

## MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING – 15 August 2015

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Brady at 9:56 AM. In the absence of Arlene Basten, Dick Gilbert took the minutes. Present were Maureen Brady, Roger Higgs, Marge Zook, Al Munn, Dick Gilbert, Karen Glass and Prudy Sullivan. There being no announcements, discussion proceeded directly to Old Business.

First on the agenda was tech support for the September 2015 meeting. Both Rollie Littlewood and Karen Glass will be absent. Maureen and Dick will be primarily responsible for handling this.

Secondly, the communication issues around the death of Peggy Gleich were addressed. It was decided that anyone becoming aware of the passing of any current member (or spouse), or any other former member is to notify the President. The President shall compose an appropriate message which is then to be disseminated to the membership at large via e-mail (through the webmaster) and also noted in the newsletter by the editor.

In the case of the passing of a charter member, past president, committee chair or current board member or their spouse, some form of memorial gift is authorized. Again, this begins with the President and will be handled as the President sees fit. Motion made by Roger Higgs, seconded by Marge Zook and unanimously passed after some discussion.

Remaining issues carried over from 2014 were addressed next. Marge Zook is still tasked with a new member welcome letter. The need is more urgent than ever for a Publicity Chair position, inasmuch as there has been no publicity effort now for a few years and our membership numbers are therefore dwindling.

Maureen Brady will be compiling a list of contacts for press releases about our meetings and, in fact, about our very existence. The board feels that this should fall under the duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, but no such motion was made at this time. Certain individuals will be contacted regarding their willingness to handle this important duty.

We still have the vacancy for the Society's Librarian position. While Marge Zook can continue to contribute towards these duties, she is moving farther away from

the McHenry area. (The duties should be spelled out, in my opinion, and put into a newsletter article about the upcoming elections, even though this is an appointed position, not an elected one.)

Lastly under old business, there has been a need for a surnames list to be conveniently available to the general membership. Karen Glass proposed that this be done by means of a .pdf file which could be accessed on the Society's website. As a .pdf file, it can be regularly updated to keep it current. Roger so moved, Dick seconded and the measure passed. What was not addressed at this time is just who should maintain and update this file, once Karen creates it. That point should be settled.

Under new business, the first subject was our E&O insurance policy. The current policy expires September 12<sup>th</sup>, and the proposal submitted to the Society by CNA, our current carrier, includes a great many coverage details which are completely irrelevant to BIGWILL. This is a priority item that will be investigated by the treasurer and several other people, with the resolution to be discussed by e-mail.

Secondly, our November meeting date, the 21st, conflicts with a larger day-long meeting put on by the Lake County Genealogical Society. Their program is expected to draw away all of BIGWILL's LCIGS members, which is one third of our normal attendance. After substantial debate, a motion by Dick and seconded by Marge was made to move our BIGWILL meeting to the preceding Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. This is subject to the availability of the church on that date, which is another high priority determination that Maureen will attend to, probably on this Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our third item is the creation of a current Nominating Committee for our annual elections this November. Marge Zook will chair it this year, with Dick Gilbert and an as yet unknown member of the general membership to complete the committee. Positions up for election this year are President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Treasurer and one Directorship, currently filled by Roger Higgs.

After a brief discussion, Roger agreed to being appointed to fill the vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position, which comes up for election next year. Dave Sullivan will be nominated for Roger's current position at the elections. The incumbents at the

other three positions listed above have agreed to run for re-election, which will greatly simplify the Committee's task.

Budget discussions brought to light the consequences of our diminishing number of members. We will officially be down to a very small balance by this year's end. The discussion covered many of our planned expenses, and revisited the insurance issue, which is our single largest expense currently.

It was moved by Dick and seconded by Roger to increase regular member dues to \$25/year for 2016. Passed unanimously. Other provisions were that charter member pricing will remain at \$15, adding your spouse is still \$1, and mailing fees for newsletters in print form remains at \$9. At Roger's suggestion, we should also make a request for donations, probably in the newsletter, to upgrade the caliber of speakers we have to draw from and to pay for unseen (as yet) expenses. This was not actually voted upon at the meeting. (EDIT: Dick intended to bring up the fact that a very few members have already paid for 2016. Suggest we let them ride at \$20 and thank them for paying early)

Last on the agenda was the program lineup for 2016. Lists of possible candidates were provided by Maureen, Roger and Rita Sullivan. After substantial discussion, the optimal lineup consists of:

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: Webinar – Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes, by D. Joshua Taylor, an ISGS offering through FamilySearch.

Mar 19<sup>th</sup>: Finding Irish Origins by Debbie Mieszala

May 21<sup>st</sup>: (double meeting) Scots-Irish to America & English Church Records, both by Rev. David McDonald.

July 16<sup>th</sup>: Skeletons in the Closets: Research a Family Scandal, by Robin Seidenberg

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>: Preserving Family Heirlooms, by Tina Beaird

November (19<sup>th</sup>): Basic and advanced Scottish Records, by Maureen Brady

Selected alternates are:

Joy Aavang, consisting of the substantial portion of her previous talk which could not be shown.

Caron Brennan, Using Fold3

Prepared by Richard Gilbert, 15 August 2015