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**IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
REGULAR QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING  
MAY 11, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) Board was held Saturday, May 11, 2007 at the IGS Library Conference Room in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Present:** Theresa Liewer, President; Dennis Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Diane Densmore, Secretary; Phyllis Rothlauf, Region 1 Representative (Rep.); Alan Neve, Region 2 Rep.; Stan and Fran Jeffers, Region 5 Rep.; Pat Bernard, Region 7 Rep.; Ted Lussem, Region 8 Rep.; Betty Cross, Region 9 Rep.; Adrian Brisee, Region 15 Rep.; Linda Abercrombie, Region 16 Rep.

**IGS Members Present:** Jackie Andrews, Debi Chase, Dennis Davies, Dollie Flynn, Margaret Foster, Ruth Hall, Karen Hanley, Cris Nagla, Carl Nollen, Duane Pierce, Elizabeth Williams

1. **Call to Order** at 10:02 a.m. by President Liewer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Add Building Committee as item 10j and Library Committee as item 10k.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** After Secretary Densmore read the minutes of the February 10, 2007 meeting, Betty Cross made a motion to accept the minutes. Ted Lussem seconded. **Motion carried.**
4. **Appointment and Introduction of New Board Members:** The following members have volunteered to fill the following Board vacancies: Linda Abercrombie, Region 16; Alan Neve, Region 2; Stan and Fran Jeffers, Region 5; Phyllis Rothlauf, Region 1 and Denise Grippe, First Vice President. Ted Lussem made a motion to accept these persons to the Board; Adrian Brisee seconded. **Motion carried.**
5. **Financial Report:** (See Attachment 1, two pages) President Liewer reported that the Direct Public Support included \$10,960 of direct donations, January through April. Program Service Revenue included \$340 from publications and \$1000 for rental of the West Wing for copying machine storage for three months. Library Revenues included \$1330 earned by the recent garage sale. Crawford County Genealogical Society donated \$700 from their sale of books to our building fund. Our total income, January through April, was \$50,618.39. The mortgage interest rate increased, but we have paid about \$70,000 on principal since we purchased the building. Our energy bill is down about \$1000 over last year due to the insulation and programmable thermostat project. We had \$500 expense in snow removal compared to our snowless year in 2006. Our leased items are approximately \$2100 per month. All of this will leave us with about \$11,000 cash on hand. Summer is the time of year when our cash flow varies. Diane Densmore made a motion to accept the financial report; Dennis Allen seconded. **Motion carried.**
6. **President's Report:** President Liewer has made trips to Lucas County, Story County and Perry, Iowa to give presentations. Her two main concerns are 1) our on-going financial struggle and 2) our difficulty in finding members to fill board vacancies.
7. **Second Vice President's Report:** (See Attachment 3) Dennis Allen has received 159 signatures on the petitions to present to the Iowa Legislature to protest the closing of Iowa's

vital records by the Patriot Act. Plans are on-going for the State Fair booth. Dennis continues to teach classes in basic internet use and retouching photos.

## 8. Regional Representatives Reports

- a. **Region 1:** As a new representative, Phyllis Rothlauf reported that she is just beginning to get in touch with her counties. Due to car problems, she was unable to attend Van Buren county's meeting last Thursday.
- b. **Region 2:** Alan Neve reported that Keo-Mah is having a quilt raffle and their conference will be in September.
- c. **Region 3:** Pat Border, absent. No report.
- d. **Region 4:** Al Miller, absent. No report.
- e. **Region 5:** Stan Jeffers reported that Howard County has moved a good portion of their records to the county library in Cresco. Allamakee County has organized. Winneshiek County is assisting Allamakee in their endeavors and sharing microfilm cabinets with them. Decorah is pleased to announce that they have a complete set of newspaper microfilms covering 1864-2006 for the town of Decorah and surrounding area. Stan is in contact with a person at the Decorah courthouse concerning the vital records issue.
- f. **Region 6:** (See Attachment 4) Pat Bernard has been a temporary representative for this region. She reported that Lime Creek are collecting and filing obituaries and plan to visit cemeteries in the western part of the county. North Central Genealogical Society has had presentations in February and March on colonial gardening, using the Iowa Gen Web, and DNA.
- g. **Region 7:** (See Attachment 5, 3 pages) Pat Bernard reported the activities of Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, and Wright counties. All are very active. She also has placed ads in several newspapers to encourage Grundy and Hardin counties to organize genealogical societies and has had eight (8) replies.
- h. **Region 8:** Ted Lussem reported that he forwards Board meeting minutes via email to his counties. Since this region is central Iowa, he usually sees most of his contacts on an informal basis.
- i. **Region 9:** Betty Cross reported that Region 9 held a meeting in April in Chariton. Twenty one (21) people attended. Presentations were given by Theresa Liewer and Dennis Allen. It is hoped that this will become an annual event. Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, and Wayne counties are all active with on-going projects.
- j. **Region 10:** Saundra Leininger, absent. No report.
- k. **Region 11:** Judy McClure, absent. No report.
- l. **Region 12:** (See Attachment 7) Grace Hertz, absent, but had submitted a written report. She was happy to report a new society has formed in Kossuth county.
- m. **Region 13:** Janice Danielson, absent. No report.
- n. **Region 14:** vacant
- o. **Region 15:** Adrian Brisee reported that he had, just this morning, received a valid email address for a contact person in Monona county. Four of his counties have small but steadily active societies.
- p. **Region 16:** Linda Abercrombie is a new representative from Glenwood, Iowa. Her region includes Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, and Montgomery societies. Fremont and Page counties do not have genealogical societies.

