

BAGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Melodey Hauch, in the absence of President, Shirley Lindquist, called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

In attendance were Melodey Hauch, Kim Zrubeck, Deborah Gammon, Annette Bowen, Loren Martin, Bob Wegner, Eleanor Caldwell, Bettejean Spatafore, Polly Swerdlin, Neil Miserendino and Bill Mayo. A quorum was met.

OLD BUSINESS

July 2014 Board Meeting Minutes Nick Cimino, emailed earlier. July Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Monthly and Financial Reports

Loren Martin emailed the monthly financial reports and they will be filled with the Board Meeting minutes. He reported that the balance as of 31 July, 2014 is \$4,503.11.

Job Openings: Journal Editor, Melodey Hauch has advertised for an assistant Editor for the Journal.

Membership Committee Polly Swerdlin and Bob Wegner reported that on August 7, 2014, Polly Swerdlin, Bettejean Spatafore, Bob Wegner, Kim Zrubeck and Loren Martin met at Helen Hall Library in League City to discuss how to improve membership. They went through the surveys that had been submitted. They got lots of ideas and will make their recommendations at October Board meeting. They do have another meeting at Friendswood Library on September 3.

Mentoring Committee Update-The new Mentoring Committee is currently composed of Nick Cimino, Kim Zrubek and Bob Wegner. The first mentoring session will be held in four 15 minute sessions prior to the September 26th General Meeting at 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, and 6:45. There are currently 5 clients scheduled to attend these mentoring sessions. With three mentors we could potentially handle as many as 12 clients.

Bob Wegner will make the announcement for the mentoring sessions at the August General Meeting.

Kim and Nick have a copy of the list and Kim said she might call the clients to see what topics they would like to pursue.

The mentoring team attended the Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research (SIG) session at the Friendswood Library on August 7 and assisted the students in that class with individualized research sessions on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. The feedback on these sessions was very positive. The clients seemed to be excited about the progress and the mentors were successful in demonstrating research techniques.

Surname and Geographical areas lists published?

At the last meeting, Bill Mayo discussed the value of publishing the surnames and geographic areas of interest to BAGS members. We seemed to be in agreement that the list of Surnames should be repeated. There was discussion as to what form and where the lists should be published with several board members wanting it to be published in the new Journal and others wishing it to be a separate list to be sold as a fundraiser or published in the newsletter.

Newsletters go on the website so more people would see the charts and lists if it were published in the newsletter. After all the discussion it was decided to table until next board meeting.

Pedigree Charts compiled and published? Eleanor Caldwell reported that she has a new computer and her new operating program can't read the old program for pedigree charts. The discussion was tabled until next month.

August Show & Tell, Potluck Dinner Update Bill Mayo has ordered the meat. Leslee Fehlman had reported to Bill that the paper products are done. The plan is to arrive at the UBC at 6 p.m. and we should eat at 6:30 p.m. Bill will run the meeting and go through the rituals and Bob will be the welcoming committee for Friday evening. Deborah Gammon will be handing out the Quarterly.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Speakers Kim Zrubek reported that the September and October meeting speakers have been booked. The standard microphone will be needed for both of those meetings. Kim asked if the board still wants the January and February meetings to be held in the daytime. She must check with the church to see what dates and times are available for January and February. The board liked the Emily Croom topic of Old Dominion records for one of the meetings. It was decided that Kim would first find out what day and time is available from the church and move on from there. She said that if church not available for a daytime meeting that the meetings could be held at another location and she cited Friendswood Library or Amoco Credit Union as other options for the meetings.

Newsletter Message for September --Bettejean Spatafore volunteered to write the message for the September newsletter.

September Journal message needed Melodey Hauch will be writing the Journal message.

Registrar's update Bob Wegner gave the Registrar's report. As of July 31, 2014 BAGS has 168 members. Total Family Memberships is 93, Single Memberships is 74, Library Membership is 1. There were no new members in the month of July and 36 members renewed their memberships in July.

Bob handed out two charts for the board members. One was a review of attendance for 2013-2014 and the other was a review of Non-Renews for 2011-2013. Both charts are attached to the minutes.

There was much discussion about the numbers. Kim asked if she can put the numbers in the newsletter and permission was given.

Eleanor and Deborah commented that some of the more experienced members don't feel that the topics are that helpful anymore and the less that the experienced member needs to attend. It was noted by Melodey that it is impossible to have a genealogy speaker every month and we need to figure out what the focus is for BAGS. Is it socialization or education.

