

Minutes of BAGS Board Meeting

May 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Lindquist at 6:33. 10 members were present: Shirley Lindquist, Melodey Hauch, Annette Bowen, Loren Martin, Bob Wegner, Neil Miserendino, Bill Mayo, Bettejean Spatafore, Garry Garrett, Kathie Chaffee.

Minutes of the last board meeting were approved as written.

Melodey Hauch reported that May 30 would be the final Beginning Genealogy SIG for the season. It will be held at Friendswood Activity Building at 2 pm. The German SIG is projected to start again in the fall.

Garry Garrett reported that he and Polly are moving items from Dropbox to the website. Garry is checking links from handouts provided by former speakers and adding the handouts to the BAGS site.

Bob Wegner reported on the summer seminar to be held on July 11, 2015. It has been publicized at the SIG meetings.

Melodey reported that the expected date of the next Journal is September.

Billy Mayo reported on the Surname list. It was distributed in March to the board and has been placed on the Members Only Section of the website. He plans to update it after membership renewal, probably about October 1. He will also put together a geographical list at the same time. There was discussion on how often the lists should be updated.

The cut-off date for members to have their names in the yearbook is October 1 in order to have the yearbooks ready for distribution in January.

Loren Martin's complete Treasurer's Report was emailed to the board prior to the meeting. He reported that the beginning balance for the month was \$4607.11. We had no income. Expenses were the church fees, newsletter costs, and a donation to the March of Dimes in lieu of the speaker's honorarium. The ending balance was \$4489.89. We need to think about next year's budget so that it can be approved in July. Be ready next month to discuss the needs of each officer and committee. This year there has been a significant decrease in speaker fees and a decrease in the cost of the Journal (2 issues) as compared to the Quarterly (4 issues). To increase the budget we need an increase in revenue. In July and August we typically have many renewals. This increase in revenue comes in the current fiscal year but is for memberships for the next fiscal year. We need to work on increasing membership to off-set losses.

Bob Wegner reported an increase from 172 members to 177 members since his last membership report. He proposed charging new members half price when they join after May 1. They will have to renew their memberships in September, paying the full price. Billy Mayo moved and Bob seconded a motion that new members only, not former members, who join BAGS after May 1 will pay half price for the membership they choose (single or family) for the remaining months of the fiscal year. Renewal in September will be at the full price for the following year. Discussion was that we had rejected this

option in the past because of the cost of a complete set of Quarterlies, which new members received. With the Journal, this cost is less of a factor. The motion passed.

Bob brought up the possibility of getting a smaller PO Box that would reduce the cost from \$132 to \$56. We do not get enough mail to need the larger box. This will change our mailing address. We discussed putting in a change of address at the post office, which is good for six months, and the need for us to notify all of our memberships and to make the change in the yearbook, quarterly, membership form, website, and newsletter. Notifications would need to be sent to Texas State Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, Clayton Library Friends, and Allen County Genealogy Library. We decided without a board vote that Bob could make this change when the box renewal is due in September.

Bob passed out copies of the old and new versions of the membership form for review. The new form has changes in committees, such as "Journal" instead of "Quarterly," and the elimination of a few committees that no longer seem needed. There was discussion of "Pedigree" committee – whether it should fall under education or if there should be a "Five-Generation Chart" committee to help people who are new to genealogy learn about the chart and how to fill it out. We decided to have "5-generation Chart" as a committee name and to add "Other" to the list of volunteer options. The Registrar can make changes to the form as he deems necessary without a vote of the board.

Bob reported on the Members First committee. At the last German SIG, there were 19 in attendance with 7 people returning forms with positive feedback. There were three mentors, Bill, Nick and Kim, and Betty was at the registration table. The Beginning Genealogy SIG on May 30, led by Nick with a focus on FamilySearch.org, is the final scheduled SIG. The thinking is that we will revisit SIGS in the fall. The ideas are not yet fixed, but a possibility is that they may serve as support groups to help each other with research.

The Members First committee is currently helping the nomination committee.

Bob submitted the Education committee report from Nick Cimino. Gay Carter has volunteered to present a case study on German research in September. Nick's report will be attached to these minutes.

Our new telephone committee chairman, Kathie Chaffee, asked for clarification of her job. Suggestions were that her priority should be members who do not have email. She needs to be sure they are called if there are changes in meeting times. Also members who haven't attended for three months should receive calls.

Bettejean Spatafore needs help with publicity. She will be having carpal tunnel surgery in the near future and will also be traveling. She brought a flash drive with email addresses of the publications that she contacts for our meetings. Bay Area Printing prints publications for five neighborhoods and an online publication. It needs the information a month in advance. Galveston Daily News is another publication that prints announcements for our meetings. Neil Miserendino volunteered to help. Bettejean also asked about buying ads to publicize our July seminar. She will find out what it will cost. We will also put flyers at libraries, including Clayton, at the LDS Family Search Centers in Friendswood

and League City, and send flyers to other organizations that might be interested in hearing Trevia Wooster Beverly's presentation.

Corresponding secretary, Annette Bowen, reported that she had sent a thank you note to our speaker and welcome cards to visitors following the last meeting. She also sent a get-well card to Deborah Gammon who had knee surgery, and a sympathy card to the widow of Charles Sterling, a former member who recently died.

Loren reported nothing new from the County Coordinator. Our next bus trip to Clayton Library is on Wednesday, July 15.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Annette Bowen for Deborah Gammon