**AGS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

January 13, 2022

7 pm – Zoom conferencing

OPENING

* Call to order at 7:01; we have a quorum- Present are Diane, Karen, Ann, Elizabeth, Pat, Kris, Richard, Debbie, Tracey, Belinda, Max
* Approval of November 2021 minutes - approved
* Treasurer’s report
  + Discussion on Church facility rent, budgeting for 4 months of rent was agreed upon.
  + Seminar to be budgeted for as a separate line item, suggested to put $1,000 in budget
  + Monthly speakers starting in January to receive $150 – motioned and passed.
  + AGS appears to have made about $5,000 in 2021

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

* Website –
  + Max is continuing to study Plug-Ins and InMotion account,
  + Slack permissions seem to be OK. We all agreed there is no need to pay for these added features.
* Social Media review –
  + In discussing what will work – now we have an official FB page for events, and one for Members Helping Members, the latter not run by us. Pat mentioned InstaGram and Twitter. Could we use TikTok or ?? to attract people? Question is do Austin area people know that AGS exists?
  + Pat – could we have a Social Media Consultant come and evaluate our situation? Elizabeth knows and will contact someone who does this and she might envision how AGS could use Social Media to engage people. Belinda says she has some graphics that could be posted on Facebook, but we would need to engage with those who comment on these.
  + “Austin Genealogical Society Events” is the official page on FB. Diane wants to know if we should update the Events page – possibly make it interactive. The Helping page is a good way to let people know that we can provide assistance, but this would require the cooperation of Jane.
  + Tracey found a page of Austin Genealogical Society on FB, last updated March 11, 2021.
  + Someone found on the internet “Austin Genealogical Society Financial Services” of Round Rock. This needs to be reported to Facebook and was reported to them at the meeting.
  + A Web search of “A G S “ shows an address of 2012 Red Oak Circle in Round Rock. Searching the Wmsn County CAD shows that address is residential and owned by James Keith Jones. Click [here](https://search.wcad.org/Property-Detail/PropertyQuickRefID/R335931/PartyQuickRefID/O0537529) for the CAD page; phone is [(512) 733-5993](tel:5127335993). test.
  + Ads that we did on FB for the Seminar did not generate any interest.
  + This discussion is To Be Continued
* Any Issues re Google Drive ? Yes. Two Board members responded and we would have a help session after the meeting ends to resolve any issues.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE –

* 169 members total, incl Life Members vs 208 by end of late summer 2021; 52 members from last year have not renewed by now. There were 14 brand new members in January – Karen thinks most of these new people came to a couple of new meetings then they joined.
* Pat asked about the Membership List being on the shared drive. Karen said she did not want everyone to have edit capabilities. Diane suggested Karen share the file with each of us with only viewing permissions. Karen will investigate.
* Karen has not updated Vertical Response with new members yet but will do so.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

* Newsletter – Many have sent in information; Pat has organized it. Diane and Belinda have worked with Vertical Response and state it is not easy to work with. Diane said we are using the free version, and there is a paid version. Belinda has suggested a couple of other similar packages, but no decision has been made. Belinda discussed her thoughts of some of the alternatives and their limitations. Pat suggested having visuals mixed with text, that an all-text format may get ignored. We need to find differences between Classic (free) and the paid versions of Vertical Response VR.

PROGRAMS

* Upcoming Programs are scheduled thru May. Skip Aug and Dec, they will fill out the remainder of the year.
  + Jan – Laura Hedgecock, Storytelling and How NOT to Revise History
  + Feb – Tamara Hallo – Telling your family’s Story with Google Earth
  + Mar – Dr Adina Newman, DNA and Endogamy: Making Sense when Matches Don’t Make Sense
  + Apr – Melissa Barker, The Archive Lady, TBD
  + May – Gina Philbert Ortega – 25 Tips for Researching Your Female Ancestors.

BYLAWS REVISIONS –

* Richard reviewed the bylaws and provided some great starting points on modifying. Many of his modification ideas were taken from other organizations and were written by a lawyer, hence their length.
* Diane suggested a subgroup meet a few times to review the bylaws, or have an email thread to review the changes a little at a time.
* Karen said she had some ideas on nominating and voting provisions and making them more practical/realistic based on her very recent experience.
* Richard suggested people review the document, suggest changes in a different color before the next meeting where we can get a better idea of where we want to go with the bylaws.

FINAL BOOK DONATIONS – All books are going to a good home. Everything else is going to the Clayton Library Friends to pick up 20 boxes of books.

COLLABORATIONS – ON-GOING

* Austin Archives Bazaar – Fair 4/24, Sunday noon to 4. Need to determine what we will do there. We will have a table and can have a talk about our organization and poster(s) with upcoming events. What else can we have? Give Aways – Mugs, Pens, Notepads. Who is “Austin Archive?” Archivists of Central Texas! No need for an activity. Have Membership information. Handouts for Family Group Sheet, What To Do After Receiving DNA Test Results, Helpful and Free Tutorial Information such as Family History Fanatics on YouTube. What Else? Need people to staff the booth
* French Legation – Diane wants to partner with them somehow. They have had their grand opening and are hard to contact. Diane states it will be good for them to get to know us, perhaps in an outdoor setting. Elizabeth mentioned that parking there is challenging. Board Members were invited previously, and we missed the original time slot – maybe can still pursue this.
* LLI – The Board had passed on this for the current semester. Elizabeth is interested but only on weekends. Diane is holding John M’s notes on these for Elizabeth.
* Carver Center – wants someone to teach a class on Black Genealogy. Do we have anyone with expertise on that? Pat says this is difficult as the research comes to a dead stop at the slavery times, and that this would require a true expert on this, not one of us. They know us, we know them. Perhaps we can collaborate on something. We used to have meetings at the Carver Center before COVID.
* Etc ? – We need to get our name out there. Keep eyes and ears open for opportunities. Elizabeth mentioned Café Press to put our name and logo on shirts, notepads, whatever. Kris digitizes for embroidery and vinyl and is willing to help with anything. Elizabeth mentioned that nice polo shirts with the logo would be great to have at a meeting or public event.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS:

* February 10
* March 10
* April 14
* May 12

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.