

## BIGWILL Board Retreat August 11, 2018

On August 11, 2018 the BIGWILL Board held an all-day meeting (retreat) at the home of Roger and Fran Higgs in Apple River Valley, IL. The meeting was called to order at 9:56 AM by president Dick Gilbert.

### **Old Business:**

**Tri-Fold Display Board** – the board decided to look at a display board of 24 inches wide in size. Maureen to handle the investigation of where this can be purchased and at what cost.

**Poster** -- Discussion was held on whether or not to create a poster for BIGWILL. Discussion included talk about logos and flags.

**Tri-fold fliers** – Our current tri-fold flier can be modified to fix any issues. Al Munn has the flier and will make the changes and forward to the board for review. (at the time these notes were compiled, this has already been done.

**Modifying Membership application form** – a discussion was had to modify our membership form. No motion was made, and no vote taken but by common consent it was decided not to change our membership application form.

**BIGWILL Meeting Location for 2019** -- Mention was made about the Lake County Genealogical Society looking for a new location to hold its meetings. It was also mentioned that McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society will also have a new “home” starting in January 2019. A discussion ensued as to the status of our relationship with the Church and would we be needing to look for a new location too. Dick stated that there was a contract with the church and that we rented the facility for \$330.00 a year. He also mentioned that he needed to pay the church for the current year soon. Prudy said she would check with the church about our use of their facility next year.

### **New Business:**

A motion was made to ask Merilyn Romani to assume the duties of Publicity Chairman. The motion was made by Maureen Brady and seconded by Marge Zook. The vote was a unanimous “yeah”. Dick will ask Merilyn. At the time these notes were compiled, that request had been made and Merilyn had accepted.

There are three board members whose terms are ending at the end of this year. They are:

- Margaret Zook, Director
- Dave Sullivan, Director
- Sandra Braid, Secretary. This will be Sandra's first term as she completed an incomplete term.

All three of the board members shown above agreed to run for another term.

The 2019 Nominating Committee consists of:

Chairman = Roger Higgs

Members = Maureen Brady, Fran Higgs

- Another topic discussed was improving communication to members. No specific ideas were brought up.
- Next up, our Facebook Page – Rollie, our Facebook administrator, needs to make an adjustment to the page to allow members to “post” to the site. Also, it was mentioned that Facebook is different on a computer as opposed to a tablet.
- Roger Higgs alerted the board that he had received an e-mail alerting the board to Mary Paule Bierlein's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The message came from Mary's and John's (her husband) son requesting those who know them send “birthday wishes” to Paul and Sue Bierlein's address that would be given to Mary at her birthday celebration. Roger forwarded an e-mail to us with the details late in the afternoon on 8/11.
- Newsletter Articles: It was suggested that the board members should be active supporters of the newsletter by supplying articles.

## **Budget Discussions:**

Dick had copies of the 2018 Financial statement and the 2019 Budget forecast for all members of the board attending the meeting. According to the 2018 Financial statement, we will be behind in paying bills for the year.

- A discussion was had about “passing the hat” during the November meeting in an effort to be able to cover all bills for the society. A suggestion was made that a notice be put in the September newsletter about this need alerting members that the “hat” will be passed at the November meeting. It will be necessary to explain to the members that the board is attempting to keep dues down and still have good speakers

for the meetings. Another recommendation was to do an e-mail “blast” to all members about this subject.

- A recommendation was made to change PalPal to allow members to differentiate between paying dues and paying for “something else” (like making a donation to the society). A motion was made to effect this change. It was made by Roger Higgs and seconded by Dave Sullivan. The vote to effect this change was a unanimous “yeah”.

## **2019 Program Recommendations**

January 19, 2019 = Panel to help members with research. Panelists to include Ann Wells, Dan Hubbard and Maureen Brady.

Topic = Panelists to cover England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland and the Channel Islands

(The last time this was done was in 2014. Sandy to see if she can find who were the speakers at that time.) By the time these notes were being compiled, this has already been done. What I located about this “panel of experts” was Ann Wells answered questions on England; Dan Kane answered questions on Ireland; Linda Robertson answered questions on Scotland; Maureen Brady answered “in depth insights on a variety of topics;”, Marge Zook answered questions on Canada; Roger Higgs, Judy Knoblock and Karen Morrison provided help with publications and Karen Glass and Rollie Littlewood handled technology with laptops and would do lookups on Ancestry (world), Fold3 and Find My Past. The title of this meeting was “Finding new Directions”. The article invited members to “hop the tables”.

March 16, 2019 = Legacy Tree Webinars

Topic = “Breaking Down Your Irish and Scottish Brick Wall in the Poor Laws Records of Scotland.”

May 18, 2019 Speaker (Double presentations) = Amy Tennant (Maureen to contact)

Topic = 1) “Trolling Virtual Cemeteries & Using Cemetery Records”  
2) “Enriching Your Family History Through Pictures & Stories”

No specific dates have been chosen for our next three recommendations, dates will be decided based on the specific speaker’s availability. However, the dates shown below will be the meeting dates for July, September and November.

Below that you will find the recommendations for speakers for those three dates.  
Date are:

July 20, 2019

September 21, 2019

November 16, 2019

#### Speaker and Topic Recommendations

Speaker and Topic 1= Tina Beaird, "Google for Genealogy"

Speaker and Topic 2 = Michele Bray Wilson, "I did a DNA Test. Now What?"

Speaker and Topic 3 = Maureen Brady, "Find My Past: Finding Your British & Irish Ancestors"

Back up Speaker and Topic: Debbie Mieszala, "Forensic Genealogy – Case Studies"

Additional speakers talked about were David Stumpf, Megan Heyl, Eric Basier (comics), Joan Larsalier Bloom, and Ava Cohn (photography identification)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Braid, Secretary