

**MINUTES OF  
THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Friday, October 7, 2005**

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Genealogical Society was held Friday, October 7, 2005, at the Best Western North, Johnston, IA. President Liewer presided and called the meeting to order.

Present were Theresa Liewer, President; Joyce Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Helen Phillips, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Chuck Prickett, Treasurer; Bob Aubrey, Secretary; Area Representatives Ray Senor, Peter Seaba, Janice Danielson; Margaret Foster, Historian; and about 80 other members.

**Agenda:**

**Motion** by Myrt Van Dyke, **second** by Nicole Hart to adopt agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes:**

**Motion** by Janice Danielson, **second** by Joyce Brown to waive the reading of the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting. **Motion carried.**

**Motion** by Ray Senor, **second** by Phyllis Rothlauf to approve minutes of the 2004 annual meeting. **Motion carried.**

**Report by the Election Committee: Margaret Foster**

The tally of ballots is as follows:

- for President - Theresa Liewer, 102
- for First Vice President - Joyce Brown, 102
- for Second Vice President - Helen Phillips, 102
- for Region One - Ray Senor, 89
- for Region Two - write-in for Peter Seaba, 2; but he has declined to serve again
- for Region Three - Pat Border, 87
- for Region Four - Al Miller, 89
- for Region Five - Tony and Don Mullert, 88
- for Region Six - Charles Prickett, 88
- for Region Nine - Jane Jass, 88
- for Region Ten - write-in for Jane Briley, 2; but she has declined to serve again  
write-in for Diane Shogh, 1; but she has also declined
- for Region Eleven - Judy McClure, 1; but she has declined  
Bill Lees, 1; he has declined to serve again
- for Region Twelve - Grace Hertz, 23
- for Region Thirteen - Stan Bastman, 82
- for Region Fourteen - Janice Danielson, 24
- for Region Sixteen - no write-in, position still vacant

Theresa acknowledged those who have served and are going off the board: Jane Briley, Bill Lees, Ev Brightman, and Peter Seaba; the assembly expressed thanks with applause. New

members were introduced and welcomed.

**Report from the Bylaws Committee: Helen Phillips.**

Copies of the proposed changes were mailed out previously. Helen explained the proposed changes. Section 7.4 still needs clarification as to whom the Librarian is accountable. At the May meeting the board indicated that Librarian is responsible to the Executive Director. We no longer have an Executive Director.

**Motion** by Myrt Van Dyke, **second** by Nicole Hart to amend section 7.4, inserting: "to the Executive Director, or, in the absence of the Executive Director, to the President or his/her designee." **Motion carried.**

**Motion** by Dennis Davies, **second** by Ray Thompson to accept the bylaws as amended. **Motion carried.**

Helen reported that other members of the committee were Dennis Davies, Karen Hanley, Theresa Liewer and Jeanette Shannon.

Theresa said that we will revisit the bylaws in terms of the new Iowa law (2004) affecting non-profit organizations.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Prickett presented a written report. Report attached. Chuck mentioned that expenses in excess of income were about \$20,000, but included in those expenses were \$29,000 in depreciation, which is not a cash expense.

**2006 Nominating Committee:** Bylaws require election at this meeting of five members who will serve for next year. Margaret Foster, Ted Lussem, Ev Brightman, Peter Seaba, and Ruth Hall have agreed to serve. **Motion** by Myrt Van Dyke, **second** by Dennis Davies to accept this slate of candidates. **Motion carried.** Margaret agreed to serve as temporary chair of this committee.

**President's Report: Theresa Liewer**

We have financial difficulties of which the board for the most part was not aware. In the August meeting, for example, there was no discussion of financial problems, but after the meeting a member was asked for \$2,000 to pay payroll taxes. We are working our way through this. We have unpaid bills, the largest percentage are financing leases for equipment. Last payments were made in July for May. Theresa has been visiting with the lease holders, asking for forbearance until the spring. The problem with the leases is that if we stopped paying, they would take and sell the equipment, crediting it to what we owe, but we would still have to pay the rest. We are current on payroll and payroll taxes. We are taking care of the smaller vendors. We are ashamedly behind on our revenue sharing, current to June 2004. Some chapters have quite graciously forgiven the debt. We have received about \$10,000 in donations given to pay bills. We liquidated some stock we held and used it to pay bills. The board decided to borrow from the endowment fund and will repay it as we go along. That gives us about \$25,000 for bills.

Good news. Marcia Martin composed a letter to the County Board of Supervisors to ask them to waive our property taxes, and they did vote to waive them, in the amount of about \$6,000.

We have been approached by someone who would like to take a long-term lease on the west wing, a Des Moines attorney, who would pay for the improvements and taxes and utilities. We would then receive some additional money.

The Capital Campaign has begun and we have about \$35,000 in pledges at the moment. [Bob

mentioned that in the past two years, we have paid more than \$80,000 in interest to the bank, so it is vitally important for us to buy the building back from the bank. Tom Garvey, who did the audit last year, agreed.] These will be interest-free loans by the membership and others to pay down the principal.

One chapter has done an "Antiques Roadshow" which was very successful. We want to do something like that, and we have some smaller fundraising projects. We are also trying to write some grants. They won't give money to an organization that has a financial statement as bad as ours. Ted has written to three insurance foundations in Des Moines for grants. We are trying to reach outside our membership to bring funds in. We are bringing back the Lives and Times series.

We have a great number of volunteers who are there every day.

Publications: this is the primary contact with the society especially for those who are not local. We need people who will help produce it and get it out. We will continue with the *Hawkeye* as a physical publication, we will publish the newsletter in electronic form, with physical copies mailed to those who are not receiving it by e-mail.

Denny is working on the website. We will try to have more content on it.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Kerr, Janice Danielson second. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert J. Aubrey, secretary

