

BAY AREA GNEALOGICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 31, 2014

Melodey Hauch, in the absence of President, Shirley Lindquist, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Jim Edwards, husband of the meeting's speaker and Viet Nam veteran lead the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Announcement was made by Melodey Hauch that two of BAGS officers had resigned due to health problems: Marie Krnavek, Registrar and Barbara Moore, 2nd VP in charge of programs.

Deborah Cole, past Registrar and now Quarterly Editor, explained the duties of Registrar. One has to know the program, Excel; make nametags and handle the money for dues. The organization is now looking for a Registrar and an assistant Registrar so that these duties can be divided. Melodey asked anyone interested to please see her after the meeting.

A member survey was conducted last October. The board received some great suggestions for ways to improve the society. Several of the suggestions involved starting special interest groups or SIGS that would meet at different times. Polly Swerdlin is a member of the education committee that was recently formed and she has a simple questionnaire to help us determine the best subjects, times and locations for these SIGS. The questionnaire forms have been passed out, please mark your choices and return.

Deborah Cole, new Quarterly Editor asked for articles for the Quarterly. The Quarterly isn't quite ready this month, but everyone should receive theirs next month.

Next bus trip to Clayton will be March 4th. Sign up sheet is available in the back for people wishing to attend.

Neil Miserendino is taking pictures for the yearbook. If you haven't had your picture taken or wish to change your picture, see Neil after the meeting, Melodey announced.

With Announcements completed, Melodey introduced the speaker for the evening, Anna Edwards. Anna is a Native American and her tribal affiliation is the San Juan Pueblo of Northern New Mexico. Anna has been active in the Native American community since the early 1970's. She and her husband moved to Houston after his tour of duty in the Navy.

Anna has lectured on Native American Culture for pre-kindergarten to the University of Houston multicultural department. She was a co-producer of a Native American radio program "Peace Pipes and Visions" during the 1980's. Anna told our group that there were 33 tribes that were Code Talkers. Most only know of the Navajo. Anna also said that the Code Talkers began in WWI on Oct. 17, 1918.

A surprising fact was that Indians did not become American citizens until June 6, 1924 and it was not until 1948 that Indians could vote.

A little known fact about the Native Americans is that Pfc. Ira H. Hayes was one of the men that raised the flag during WWII at Iwo Jima.

Forty-one thousand, five hundred (41,500), Indians fought in Viet Nam.

Billy Walkabout is thought to be the most decorated Native American of the Viet Nam War. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, five Silver Stars, ten Bronze Stars, five with Valor device, one Commendation Medal and six Purple Hearts.

The first woman killed in Iraq was from the Hopi Tribe, Lori Piestewa.

Afterwards Anna took questions for a few minutes.

The visitors for the evening were introduced and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectively,

Deborah Gammon