

Bay Area Genealogical Society
Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2015

Actions:

Bill Mayo will write up a history for his two year term as President.

Shirley Lindquist will write up a history for her term as President.

Bob Wegner will verify that he sent the latest membership list to Bill Mayo for the surname project.

Neil Miserendino will help format the surname list.

Neil Miserendino needs to check on the alternative to Dropbox.

The Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) Board meeting for Monday January 26, 2015 was called to order by Shirley Lindquist at 6:37pm. Attending were: Kim Zrubek, Bob Wegner and Loren Martin – a sufficient number of officers to form a quorum. Also in attendance were: Nick Cimino, Neil Miserendino, Loren Martin, Polly Swerdlin, Bill Mayo and Bettejean Spatafore.

Old business – The board all received the October 2014 Board minutes.

BAGS History – Shirley Lindquist called Lynn Finger (not present) to write the history of the Society for the missing history recording of the years from 2005 to 2008 and also possibly up to 2012. There was no status. The history could be written from the old Newsletters and other files on Dropbox. After a short discussion, Shirley was of the opinion that the Historian job description should be better defined. Actions – Bill Mayo will write up a history for his two year term as President. Shirley Lindquist will write up a history for her term as President.

Highlights of the Treasurer's Monthly and Financial Report presented by Loren Martin:

The past month there were little expenditures. The Society received \$215 from memberships, \$5 from donations to the basket at the meeting, and sold one cookbook for \$10. We spent money for our memberships in TSGS and FGS along with a purchase of a search (\$29.99). The net result for the month was an increase in cash of \$130. The total balance is \$4,990.66.

Bob Wegner motioned to add a line item to the budget for the Members First committee events with the allocation of \$150. Bettejean seconded the motion. Discussion: Melodey Hauch (not present) gave up part of her budget for that committee. Loren Martin asked if there would be any other expenses. Bob W replied it depends on possible costs with "workshops/seminars/meetings". The motion passed unanimously. Loren Martin will add Item #15 for the Members First committee expenses on the budget.

Status of the Members First party: Bob W reported the first action was completed. The Welcome back part and introduction to BAGS Programs social event was attended by about 27 people. The after action report was that the attendance may have been higher except the weather was not good. At the meeting, the Society signed up 2 visitors and 1 member renewed (Alice Braud-Jones). None of the feedback forms on the table were filled out. Next time we will hand out the feedback forms. The mail and email was targeted at those members who indicated they would volunteer but none of the attendees volunteered.

- The committee started an outreach to non-renewals to re-engage lapsed members by phone. The committee will report next month. The non-renewals totaled about 32 people.
- The committee wants to again do a seminar targeted for April or May with a speaker and program on a Saturday to address some member's desires/requests for weekend activities.

Programs – Kim Zrubek sent the e-mail to the board with information about Trevor Wooster Beverly being a speaker. The University Baptist Church may charge for a room on the weekend. Loren stated the Society paid \$650 for the room when John Colletti spoke. There was some discussion about using the room at Freeman Library. Also we do not want to conflict with the DAR meetings on the first Saturday of a Month (may not meet July/August) and SAR which meets the 3rd Saturday of the month. Bob Wegner will bring more details about a seminar/workshop at the February meeting.

Nick Cimino – Mentoring committee update. Bill Mayo and Nick were mentors. People were prepared with information and the committee looks forward to holding another activity. It was noted that the mentoring before the General Meeting was not effective. Bettejean said we should add mentoring as part of the Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and we can encourage people to bring their own device and to bring their research questions. The German and Beginning SIG meetings are at Friendswood Library. Nick stated he will be at the May 30th SIG meeting.

Surname and Geographical research lists. Bill Mayo used the October master membership database and presented a sample of a Surname database. The members would be responsible of looking up the other member who is researching the same name by using the Yearbook. We may put the (to be completed) file on our web-site or alternately distribute the file by email so the file is only accessible to our members. Neil will help format the list. Bob will verify that he sent the latest membership list to Bill Mayo. Bill Mayo said the Geographic list would have to be a separate list(file).

New business:

Kim Zrubek has the program and survey results.

Kim wanted to know what to give Irene Walters as she is an employee of Harris county and needs to follow rules on accepting gratuities. Irene will be on Library time when she come to the SIG meetings but our Friday General meeting is after hours.

Membership report – Bob Wegner We have total 149 members. Not renewing were 13 Family members and 19 single memberships so we are down 32 people. We do have 4 new members since October 20. When to drop the non-renewing people? After the Members First committee completes the phone calling campaign.

Shirley reported that Patsy Chapplear (not present) has finished the 2014-2015 Yearbook and expects the copies at the Friday meeting. (Jan 30, 2015).

Web-site: Polly Swerdlin – Presented information about moving our hosting from RootsWeb to Dream Host. There appears to be sufficient storage on Dream Host. The files should transfer easily with a Windows based ftp application. Polly has investigated the transfer and noted that WordPress can be used on Dream Host but WordPress could not be used on RootsWeb. This issue along with a “members only” feature on Dream Host and that we MAY save the \$34 every two years to continue to use the TXBayAreaGen.org domain makes the re-hosting a good move. Motion by Polly Swerdlin: Rehost our web-page from RootsWeb to Dream Host was seconded by Bob Wegner and passed.

Also, Polly was not sure of keeping our “links” page as many of the links do not work. That issue may be resolved after the move. Kim Zrubek noted that Friendswood Library regularly has “Atomic Training” which instructs on WordPress.

Annette Bowen was not present. Her report was sent to Shirley. Melody Hauch and Robin Camino appreciated receiving the cards from the Society.

Dropbox – Bill Mayo wants to get rid of it. Neil did not complete his action of checking out the alternative.

Member Services – Polly Swerdlin made 23 packets. 13 are ready in the cabinet at University Baptist Church and Bob Wegner has 10 to distribute to new members. Polly also has more inserts to make more packets but would need more folders.

Shirley reported that the Journal will come out in March.

Publicity – Bettejean wants a Facebook page and can create the page but would need someone to maintain the Facebook account. Bob Wegner stated that we should get the web-site re-hosted first. Bettejean requested a small budget for larger inserts into the papers which would include pictures for events such as a seminar. The Board agreed.

We are low on Padfolios. The Board does not want to order any more. We made money on the first order and lost money on the second order. We can look at alternatives to giving speakers padfolios.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm - Minutes by Neil Miserendino