Again it was noted that the new membership committee will have some response and report in October to some of the questions raised by the numbers.

UBC Representative for Reservations This was already discussed earlier and Kim will be checking on the scheduling for the next few meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BAGS Journal Melodey Hauch the new Journal Editor reported that she is working on the Journal and it will be ready for distribution in September. She is using everything that she has for the 1st issue of the new Journal. The Journal will start publishing Galveston County cemeteries. Melodey asked Bill Mayo to announce at the General Meeting a request for more material and articles for upcoming Journals. Loren made a statement of surprise that he doesn't understand why people aren't putting out articles especially since the Journal and Quarterly are then put on PERSI. It was decided that perhaps BAGS needs to repeat the program on what PERSI is so that members understand where their articles are going and being seen.

Corresponding Secretary Annette Bowen reported that she mailed out 1 card to a visitor from last month. Annette also mailed a "thank you" card to last month's speaker. She, also mailed "Get Well" cards to Bettejean Spatafore and Shirley Lindquist.

County Coordinator Loren Martin made the County Coordinator report for Mary Martin. Twenty Dollars was collected and sent to East Harris County for their programs on July 18, 2014.

Next trip to Clayton Library will be on Tuesday, September 23.

There are 3 trips scheduled: Wednesday, November 5, Wednesday, January 7, 2015 and Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Dropbox Bill Mayo reported on the status of Dropbox. He visited Office Depot and checked on purchasing iCloud at \$180.00 and felt that it isn't what BAGS needs. He and Nick Cimino have talked about Mediafire. He feels that Mediafire could be the best solution for BAGS. He suggested that board members look at Mediafire's website and check it out. Our Dropbox can be transferred to Mediafire with no problem. This was tabled until September Board meeting.

Education Melodey Hauch reported that there are two more SIGs:

Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research-Two Sessions Thursday, September 4 and October 2 at 10:30 am at the Friendswood Library.

The September session will work through a case study on how to use 19th and 20th Century census, vital records, and military records. Attendees are encouraged to bring family information or memorabilia for show & tell at this program. The October session will cover African-American history and genealogy in Texas, sources for Texas vital records, and genealogy records of special value to person with African ancestry.

Nick will be attending several German sessions at FGS to help formulate a SIG for persons with German ancestry tentatively scheduled to begin in January.

Member Services Polly Swerdlin reported that she has made up folders for the new members and will get with her telephone committee about calling people that haven't attended recent meetings.

Newsletter Kim Zrubek feels that Adobe reader needs to be explained so members can open the newsletter. Since Adobe is a free program, she feels that everyone with a computer should be able to open and read the newsletter.

Pedigree Charts Eleanor Caldwell didn't have any more to add to the previous discussion on her pedigree charts.

Webmaster Polly Swerdlin will be attending FGS and will attend "Calling All Webmaster Past, Present and Future" class. She passed out it's itinerary. Loren wants her to check on paypal and it's use for BAGS. Neil would like her to see how "Members Only Pages" would work. Bill asked about a Blog and Facebook use. Polly will make report at next meeting on her findings from taking the class.

OTHER ITEMS

FGS Conference, August 27-30th Melodey Hauch reported that several of the Board members will be attending the FGS conference. She will be taking the posters, the BAGS sign, extra Quarterlies to give out, and BAGS brochures for the table. She reported that the Society Showcase tables will be in the Exhibit Hall which does not open until Thursday morning. It will be a very busy few days for our members that are attending and they will make a report at next Board meeting. Those attendees exchanged cell phone numbers. Loren said that BAGS missed an opportunity to have a raffle item at the conference.

It was announced that TSGS (Texas State Genealogical Society) will not be having their annual November conference because they have been entrusted in helping with the FGS conference and just don't want to do another so close to this FGS conference. TSGS did announce that the writing awards will continue as usual with the deadline for the society publications, articles and books on September 15th. The winners can choose where they want to receive their awards, for example the next meeting of their genealogy society. A TSGS board member will make the presentation at the society meeting the winner chooses. Melodey is submitting the Quarterly and her recent book on Magnolia Cemetery in League City. Kim plans to submit the newsletter. Loren said that BAGS should use FGS and TSGS more.

Deborah Gammon will hand out the last Quarterly at the general meeting.

ADJOURN Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Deborah C. Gammon