9. **Staff Report:** (See Attachment 9, 4 pages) President Liewer presented the library report covering January through March which shows a decline in attendance of about 160 patrons as

compared to the same time period last year. Diane Densmore explained the statistics of newly cataloged items. These are down for the time period of January through April this year compared to last year. However, we have recently received 67 boxes of books and periodicals from a donor in the Creston area. Theresa presented a membership report (See Attachment 10). We currently have 2067 members.

**10. Committee Reports (reported in the order given, out of Agenda order)**

- a. **Newsletter:** Cris Nagla announced the deadline for the next newsletter is May 15. Discussion followed about possibly saving postage money by emailing the newsletter to those who are willing to receive it that way.
- c. **Publicity:** Elizabeth Williams reported that this committee is working to get our fall conference advertised in national publications, taking photographs to place in the Des Moines Register, sending our activity information to other genealogical societies abutting the Iowa borders, and putting our information on rootsweb.

The Board recessed from 12 noon until 12:20 pm.

- b. **Publications** (See Attachment 11, 3 pages) Dennis Davies reported that ten more chapters have forgiven their commission.
- h. **Computers and Website:** Our website has successfully moved to the Concentric provider minus the ecommerce function. This was necessary because of a change by Microsoft. The ecommerce function is moving from bCentral to Godaddy. Currently, payments can be made through PayPal which allows credit card payments. When this entire project is completed, a direct credit card payment option will be added.
- c. **Grant:** President Liewer reported that we should receive a \$15,000 Community Development Grant from the Board of Polk County Supervisors next Tuesday. This money has been earmarked to pay \$2000 per month on mortgage principal beginning in June.
- d. **Events:** Marcia Guffey, Chairperson, was absent. President Liewer reported that the recent slumber party was attended by 27 people. Letters have been sent to retirement homes and 7 presentations have been scheduled. Central Iowa libraries have received literature and at least three have expressed interest in hosting classes. There will be an Irish and Scots-Irish Family Research Seminar on June 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Des Moines.
- e. **Nominating:** Margaret Foster reported that this committee has met three times and meets again in two weeks. They still need suggestions for officers. Regions 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13 are now open.
- f. **Historian:** Margaret Foster reported that she keeps the IGS History book up-to-date and available in the library.
- i. **Education:** (See Attachment 12) Diane Densmore reported that classes are scheduled through July. At the Executive Board meeting last month, it was agreed that the Beginning Genealogy and Beginning Internet classes would continue to be given free of charge. All other classes will now charge \$5 for IGS members and \$10 for non-members to help with overhead, such as copying expenses.
- j. **Building:** Ted Lussem reported that we still have a roof leak. Efforts to contact the roofer have been difficult. The West Wing has been rented for another three months for \$1000. Ardith Ortegies has done a lovely job of tending our flowers.
- k. **Library:** (See Attachment 13) Theresa presented the report written by Helen Phillips, Chairperson. There has been an on-going problem of enforcing the locker use rule in the library. Theresa will be discussing this with Billie Murano.

## 11. Old Business

- a. **Endowment Fund:** No report.
- b. **Access to Official Records:** Dennis Allen said the next meeting with the Iowa Legislature will be in August to explain that these records do not contribute to identity theft and that several states already have their records on line.
- c. **Hawkeye Heritage:** President Liewer reported that Dennis Allen found that instantpublisher.com can print our issue for 80 cents per copy. It is in the process of being submitted. Once submitted, 8-10 days turnaround time is expected. He hopes for mailing sometime after June 1.
- d. **Fall Conference:** President Liewer reported that a Beginning Genealogy 101 class will be given during registration to encourage new genealogists to attend. The Sorenson Molecular DNA project will be providing DNA kits to be handed out at the conference for those who wish to participate
- e. **LDS Indexing:** President Liewer reported that LDS has contacted us for suggestions as to what we might index, i.e. Old Age Assistance records, Death records or GAR records.

## 12. New Business

- a. **Ancestor Memorial Wall:** Ruth Hall asked the board to consider a name change for this project. Her committee has learned that the name confuses some potential donors as to whom may be named on the wall. Discussion followed. Ted Lussem made a motion to retain the name of "Ancestor Memorial Wall"; Diane Densmore seconded. **Motion carried.**
- b. **By-Laws:** (See Attachment 14, 19 pages) President Liewer read through the proposed By-Laws. Discussion was held and suggestions made. The By-Laws will be rewritten and distributed at the August Board meeting for approval.

13. **Calendar:** The next Executive Board meeting will be July 14, 2007. The next Board meeting will be August 18, 2007.

14. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Fran Jeffers; seconded by Ted Lussem. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Densmore, Secretary  
Iowa Genealogical Society