AGS Board of Directors Agenda

April 13, 2023

7 pm – Zoom conferencing

General

Call to order/quorum: Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were: Diane, Karen, Elizabeth , Ann, Max, Tracey, Debbie, Richard, Belinda and Kris

Approval of March 2023 minutes: Minutes were approved as submitted

Treasurer’s report

Diane discussed possible members for the audit review committee, as Erin has declined. Elizabeth said previous reviews took about two hours

Elizabeth reported $12,027.22 in checking; and in savings $15,559.45. Elizabeth had agreed to a specific fee for Cyndi of Cyndi’s List and that Pat has stated we pay less than most places. Next month Elizabeth will request that we increase our payment amounts.

Elizabeth reported that the budget had been updated in the Google shared drive.

Ann, concerning speaker fees, said that we have money available from other sources, even reducing cost or eliminating in-person meetings as there is so little participation. More discussion on this under programs.

Diane stated that we need to learn the hybrid model of Zoom for meetings, and this will be discussed more in the discussion on programs.

Issues for discussion:

Membership update

* Karen – 3 new members joined in March, for 149 total now, down about 60 from last year. Diane asked how this affects our money. Ann reported receiving $ 895 since January and had budgeted for about $2,800 for the total year. There were issues end of 2022 with website causing some not to renew.
* It was stated that a big part of membership that we had for a couple of years was due to people not out doing things during COVID.
* Tracey asked about people joining for Summer Seminar to get the members’ discount. Karen said that was often the case. Karen said that some may join as out of towners seeing the announcement of the Summer Seminar on Conference Keepers; these may not renew for follow year.

Programs

Past

Cemetery event review – March 25, 2023

Small, few attendees. Those attendings did enjoy it says Debbie. It was a Saturday morning, with good weather and was very quiet. The only comments made were about no reminder emails. Those suggested that is the reason so few attended. Discussion on event reminders ensued. There were 6 folks that showed for the tour. Debbie stated that, often one can show up at Cemetery office and ask for tour of cemetery and museum.

Future

* April 25 – Crystal City, Stephen Cure, Program Coordinator, Military Sites/Oral History
* May – Briscoe Center Map Collection field trip
* June – Sydney Cruise Dixon, Mapping Out Your Family History with Maps
* July – Diana Crissman Smith, Documenting your Sources
* Summer Seminar – DNA, Diahan Southard - Date and topic TBD
* September - taking a genealogy trip speaker TBD
* Saturday, October 21 – in-person, German Heritage Center
* November 14 – Cyndi Ingle, Cyndi’s List in Practice

Briscoe Center – Elizabeth said this is not for the map collection; there are over one thousand maps on the list that were emailed to her. We would meet at 10 am on a Saturday, scheduled through 11:30. We may need two groups as we partner with Carver Center. Two groups possibly on the tour with each group seeing different parts of the exhibits and then the groups would switch. No fees have been mentioned, but Elizabeth will ask about fees or a donation. Possibly people could have lunch together and get to know others, maybe at one restaurant or at a couple, depending on the turnout. Parking is where LBJ Library is. Not a lot of walking is involved and the building is wheelchair friendly. 5/20, Saturday.

Summer Seminar – Topics – Diahan’s offerings were discussed, including some she is presenting in some soon-to-come seminars. We need her topic should not be advanced, such as combining At-DNA and Y-DNA. Date is set for 8/26, a Saturday afternoon. 1:00-4:30 – There will be 3 topics with breaks. Karen needs to determine costs, and we may need to up our price

For September, someone is needed to talk about Genealogical travel. Diane likes this topic as she is about to take her 5th Genealogical trip; she will check with others on who could talk on this.

For October, we may need to perfect our hybrid system, as the German Texas Heritage Society meeting room holds about 30 people. On “German Genealogical Trails” Richard can talk include immigration part, plus prominent folks and ties to Austin community. The GTHS school is 4th oldest building in Austin. There is no need for sound equipment and meeting room has a wall mount TV.

Technology corner

* Cemetery – Kris is willing to work with someone on this.
* Diane reviewed some of the recently received cemetery “requests” she has received. Some are very hilarious. Ex: “I think my Great-Grandmother is buried in this cemetery, will you list her?”
* Someone mentioned helping work on laptop. I have time to get it to them ere trip.
* Max is working on a series of articles for newsletter concerning password-management.

Collaboration with other groups

* Carver Genealogical Center
* Waco Library, another Genealogy Lock-in October 20
  + This is about the same time for our German hybrid meeting. We can support them but nor participate.
* Communication with members/non-members
  + Some on Board did not receive last newsletter, discussion on emails that bounced and Vertical Response uses the email addresses people used for member signup and Karen does NOT have any of the …..AGS.org email addresses.

Other business

Max will be unavailable for May and June meetings and an alternate “Minutes Taker” is necessary.

Next board meetings:

* May 11 – Diane can meet but will be calling in from PA, son grads from Law School.
* June 15 -
* July 13

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm