had previously emailed the May Treasurer’s Report. Ann reported that there was a $10,369.00 balance in the checking account and $15,807.30 in the savings account.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Programs:** Diane reported that Sarah Kroh will be in person for the June and July meetings on Wikitree. Annette Burke Lyttle will be virtual presenting at the August meeting. Rhonda Kevorkian (AGS member) will be in person presenting on DNA Dow Project in September. October and November will be decided soon, and Diane thanked the board for their topic and speaker suggestions.

There was discussion regarding the in-person trial period. By consensus, the group agreed that it would be confusing to alternate between in-person and virtual. There is some concern about low turnout numbers for in-person gathering. Belinda will “pump” the in-person availability on Facebook and in newsletters. Maybe add a door prize?

Diane is still thinking about a follow-up prompt to the “What were your ancestors doing in 1845?” prompt. Maybe something military related or show-and-tell of oddest article related to an ancestor.

**Membership:** Karen reported that the current membership is 133. Only one new member since the last meeting. That person Karen thought renewed after missing May’s meeting with Blaine Bettinger and discovering that without membership, she couldn’t access the video.

**Tech:** Max was absent and no one else had any tech issues to report.

**Newsletter:** Debbie reported that the July, Aug. and Sept. notes documents are available on the shared drive and ready for input. There was discussion regarding an idea Tracey had suggested in Slack for a monthly column called “What Are You Researching?” Discussion centered on making this a place to report unusual, odd sources and discoveries, as well as some thinking a monthly column would be stressful to always have an inclusion. After discussion, it was agreed by consensus to title the column “Did You Know?” If there is nothing to put in the column, then it simply will not be in that month’s newsletter. By discussion consensus, it was decided to put the newsletter in front of the member wall on the website, locating it in “News/Opportunities”.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Posting Past Programs on public portion of the website:** Discussion that listing highlights would be a market tool to attract new members, as the videos and handouts remain behind the member wall. Diane will add a short list to the “Monthly Membership Meetings” section at the bottom of the front page of the website.

**TX GLO Save Texas History Symposium:** Prior to the meeting, Debbie had forwarded an email letter from the General Land Office requesting AGS sponsor the upcoming symposium (Sept. 6-7). Sponsorship levels start at $500. Discussion centered on our return on investment. It could be a source of speakers. Diane reported that we have connected with one person there in past symposiums who ended up becoming a speaker. Ann reported that $500 would be a financial stretch, as we need to spend larger sums on technology and speakers, amid a reduction in member numbers. Ann moved and Karen seconded to not sponsor the symposium this year. Motion passed unanimously.

**TXSGS Leadership Forum:** Debbie reported that it is this Sat. (6/15) starting at 9:00am. Drew Smith will demonstrate Trello, a project tracking software. Unlike most of the leadership forums, this one will NOT be recorded. If interested, go online and register.

**DNA SIG:** Renee reported that, at June meeting, there was one new person, who had gotten information about it from the newsletter. She also reported that Alan Rabe does an intro level DNA SIG for the Williamson County Genealogy Society. Renee will initiate a discussion with him to cross-promote.

**Reminders:** Upcoming board meetings are July 11, Aug 8 and Sept 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm