

Bay Area Genealogical Society Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2005 - Corrected

President Ron Cox called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Fifteen board members attended the meeting: Carol Varnado, Ron Cox, Shirley Lindquist, Jeanine Lawrence, Rose Mary Fritz, Linda Goerland, Lee Jared, Leo Waltz, Doug Wilson, Claudia Grafton, Paula Sinning, Dick Warren, Mary Martin, Loren Martin, and Susie Ganch.

Jeanine Lawrence read from 1 Chronicles 3:1-9. First Chronicles Chapters 1-9 are genealogy. It is the list of David from the Tribe of Judah. Jeanine led us in a prayer.

Mary Martin reported that she had two corrections to the March 21st minutes. Under Committee Reports #5, Leo Waltz had the following addition: The publication "Small Change" had an article about Leo's wife, Mary Margaret Carlisle, and *included a photo of Mary and* her granddaughter. Under Committee Reports #8, Barbara Stanley had the following correction: Barbara Stanley, Librarian, reported to Ron Cox that the Bayland Community Center (should be: **Baytown Genealogical Research Library**) is going to take our library. Dick Warren moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Leo Waltz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jeanine Lawrence reported that the Baytown Genealogical Research Library is in a separate building.

The treasurer, Resa Hennings, was out of town so we did not have a Treasurer's Report. Claudia Grafton said that the Treasurer's Report for March is in the Newsletter. We need to have the April report at the next board meeting to approve it before it can go into a Newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Jeanine Lawrence, Meeting Room Chairman, reported that we had twelve people at the March Board Meeting. Because, we did not have a General Meeting, the report was short.
2. Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar, reported that we have a new member that Neil Miserendino may have given the check to Resa Hennings because he picks up the mail; Rose Mary will check on this. We have two new members, Mary and Ira Saxe, and two renewals of old members giving us a total of 172 members. Rose Mary requested that applications for membership be sent to her house, so she can receive them in a timelier manner. Some members have been dropped who have paid their dues a couple of months earlier. If we change it to go to Rose Mary's address, we will need to change it when she is no longer Registrar. Leo Waltz will redo the form in the PDF File on the website. Neil picks up the mail because Ron Cox has asked him to do it because it is inconvenient for Ron to do it. The Post Office Box is located at El Camino Real and Pineloch. The President and the Treasurer are the only ones who have keys.
3. Leo Waltz sent us an e-mail about a request that he received on the website about someone looking for an obituary. Rose Mary Fritz said that she had been to the University of Houston at Clear Lake and looked at the Houston Post and the Houston Chronicle and could not find an obituary for him.
4. Ron Cox reported that Carol Varnado has consented to be the Historian. Ron does not think that we have a job description for this position. Ron suggested that we have a page or two in the "Quarterly" about goals, meetings, etc. Ron said that narrative form is not just a bunch of numbers. Some quarters will have more information than others. The speakers could be covered. Carol thought that it could be put in the "Newsletter", but that would be every month instead of every three months. Doug Wilson suggested that the archives of B.A.G.S. would consist of speakers, research training, and the gift bags that we used to use to deliver

