

**Bay Area Genealogical Society**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 2016**

**WHEN:** Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:30 pm

**WHERE:** University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook, Houston; Room EB-105

**ATTENDEES:**

Loren Martin, President  
Nick Cimino, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Kim Zrubek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bob Wegner, Registrar  
Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Polly Swerdlin, Member Services, Web  
Garry Garrett, Yearbook, 5-Gen, Web  
Melodey Hauch, Journal  
Mike McCown, Sargent-At-Arms  
Neil Miserendino, Email

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30pm by President, Loren Martin

**APPROVED ITEMS:**

- Mike McCown will serve as the BAGS delegate to the Texas State Genealogical Society's annual conference in Dallas on October 28, 2016. At this time, Mike, Melodey Hauch, and Nick Cimino are planning to attend the conference.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Board:** Still need a Recording Secretary

**Accepting Electronic Payment:** Polly Swerdlin reported that her scuba club used Square for face-to-face purchase that charges 2.75% fee. PayPal charges 2.9% fee and is good for receiving remote payment. A committee was formed to develop implementation plan to be ready by July 1. The committee members are Polly (chair), Bob Wegner, Bill Mayo, Mick McCown, and Garry Garrett.

**BAGS Members First:** Explore ideas to energize member participation. Several ideas offered during the meeting included:

- Car pools to Texas City and Rosenberg Libraries for research sessions with their resources
- Joint Program that included education and entertainment components
- Host outreach public programming at local libraries
- Community Service
- General meeting programming that covers more than just the state of Texas
- Members take 5-10 minutes to share their research (tip, problem, or solution) at the general meetings
- Brickwall boot camp
- Veterans Program
- FGS and RootsTech recordings
- FHC Tips

**Neil Miserendino:** Neil is moving to Rockledge, Florida by June 1. He has two binders on history and publicity, 24 cookbooks, 2 microfiche readers, 1 LaserDisc player. On behalf of the Board, Loren thanked Neil for his continual active participation in BAGS. Neil is a Charter Member and served as President, Vice President, Registrar, Email Coordinator, Mt. Olivet Cemetery transcriber, Publicity, and photographer.

#### **REPORTS AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHARED:**

**Treasurer:** Bill Mayo's report for March 2016 (emailed April 21). There is a limit of five checks that can be written each month. A \$3 surcharge is assessed when more than 5 is written in one month. Report was accepted by the Board, motion by Bob Wegner and second by Mike McCown.

##### **CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Balance on 29 February 2016	\$ 6,354.33	
January Deposits	\$ 109.00	
January Expenditures	<u>\$ 340.70</u>	(include Journal printing was \$232.20)
Balance on 31 March 2016	\$ 6,122.63	

##### **CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT**

Value on 31 March 2016	\$ 3,731.79
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**Registrar:** Bob Wegner reported that since March 14, 2016, BAGS has 1 new member for a total 195 members including the 1 Life Charter Member. Forty-seven people still have not renewed for this Society year. The attendance appears to be dropping a few people each month however we average 5 visitors monthly. Bob handed out a general meeting attendance list detailing the individual members' attendance for each last four meetings (Oct, Jan, Feb, Mar) and highlighting members not attending any programs and those that have not renewed.

**Member Services:** Polly Swerdlin has created a colorful box that contains one copy of each past year's yearbook. The box will remain in the BAGS cabinet/drawers. Instead of putting a yearbook in each new member packet, the Registrar will direct the new member to visit Melodey Hauch and Garry Garrett to claim the latest copy of the Journals and Yearbook.

**County Coordinator:** The March bus trip, 11 people attended and \$19 were donated to the Harris County Senior Program.

**Education Committee:** Nick Cimino reported 9 people attended the Members Helping Members held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the Helen Hall Library in League City. Nick provided these highlights of the conversations that occurred both in roundtable fashion and one-on-one.

- [Attendees] Cindy Gard, Bill Mayo, George Porterfield, Kim Zrubek, Annette Bowen, Amanda Pearson, Loren Martin, Joe DeBonis and Nick Cimino.
- George Porterfield made a courthouse visits in Bosque and Hamilton Counties looking for a divorce case for his grandparents.

- Nick talked about the success that he had finding a divorce case for a client in the Dallas Newspaper after George had shared a tip on how to access the Dallas Morning News online through the Houston Public Library website.
- Cindy came to TX in 1991. Her ancestry is from Norway, Sweden and Wisconsin. Wisconsin is hard to research because there are no online newspapers. She is researching in the counties of Marinette and Menominee. Annette joined the Norwegian association but had limited results from that source. Cindy's husband's grandfather was killed in a paper mill accident. His obit mentions two uncles with surname: Bannow but did not list their given names.
- Amanda uses Genealogy Bank for New Orleans newspapers or the LDS Family History Center for Newspapers.com. apearson58@yahoo.com. She joined DAR 3 years ago. She has been researching for 25 years. Her Mississippi counties include: Lincoln, Pike, Lawrence, Scott, and Newton. Family members moved to New Orleans. Newspapers in New Orleans that she has searched on Genealogy Bank are: the New Orleans Times Picayune, the N.O. State and the N.O. State Item. She was pleased to learn that Louisiana & Florida death certificates are available for \$5 and \$7.50. She researches in MS, LA and AL.
- Kim and Joe worked together on entering his family tree into Family Tree Maker.
- Annette offered to send copies of slave inventories from a divorce case to Nick for publication on his blog. Nick is requesting all members to send any slave information they may have to him for publication.
- Loren and Cindy share Gard as a family name. Cindy showed Loren copies of "The Guardian" the Gard Family Newsletter. They also share Waggoner/Wegener which is similar to Bob Wegner's surname.
- Amanda mentioned that lots of ancestors claimed they were widows rather than stating that they were divorced or separated in a variety of genealogical records. Nick observed that that was very common in city directories. Annette mentioned the term grass widows. Bill told a story about an ancestor that tried to get land from his wife while she was sick. She recovered and sued to get the land back.
- Annette told a story from Colonial Virginia about a woman that sued for divorce from her husband because he was "bedding a slave but the divorce was not granted. She married again after the man died.
- Bill spoke about marriage banns during the colonial period.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted,  
 Kim Zrubek, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP & Newsletter Editor  
 (filling in for vacant Recording Secretary)