AGS Board of Directors Agenda

May 12, 2022

7 pm – Zoom conferencing

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM at 7:03 pm, present were:

Diane Harvey Anderson

Belinda Brouette

Ann Elbert

Richard Gruetzner

Becky Konen

Karen Liston

Tracey Marcelo

Pat Murphree

Kris Murphy

Elizabeth Price

Max Trenck

Debbie Ulczynski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 2022 minutes were approved

TREASURER’S REPORT

* Budget was approved.
* Ann is using QuickBooks for monthly reporting of the Treasury. Diane stated that monthly and YTD reports are sufficient, no need for bank statements.
* Ann picked up Journal of Texas State Genealogical Society at PO. No one knows where previous copies have been stored. Ann picks up main 2x/week, and she scans and forwards it to Elizabeth.
* Pats want to receive confirmation as to when our speakers are paid.
* Membership renewals are coming slowly
* Seminar enrollments will be coming in soon.
* Elizabeth reviewed recent expenditures, and will file necessary records on the Google Drive.
* We are running under budget currently.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

TECHNOLOGY CORNER:

* Website –
  + The Tech Committee had the final meeting online with the UT students on 5/12/2022, and reviewed what remains to be done.
  + Specifically, there is the need to reorganize the data and to specify that the search function requires the text to be placed within quotation marks.
  + Documentation was delivered as a PDF, the students will be sending the Google Docs file for the PDF.
  + Max voiced concern that we may need to create a “Full Name” field to be searched as most cemetery pages have separate fields for first and last names.
  + We could also have a Google Form for cemetery documenters to enter/upload data to a holding area on our website where a “Cemetery Admin” can properly place the data where it is accessible to the members.
  + Much discussion on name searching ensued.
* Kris has database experience and will join the Tech Committee: Diane, Tracey, Belinda, Kris, Karen, Max.
* There is the possibility that we could take a “surname survey” at the In-Person meeting where members could list the surnames each person is interested in.
* Pat sent Max with some search field information on Mt Vernon GenSoc website. Max to review in depth.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

* Karent reported that we have 199 members on the spreadsheet, and there could be more as checks have come in – we are over 200!
* Karen reworked the name tags with the new logo, all name tags as of those attending the Feb 2020 meeting, prior to the pandemic.
* We were at 282 members in Feb 2020, we do know that a few have passed.
* We are one of the seven biggest genealogical groups in Texas!
* Emails have been sent to many “previous members” and some have gone unanswered.
* Some smaller Societies have folded from Pandemic, we are still robust.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

* Newsletter
  + process and timeline (first week and around 1 week before program), getting in standardized –
  + Newsletter was great in April as many wrote articles for it.
  + Diane can mail it out but it would be preferable to have someone else take charge of it.
  + Board Members could, near the end of the month, write something and email to Diane for the newsletter.
* General emails – Karen sends some, also sends the link for monthly meeting.
* Facebook pages – There is much activity on the Members Helping Members page, thanks to Belinda! We are seeing many people getting engaged. The Events page for AGS is also for monthly meeting.
* Pat suggests that each board member should write something they learn from any of the FB Groups, or favorite websites or whatever information they find helpful.
* Other considerations - none

PROGRAMS

* We have planned an in-person meeting at the French Legation the morning of July 23. The meeting will start at 9 or 9:30 and will last until 11 AM. There will be a shaded area where the members can sit. Many do not want a nighttime meeting because of traffic, according to Karen.
  + Mary Margaret Kennedy called and is very enthused and she previously worked for Texas Historical Commission. This week she said someone would come from Brazoria county to speak on SOMTEHING.
  + After the meeting, people can get tour of mansion.
  + “They” will look into renting chairs, which is less than the cost of a tent.
  + We will have our meeting there to vote on the new bylaws. In June we need to send out before and after copies of bylaws so folks can see what is changing.
  + Perhaps we should ask people if they will come in order to have an estimated count.
  + Hopefully there can be a speaker to talk about the French Legation.
  + Ann mentioned we might could get someone from DRT (Patricia Horridge?) to talk; Ann will speak with her. William Polley may also be a speaker. Diane, Pat and Ann will meet to organize the speakers for the event.
  + We plan to have bottled water and possibly non-melty snacks.
* Seminar
  + Josh is confirmed, his contract is on Google Drive.
  + He provided his photo and topic description for each of his two topics.
  + We need to begin publicity and to get setup to accept PayPal for registration.
  + Karen suggests we pay for advertising to get the work out. We need all the specifics to be finalized so Belinda can begin work on flyers, etc.
  + Karen wants to advertise in some FB Groups such as Genealogy Squad. Diane will post in French/Acadian page. We should ask the Admins of various groups for permission to post ads. And Josh can advertise on his website and within his Genealogy Society.
  + Do we want to use same speaker fee and Zoom setup (for # of participants). $30 registration fee?

OTHER PROGRAMS

* 1950 Project – Indexing and reviewing the 1950 Census. Need an Admin for this project. There are instructional videos on performing this task. Diane will put it on hold for now, (due to lack of response), and, if anyone joins, he/she may become the Admin.
* Church clean-out – There is tons of stuff, including two large file cabinets. There are many financial records to be reviewed. Perhaps we can consolidate into one cabinet. Diane donated large amounts of candy and water to teachers walking past, and tossed out lots of paper, but saved one of everything. She has two boxes of office supplies in her garage, two large boxes of paper goods and tablecloths. She saved pictures from the beginning of AGS, including a framed image of a tree showing the charter board members, as well as a narrative of the first meeting.
  + Questions were:
    - Could we rent closet space from the church?
    - Could we rent climate-controlled storage, closet-sized?

OTHER BUSINESS

The Texas State Genealogical Society is having another state-wide genealogy lock-in. Oct 21, Friday. We have time to consider participating. We could host an in-person or virtual session. They will provide 8 programs. Diane will forward this email to the Board Members for our review, and suggestions. Google “Genealogy Lock-In of Texas” – 10 am to 8:30 pm. There appears to be programs are already in place and there is nothing for us to choose to present.

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS:

* June 9
* July 14
* August 11

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 pm.