- information to officers, when we started the website, just to mention a few items. Carol asked to send her idea at her e-mail address; she will talk to Kathryn Morrow, the former Historian.
5. Doug Wilson and Claudia Grafton, Newsletter Editors (**correction: Newsletter Staff**), reported that they have changed the format. It has more information and pictures. They removed the calendar and the clock; we didn't need that many reminders. The front page has been slimmed down because a lot of the text was not new. We now have a "Gems for Genealogists" (**correction: "Gems from Genealogists"**) column. Claudia will pass out cards to members to get hints for the column (**correction: members and publish their hints and advice in each monthly newsletter**). We will still print eight pages. Office Depot in Kemah was not able to produce a quality newsletter this month. Leo Waltz said that the newsletter ran 10 pages once, and we could do 12 pages.
 6. Shirley Lindquist, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported that we need another board member on the committee. The committee members are: Shirley Lindquist, Paula Sinning, and Jackie Wittschen. Resa Hennings was suggested, but she is out of the country. The meeting will be on Thursday, April 21. Ron Cox asked if the President could be a member, and he volunteered as the other board member. It was suggested that we have photos and a photo directory to help identify people when they ask them to take a position. Shirley likes to contact people face to face at the general meetings. Tammy Frey has pictures for the Five-Generation Charts. Neil Miserendino takes pictures of new members. Geri Higgs is the scrapbook person; does she have pictures with names on them? Neil Miserendino took pictures of everyone at the Christmas dinner. People will be approached at the April General Meeting to take jobs for the Society. The Nominating Committee needs job descriptions to tell people what the jobs would require. It was suggested that the people who are contacted are personally asked to come to a Board Meeting. Every member is welcome to come to the Board Meetings. The vote for the new officers will be taken at the June General Meeting. Because we missed the March General Meeting, it has shortened the time frame for the Nominating Committee. Board members were asked to review their job descriptions and e-mail them to Shirley Lindquist. Some of them are in the "Yearbook". Ron Cox cannot be the President next year. Dick Warren will continue on as Second Vice-President. Loren Martin will continue as First Vice-President. Mary Martin would like to be replaced as Recording Secretary. Shirley Lindquist will continue as Corresponding Secretary. The Committee Chairmen who are appointed were asked if they would continue their jobs. Susie Ganch said that she would continue as the Editor of the Quarterly. Lee Jared would like to be replaced as Hospitality Chairman. Linda Goerland said that she would continue as Photographer. Claudia Grafton would like to be replaced as Editor of the Newsletter. Doug Wilson will continue as the Lay-Out Person of the Newsletter. Leo Waltz said that he would continue as the Webmaster. Rose Mary Fritz said that she would continue as Registrar. Mary Martin will continue as County Coordinator Chairman. Shirley has a candidate for President; she has talked to Alice Braud-Jones. Linda Goerland said that Ron Cox has been a fine president. Alice Braud-Jones wants to resign from the Fund Raising Chairman. Doug Wilson asked what we need to raise funds for? Ron Cox got a call from a woman in Wimberley, TX who would like to be a vendor if we have a conference. The Stagecoach Library for Genealogical Research is in Wimberley.
 7. Loren Martin, First Vice-President, asked if the Nominating Committee and the Freeman Library Committee should become permanent positions instead of ad hoc positions? Ron Cox suggested that the Library Committee could include other libraries, too. Shirley Lindquist was the Chairman of the Freeman Library Committee. Originally, Shirley was the Freeman Library Representative. We do not have classes at the Freeman Library. The Board did not feel a need to make these permanent positions.
 8. Rose Mary Fritz talked about people who attended an Everton Seminar who were armchair genealogist. She has not seen them anywhere else. There were a lot of them there. Dick thought that Everton was a good candidate for speakers because they have a fine library.

