

**MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE
IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Saturday, January 14, 2006
IGS Conference Room**

The regular quarterly meeting of the Iowa Genealogical Society ("IGS") Executive Board was held Saturday, January 14, 2006, at the Genealogical Society Library in Des Moines.

Present: Theresa Liewer, President; Joyce Brown, 1st Vice President; Chuck Prickett, Treasurer; Ted Lussem, Representative for the Regions; Margaret Foster, Historian; and Robert Aubrey, Secretary. Several members of the society were present.

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Theresa Liewer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as modified.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** After her reading of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting by the Secretary, Theresa moved, Joyce seconded to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried.
4. **Officers' Reports**
 - a. **President:** Theresa Liewer presented a written report. Report attached. We have received almost \$63,000 in pledges for the Capital Campaign. We are sending out debentures as the money comes in. We have also received \$6,000 in outright donations. Theresa met with Ted Striggles from the National Endowment for the Humanities regarding grants for preservation of collections. There are funds earmarked from Congress through the Office of Museum and Library Services, a total of \$36M was appropriated for 2005. DM Art Center got \$825,000 to stabilize and preserve part of their collection. This is where we need to contact our senators. The newsletter is almost complete and we will try to get it out next week. We need people who will take over programs and run with them. We are down to the same small group, and we need to expand it.
 - b. **1st Vice President:** Joyce Brown. **Spring Conference:** Joyce is trying to work with the IA State Historical Society for a joint conference. We have not been able to pull it together. Another option: we had not done spring conferences until 2001. We need to talk about the possibility of not having one. If we cannot soon pull together the members who would put it on, we should think of not having a spring conference. Ted says it would be important to have the conference, especially if we do it ourselves, because this would be a low-expense conference. We could look at one of the local churches for a location. **Fall Conference:** We are going to have the fall conference in Marshalltown this year. "Ohio and the Old Northwest". The people from Marshalltown said they will help. We need people for the "breakout sessions" of the conference. We have not done them in several years, and have had requests for them. Tentative commitment for Megan Smolynak for fall 2007 on the theme of using DNA for your research. Tentatively looking at Des Moines, but we have not

settled on a place yet. We might be able to alternate in- and out-of-town.

Recess at 11:03, reconvene at 11:09

- c. **2nd Vice President:** Theresa reported that Helen Phillips has had some health issues. She meets with staff once a week as liaison with the employees. She contacted the *Press Citizen* about our putting in a regular column.
- d. **Treasurer:** Chuck Prickett presented a written report. Much discussion followed. Motion by Ted, second by Joyce to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Building:** Ted Lussem presented a written report. Report attached. West wing leasing collapsed. We rent on a day-to-day basis for \$60 a day. We have had continuing problems with the roof, with buckets of water coming in, and have an estimate of \$15,000 for the back end, and about \$40,000 for a complete job. Ted will check with Mid America to see about an energy audit and insulation grant possibilities. We need additional volunteers for cleaning the library.
- b. **Revenue Sharing, Systems, Webmaster:** Dennis Davies sent a written report. Report attached. The server has failed again. Gerald Graves has been able to recover our data. He is continuing to help us and donates his time. Revenue sharing: We have new publications coming in. Orders as of the 10th of January are current, and Dennis is continuing to scan our publications. Dennis also asks that we copy any changes and updates to the webmaster.
- c. **Library:** Billie Murano said that the DM Library is moving, and they are selling items. She has purchased some City Directories from the DM Library at \$2 each. Because they are moving we can pick up some of the things that we need, especially shelving, file cabinets, etc., at fire-sale prices. The consensus was that Billie should purchase shelving, city directories and county histories as available.
- d. **Education:** Theresa reported that there is no formal committee at this time. We have set up dates February – June for Genealogy 101 and do have volunteers to do the classes, using Linda's outline and handouts. Linda Greethorst is going to do Genealogy 301 three times a year, and we need to find someone who will do 201. LuAnn handled publicity in the *Shopper* and *Datebook*. No one has picked up publicity. Part of the beginning Genealogy Class should be a tour of the library. They do have a membership application with their information packet. Perhaps they should be given a free 1-day pass to the library. After discussion on the question, the Executive Board decided to maintain the \$10 charge for the 201 and 301 classes. (The 101 classes are free.)
- e. **Audit:** Theresa reported that Tom McGarvey will be doing it again this year as soon as we finish with the books.
- f. **Personnel:** Theresa reported that Joy Bridenstine and Darlene Freeman are serving on this committee.

- g. **Historian:** Margaret Foster asked if George's resignation letter should be placed in the history. There was agreement.
- h. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Margaret is also working as Volunteer Coordinator. She said that people will often help if they are asked directly, where they don't volunteer. Billie is scouting the regular users to help as volunteers. She said that the attitude in the building has improved significantly over time and said the volunteers are doing well overall.
- i. **Hawkeye Heritage:** Our fall speaker, David McDonald, has made some suggestions for improving the *Hawkeye*. June is very happy to submit material, and David has volunteered to do the editing. He is a certified genealogist and author. His vision is to also have written articles. His emphasis would be less on records and more on stories of successful research and how-to articles. He does not wish to use pictures since they add so much to the cost. He wants to publish in June and December 2006. There was discussion, and the Executive Board offered approval and encouragement.
- j. **Lives and Times:** Donna Cooper has resigned as chair because of health issues. This has been a membership-draw. It gets people into the library. Kathy Gourley, a member who also works at the State Historical Society, will help identify speakers. We need to identify a chair for this committee. We need someone to handle the publicity, which is a big piece of making it a successful program.
- k. **Membership:** Deb said that Jolene ___ is helping with the database. We just got paper for membership cards, and we have about 700 to go out.

6. **Other Business**

- a. NGS in June: we will have a booth, and Joyce volunteered to go in.
- b. Closing of vital records: We will only get one shot, and we need to compile what the other states are doing, showing how Iowa is over-reacting. We must open a dialogue where we are not confrontational but show how they are isolated from the states around them.
- c. The Memorial Wall: Deb is entering the names in the file as they come in. We own the ten plaques and pay to have them engraved.
- d. Deb raised a question as to whether we could host an open house a couple of times a year to get people in and introduce them to the library. That met with approval. We have a slumber party next weekend with thirteen signed up.

7. **Executive session @ 12:14.** Out of Executive session at 12:26. The executive committee reviewed current salaries and benefits and resolved to present adjustments to the board in February.

8. **Adjournment:** Executive board adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Aubrey, Secretary