Board Mtg 9/14/2023

7:10 – meeting called to order

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Attending were Diane, Max, Belinda, Richard, Debbie, Elizabeth, Kris, Pat

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report

The Summer Seminar, with low attendance, caused a big hit on the finances; there were not enough attendees to cover the cost of the speaker. But, the finances are OK. The checking balance is $ 9,763.53, and the savings account balance is $ 15,643.56

Membership

* Diane:
  + Questionnaire results combining member and non-members many responders,
    - In Person Meetings:
      * 41% want monthly
      * 35% quarterly,
    - Meeting Times
      * 54% weekday prefer evening,
      * 24% Sat Morning.
    - Other options reviewed quickly – results on shared drive.
    - People would like more collaboration opportunities such as the one with Jim Spencer
    - More discussion to follow,
  + There are 166 Members for 2023, 77% as many as last year. If we move to more in person mtgs in 2024 to increase attendance, may need to increase membership fees as costs will rise due to meeting site fees..
  + Do we look for Central Austin location? Do we try to do a hybrid meeting where some could stay home and the in-person attendees can see the speaker on screen? These questions require resolutions.
  + Austin Dispute Resolution Center has a large meeting room to seat about 30 people. It has the technology. Capital Plaza I-35 Chase Bank Building. $100 charge for us as Diane is a volunteer there.
  + In person meeting on October 14 – German Migration at GTHS
  + Discussions on other possible meeting locations. Churches, Community Centers, Libraries

Technology

Kris on Cemeteries and web pages.

* She has done preparation, testing and checked with Mindy Just about creating a duplicate page, imbedding a spreadsheet and then deleting the old page, which is another step She is confident enough to understand the structure.
* She is working on the smaller pages first, and five are done.
* Mindy recommended to enter text area, copy all HTML and save this in a tab in Google Sheets, or in the Shared Drive as an additional backup. This is slow and painful currently. But as she does more and gets better, she will rework her documentation.
* A “trainee” is needed to perform an “acid test” on the documentation.

The Tech comm met with Mindy who is working to remove plugins, run virus checks, and make the website more responsive. We are currently under budget.

The cost of Mindy’s monthly fee is being checked, but it is certainly worth it.

Max moved that we renew her for another year up to $50 per month. Motion passed.

The image on home page is not “responsive,” i.e., it does not resize itself according to its being displayed on a PC or tablet or phone. Also, any text displayed should be in a text box and not simply being part of the image itself. Having images “rotate” via a “slider” could be an enhancement. People are invited send images to Max and these images will be put into a PowerPoint presentation so Board members can choose their favorites.

PROGRAMS

* September 26 – Diane and Pat
* October 21 – Richard – People can bring food/drink to the meeting room, and the best time would be 2 pm to 4 pm – location – German Texas Heritage Center
* November 14 – Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi’s List
* January - Possible mtg place for in-person meeting

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

* Who will chair the Program Comm?
* Who WILL BE on the Tech Committee?
* Who will be President?
* Kris is leaving board
* Adalise Tiffany & Connie Perdue for Board? Possibly as Historian?
* Nominating Committee – presents to the board the recommendations to fill the spots on the Board with what position each person wants. Committee of 3, Debbie led last year and found 2 others to join her. Karen provided a list of potential board members to Debbie.
* Debbie will chair, Elizabeth will join, Annalisa will be contacted for the committee.

Diane, Kris, Richard, Debbie are “rotating off” and need replacements for their positions.

SEMINAR

* 25 of 27 paid attended.
* Many praised the seminar.
* We wonder why registration numbers were low.
  + Maybe the ad on ConferenceKeeper was not as prominent, maybe late summer is less than ideal time.
  + Maybe Diahan has increased her presence with her own company.
  + Summer vacations?
  + Is August a bad month?
  + Didn’t we have it in March or April or July?
  + It has moved around, used to be the Spring Seminar for a few years.

OTHER BUSINESS

Elizabeth prefers for in-person meetings, no food supplied – as no one wants to bring food, and no one wants to clean up.

There will be a name drawing for door prizes at Richard’s program

Belinda says MailChimp is working out better than Vertical Response. Pretty much drag and drop. Working to learn layout and columns, interested in improving the look.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm