

Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

JUNE 23, 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER 1st VP Melodey Hauch, in the absence of Shirley Lindquist, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. In attendance were Melodey Hauch, Kim Zrubeck, Deborah Gammon, Annette Bowen, Loren Martin, Bob Wegner, Bettejean Spatafore, Polly Swerdlin, Billy Mayo, Betty Wegner and Nick Cimino. A quorum was met.

OLD BUSINESS

May 2014 Board Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected by Deborah Gammon.

Treasurer's Monthly and Financial Reports Loren Martin, treasure reported on the financial status of BAGS. Loren said that income is low at only \$24.33. The basket at last month's general meeting only brought in \$4.33. and we had one new membership of \$20.00. Last month's speaker asked for fee to go to the cancer society and Loren has taken care of that. We had to mail out some Quarterlies and some money was used for copies to be made for SIG group. We are still sitting pretty good because expenses are down. Loren sent out a draft budget and wants the board to balance the budget. And the board needs to consider how to increase membership for more income. Loren raised the question of whether we wish to have a seminar repeat of John Colletta for next year. We didn't get the registration we needed for last seminar with John Colletta for several reasons, conflict with another genealogy society was one reason. After some discussion the amount for seminars was reduced. Billy Mayo agreed that BAGS can't continue to go in the deficit. Polly Swerdlin suggested a webinar instead of paying to bring in big names and paying airfare and hotel rental. The idea made sense to board members since the WiFi is good at University Baptist Church. Another option would be to use Clayton Library resources and talent more. Bettejean Spatafore asked if BAGS had gotten new membership from seminars or SIGS and the answer was a positive one from the John Colletta seminar but none from the SIGs as of yet.

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

Billy Mayo suggested using the Kroger campaign and getting portion of sales on members' grocery bills. At that time, Registrar Bob Wegner suggested that the board put together a "new membership" working committee and suggested that Member services run that new committee. Bob Wegner made motion to create working committee to work on stratifying goals for BAGS membership and finances. The motion was seconded by Annette Bowen. The motion passed and members of new committee are Polly Swerdlin as chairman, Kim Zrubek, Bob Wegner, Loren Martin and Bettejean Spatafore. The committee will report back to the board on findings by October board meeting.

Loren Martin continued his budget report saying that BAGS did have a large amount, \$6,000.00 in CD's but we withdrew CD's and didn't really need to do that. But we were concerned about meeting the bills. Melodey commented on the fact that even with new members we haven't moved off the 160 membership number because of loss of other members. Billy would like to see someone write articles on BAGS for local papers. Bob made the comment that 20% of attendees have asked for help in the researching of their ancestors. Annette said that she could help with Scandinavian research but not willing to do a program on that topic. A sign up column has been added to attendance sheets that will be out at general meeting. Nick Cimino is head of the mentoring committee. So, with all this discussion it was decided that workshop budget would increase to \$500.00 with the possible goal of having a workshop every quarter. Quarterly/Journal budget would be cut to \$700.00 from \$1,200.00. Speaker fees will be budgeted to \$500.00 since we aren't planning to bring in speakers from other locales. The board was comfortable with high expectation in membership dues at \$1,640.00. We have had 30 new members so far this year. Loren Martin will change numbers on the budget to reflect discussion and the board will have to vote on budget in July Board meeting.

Job Openings: Back-up to Rec.Sec. Deborah Gammon reported that she had asked Mary Martin if she was willing to take the position of back-up Recording Secretary but Mary declined due to other commitments.

Status of SIG Programs Melodey Hauch reported that the present SIG programs are finished and evaluation questionnaires were passed out at last meeting. Nick Cimino reported that response and

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

attendance of the African American SIG has dwindled and not sure if we should continue particularly at that location. Only 4 or 5 people were in attendance at that last meeting. The Houston genealogical forum has asked our own Nick Cimino to present a program on African American research in the Fall. The dates for the Friendswood Library SIG on African American research are August 7, September 4 and October 2 at 10:30 a.m. All are Thursdays. Kim Zrubek will supply copies of the hand-out if needed.

There was more discussion on German research, but Nick Cimino is booked through the Fall so if it is decided a German SIG can be provided the dates would not be until the Winter of 2015.

Dropbox

Billy Mayo reported on the status of Dropbox. Since he is out of space, Polly uploaded information that he had given her on a flash drive at the previous board meeting. Polly returned the flash drive to him and stated that she is now almost out of space.

Billy has not gotten Susie Ganch's Quarterly's but he is out of space anyway. Billy, again stressed that the individual committee chairs and board members are going to have to put their own data in Dropbox. Nick is the name that is on the Dropbox account and he said that addition space is expensive so Billy will check on the expense of buying space for an individual.

NEW BUSINESS

Journal and Quarterly: Melodey Hauch reported that Deborah Cole, the Editor of the Quarterly has officially resigned due to poor health. She has sent the December, 2013 issue of the quarterly that she was working on to Melodey to index and have printed for the upcoming meeting on Friday. Therefore, Melodey is the acting Editor. A request was made for Kim to put in newsletter for a replacement of Journal/Quarterly Editor. The Quarterly will be distributed on Friday evening. Melodey will again explain at the General meeting that the Quarterly is now a Journal and what that actually means for our organization. We hope to be able to print a Journal a couple of times a year.

Bettejean questioned Melodey about an article that she had sent to Deborah Cole to be published and that she hasn't gotten a response from Deborah on receiving the article. Melodey will check on that.

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

Kim questioned whether or not the organization can still compete in the FGS writing awards. Melodey said that we will be sending in for this year and will have to see if we have content for next year later.

Speaker Program Kim Zrubek reported that Nick Cimino will be the speaker this Friday evening. Nick will supply his own computer. Melodey will introduce him.

July meeting we are bring down Melissa Hayes from Clayton Library. She will be speaking about proving 2nd marriages. Tammy Frey will introduce her.

Kim said that she is still working on someone for October and asked if we are still wanting to do an afternoon program at that time. Loren said that it is more of an interest for an afternoon program in January/February when it gets dark earlier. Kim made the comment that the October meeting is actually on Halloween. After much discussion about a Halloween meeting, it was decided that we would try to move the October meeting up to the Friday before Halloween.

There was brief discussion that Jeannine Lawrence is no longer booking the rooms for BAGS but that Shirley Lindquist is now doing that and has been for some time because of Jeannine's health.

The August meeting is "show and tell". The organization buys the meat from Dickinson Barbeque and the members bring "pot luck" sides. Hospitality committee is in charge of the set up for this. Billy Mayo is in charge of picking up the barbeque. This is generally a very well supported meeting but Loren brought up the fact that this August meeting is the same date as the Federation Conference. There was some discussion on moving that date due to the conference, but it was decided to leave it as scheduled because only a few people attend that conference.

Newsletter Message for July Shirley Lindquist: Polly Swerdlin will write the newsletter message for July.

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

Membership, Renewals and New Members

Bob Wegner reported that the total members as of May 31, 2014 is 162. Total Family Memberships are at 91, single memberships are at 70, one Library membership. New memberships is 30, divided equally between 15 family and 15 singles. Total May 2014 new members was 1 and 1 withdrew. New member is Dotti Dineen and withdrawal is Joyce Zongrone.

He created a new sign in form that has a block for sign in help. There is a difference between brochure registration form and the actual membership registration form.

There was discussion about mining the information on the registration forms as to who gets what part of the information such as surname lists, etc. It was noted that the BAGS organization printed a surname list in 2002. That list was used as a money making fundraiser and was sold, but the surname list was also in the directory at one time. Billy suggested that we also consider putting in geographical areas on the list, too.

Mentoring Shirley Lindquist was absent. Nick is looking for people to assist with the mentoring program. He is wondering if people would show up early to receive help. He wants a room available and there are many rooms that are empty that could be used to give individuals help on their research. Nick will present this at this Friday's meeting to the membership. Kim will cover the subject in the newsletter if Nick will send her a blurb on the subject. Mentoring should be able to start in September.

BC Room Scheduling- Jeanine Lawrence Shirley Lindquist is going to be doing this. We had already discussed this earlier in the board meeting.

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corresponding Secretary Annette Bowen reported that she sent out a Thank You note to the speaker and welcoming cards to the visitors last month. She also sent a card to Claudia Grafton just to say that we are thinking about her and she is missed.

County Coordinator Report: Loren Martin gave the County Coordinator Report for Mary Martin. We had 10 people that went to Clayton on the last bus field trip which was June 4th. Received \$20 in donation to send to East Harris Co. Senior Citizen's for their programs.

Our next trip is Wednesday, July 9. The remaining trip is Tuesday, September 23.

We will probably have the opportunity to select new trips in their lottery program in either, August or September.

Loren explained the bus trips and that the money is a donation to the county.

Member Services report by Polly Swerdlin: Only 3 libraries will get displays this year. Freeman Library on Diana in November, Friendswood Library in Friendswood in October, and Evelyn Meador Library in Seabrook in September are the 3 libraries. Polly is using past displays so she doesn't have to create new ones.

She hasn't had any request for rides but has had thoughts that we do need to do a daytime meeting since the SIG at Friendswood library was so successful.

Bettejean asked about trying to figure out a carpool system. There was some discussion about using Google maps and forming carpools but at the present time, no one has asked for a carpool.

Linda Carrington, Webmaster has decided to retire the end of July. Polly has done 2 webpages in the past using a program named Word

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

Press. You download someone else's design and fine tune it for your particular organization. There are hundreds of design to choose from that are free. All this depends on the "host" company. She knows of Go Daddy, Host Monster, Word Gator and Rootsweb. Billy asked Polly to look on Dropbox of the job description for Webmaster and she will do so. There is not addition charge because it is just a redesign. Bob would like as a part of the redesign the ability for members to pay online with paypal. Annette asked about charges for using paypal and Polly will research that.

Nick brought up the recent ancestry.com websites virus and said that rootsweb is a part of ancestry.com. Rootsweb is free. Go Daddy charges about \$130.00 per year.

Bettejean's better half is a programmer and she said that having viruses in computers is something that just can't be avoided and everyone has to contend with this problem.

Polly will research different hosts and report on her findings next month.

Pedigree Charts: We have discussed briefly that the President has asked the chairman for the charts.

Quarterly has already been discussed.

OTHER ITEMS

FGS Conference: Bob Wegner, after passing out copies of the Federation of Genealogical Society's Conference program, asked the board members to note that on 2nd page there is a call for societies to set up displays at the entrance of the hall that will draw visitors to look at your display. This is a way of promoting our society. The charge is only \$30.00. The problem would be manning the display so he proposed that we send 4-5 members to the conference and possibly defray some of the expenses for registration. There was discussion about the attendees attending classes and reporting back on their findings to benefit BAGS. There are classes designed for organizations to learn how to better to run a genealogical society. There was discussion to appoint a delegate to attend. Polly Swerdlin made the motion that Melodey Hauch would be the delegate. Bettejean seconded the motion. Melodey was appointed delegate. After a great deal of discussion, it was learned that Nick Cimino, Loren Martin,

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Bay Area Genealogical Society

Board Meeting

Melodey Hauch and Bob Wegner would be attending the FGS Conference. Bob Wegner made the motion that we pay the \$30.00 for a display table. Polly seconded the motion. Melodey offered to set up the display table.

Bob made motion that we pay \$100.00 towards the registration fees of Nick Cimino to attend conference. Bettejean seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Loren asked how to charge this and it was decided to charge towards Member Education.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32.

Respectively submitted,

Deborah C. Gammon

ADJOURN

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