- Claudia Grafton suggested that Betty Dunquist would be a good speaker, and she is a member of our Society. Betty has put on large seminars before.
9. Ron Cox said that we need a go-getter to be the Fund Raising Chairman. Clayton Library Friends is trying to build funds to renovate the Clayton House. The Chaparral Genealogical Society from Tomball, TX owns their building. B.A.G.S. is doing a "Quarterly", a "Newsletter", has speakers, have meetings, trips to other seminars, and library trips. Do we need to do more? We might need an ad hoc committee to research this. Claudia said that we should take this to the membership to see what they want to have. Do we want our own library space? Ron Cox sees our membership of 172 people in three groups: (1) around 100 people who do not attend (we have around 70-80 at a meeting) (2) people who do attend and (3) the Board (this group here today). Dick Warren, also President of Clayton Library Friends, said that they have fewer people at a meeting, but a larger membership. The Houston Genealogical Forum also has fewer people attending. Dick said that B.A.G.S. had a strong group and much better per capita. Do we want a meeting place that we control? We need a long range planning committee!
 10. Leo Waltz, Webmaster, reported that the new newsletter is on the Web. During the month of March, the website had almost 1000 visits. It is typically under 600 in a month. Leo thought that the Freeman Library display that our Society did had something to do with it. On April 14, the website had 90 plus hits.
 11. Dick Warren, Second Vice President and Program Chairman, reported that we will have Tommy Burns talk about Land Records and Deeds in April. In May, we will have Emily Croom. Marje Harris will talk about libraries in June. July is open. August will be the members "Show and Tell" and the "potluck dinner". He will try to get Wolfram von-Maszewski to talk about German Research in July. There will be an "ethnic series" and "Records of Early Texas" in the fall with the Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Genealogical Forum. In October, he thought that we might be able to get an Irishman talk about Ireland if B.A.G.S. could afford it; he is an Irish archivist. He will speak at the Clayton Library Friends.
 12. Susie Ganch, "Quarterly" Editor, reported that the "Quarterly" is ready. She had computer problems and lost much of her material and had to redo it. It is at the Copy Dr. now. Susie asked how many copies should she print? We have 125 families; should she print 20 more than that? Last time, she had 180 copies printed. It was suggested that she send copies to Clayton Library, Rosenberg Library, Baytown Genealogical Library, and Friendswood Library. She has five people on her "Quarterly" staff. It was suggested that she send the extras to other libraries if they want them. Some libraries might want the back issues. Susie will not be at the April General Meeting on Sunday; Annette Bowen could distribute the "Quarterlies". Ron Cox suggested that his wife could help. Susie needs articles for June, but she has a pretty good start on it already. The subject of a logo for the front of the "Quarterly" came up. Dick Warren made a motion that we accept the ship logo that we have been using as our official logo. Susie Ganch seconded this motion. Motion passed with 13 members for and 2 opposed.
 13. Ron Cox said that local newspapers were more concerned with advertising income than publicizing information about groups like B.A.G.S. Claudia Grafton said that Judy Henderson has done a good job for Sarah at the Harris County Archives and has given our Society good visibility. Judy has been volunteering and getting people to go with her.
 14. Ron thought that we need to replace board members who are not participating; some societies replace those who have missed 2 or 3 consecutive meetings. Our By-Laws provide for this action.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Shirley Lindquist had a report about the display at the Freeman Library. Only 50% of the people picked up their display items. If we do it again, do we want to offer the option of picking them up at the library or just box them up. The Committee worked hard at trying to work with people. The Committee should be recognized at the General Meeting.
2. Dick Warren reported that the classes at Bayland Park Community Center were outstanding. Claudia Grafton also thought that they were really good. It was presented by two groups, Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Genealogical Forum. It was a great opportunity to learn more. Our group had about 5 or more people that attended most of the meetings.
3. Shirley Lindquist is not involved in the Salt Lake City trip. Alice Braud Jones is not working on it as a fund raiser or to help organize it. It does not seem like there is enough interest in it to do it.
4. We still need a replacement for Member Services.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ron Cox suggested, in the newsletter, that we recognize a prominent member in the group.
2. Shirley Lindquist, Corresponding Secretary, reported that Norma Parnell's brother died. She sent her a card. E-mail anyone needing a card to either Shirley Lindquist or Claudia Grafton.
3. In New Braunfels, they are compiling a list of Swiss men who came to Texas. The Lutherans have a two volume set of books about it that sell for \$75.00. Jeanine Lawrence said that she would put the brochure on the back table at the general meeting.
4. The grand opening of the Harris County Archives in downtown Houston at the Harris County Criminal Center at 1201 Franklin Street, near San Jacinto Street will be on Tuesday, April 19. Judy Henderson is taking a group from B.A.G.S. to see the archives and attend the ribbon cutting ceremony. The Archives is on the 12th and the 13th floors.
5. Doug Wilson reported that the New England Historic and Genealogical Society will have free access to their database starting April 20. Doug will e-mail the Society.
6. Claudia Grafton will be in Salt Lake City for a week ending May 7. She requests that we get our newsletter articles in early so that she can work on them before she goes. The deadline is May 7, 2005.
7. Paula Sinning reported that the Friendswood Library has the Bay Area Genealogical Society Website posted at their library. Paula also reported that there is a speaker about once a month at the Friendswood Library from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Emily Croom will be the speaker at the May meeting.

Ron Cox adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leonard Martin

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Recording Secretary