

**IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
REGULAR QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
May 10, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) Board was held Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the IGS Library Conference Room in Des Moines, Iowa.

Present: Theresa Liewer, President; Barbara Hug, Treasurer, Denise Gripp, First Vice President; Al Neve, Region 2 Rep; Pat Border, Region 3 Rep; Stan Jeffers, Region 5 Rep; Eileen Johnson, Region 7 Rep; Ted Lussem, Region 8 Rep; Betty Cross, Region 9 Rep; Sandra Leiniger, Region 10 Rep; Grace Hertz, Region 12 Rep; and Janice Danielson, Region 14 Rep.

A quorum was present.

IGS Members Present: Margaret Foster and Debi Chase

1. **Call to Order** at 10:00 a.m. by President Liewer.
2. **Approval of agenda:** The agenda will be adapted as needed.
3. **Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee:** Janice Danielson and Grace Hertz were appointed to approve the minutes.
4. **President's Report:** Theresa reported the following:
 - a. She did a presentation at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) on immigration and citizenship; she has also developed a good relationship with the college to do some cooperative programming.
 - b. The first monthly program on Iowa Public Radio went well. The next program will be on the Civil War.
 - c. She will have a table at the Family History Days at Living History Farms on Memorial Day Weekend.
 - d. IGS will have a free table at the Farmer's Market in West Des Moines - one day June 2 and the other in August.
 - e. She will be attending the National Genealogical Society conference next week (May 13-17) in Kansas City. IGS will have an information booth. About 137 Iowans are registered for the conference.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The attached report was presented by Barbara Hug, Treasurer. Sandra Leininger moved to accept the report, seconded by Grace Hertz. Motion carried.
6. **First Vice President's Report:** Denise Gripp reported the following:
 - a. The Fall Conference location has been changed to Capitol Baptist Church at 5990 NE 14th ST, Des Moines, Iowa, due to increased costs at the Best Western in Marshalltown. The keynote speaker, Meldon Wolfgang III will do six sessions on the theme of *Coming to America: In Search of Our Immigrant Ancestors*. Friday evening will be the banquet and a speaker from the Humanities Iowa program. Saturday afternoon Multi-Cultural Open House with researchers representing

foreign countries available to work one-on-one or with small groups of people. The Silent Auction will be on items that assist people with doing genealogy such as books, software, or items like briefcases, notebooks, etc. Dennis Allen is working on the vendors.

- b. July 19th will be Member Appreciation Day. It will be held in conjunction with State Historical Society Library and will be a slumber party-type event held from 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday. This event is free to members. Denise will put an invitation in this coming newsletter.
 - c. The new class schedule for April, May and June was distributed.
7. **Second Vice President's Report** - Dennis Allen is at work today. Therese and Denise reported that Dennis is working on the conference.
8. **Staff Reports** - Debi Chase reported as follows:
- a. Phyllis Stewart, a long-time volunteer from Ames, recently passed away and we have received about \$2,000 in memorial money.
 - b. Hazel Demirgean, a charter member and a long-time volunteer is celebrating her 80th birthday and there will be a get-together for her at the library on Tuesday, May 13th. Hazel is currently cataloging the boxes of books donated last year.
 - c. The German Interest Group had a paper shower for the society last month and we received lots of paper products needed for the operation of the library.
 - d. The State Historical Society Library recently used our facility for teaching during State History Day for students.
 - e. Diane Densmore and Billie Murano have been developing working relationships with businesses in the East Village. Diane obtained several advertisements for the Hawkeye Heritage and Billie is working with the House of Bricks restaurant about a way to get patrons into their restaurant.
 - f. Attendance has been hit and miss at the library due to the unpredictable weather we've had this spring. Some people have come in off the street after seeing our sign. There was some discussion about trying to make it clear we are open on Wednesdays, but it is difficult to change the sign due to zoning regulations.
9. **Committee Reports**
- a. **Nominating Committee** - there are four people on the committee - Dennis Davies is chair with Margaret Foster, Nicoe Hart, Marsha Guffey and Fran Jeffers as committee members. Margaret reported there is a full slate of officers with the exception of Treasurer which is being recruited now. The ballot goes out in the middle of August to be returned by the middle of September. The announcement of the new officers will be made at the state conference in October. The new officers take over immediately after the conference.
 - b. **Building and Grounds Committee** - Ted Lussem reported that Jim Kaplan is now mowing and he has also fixed the back of the building that had been hit by a high truck or some other object. Ardith Ortig is taking care of flowers.

- c. **Library Committee** - Sandra Leininger reported that they have applied for a set of information about preserving and organizing library collections.

10. **Regional Representative's reports**

- a. **Region 2 - Alan Neve** reported that the KeoMah Society has an open house for the new building on June 21st. Forest Cemetery is now online through the KeoMah web site at www.keo-mah.com; Iowa Co. library is moving next weekend to North English with a new address of 121 Main Street.
- b. **Region 3 - Pat Border** reported that Scott Co. hosted the Quad-City Conference last month.
- c. **Region 5 - Stan Jeffers** reported that since the Decorah Co. society library is at the public library they present a written report to the library board each year; this year has shown a high level of activity. See the attached written report for details.
- d. **Region 7 - Eileen Johnson** reported she has had problems communicating with her counties because of a computer problem. Most of her counties don't meet in the winter while others get together and talk about their research.
- e. **Region 8 - Ted Lussem** sends the minutes of the board meetings to his counties; Polk Co. meets at the IGS library and is changing their meeting night from Friday to Thursdays so there is a librarian on hand to help with research; Ankeny always has a program at their meetings, Betty Cross recently did a program that was well received; Jasper Co. conducts a beginning genealogy class on the 1st Thursday afternoon of each month at and in cooperation with the Newton Public Library, they will take a summer break, they just installed high-speed Internet at their society library.
- f. **Region 9 - Betty Cross** reported that Appanoose Co. plans to walk cemeteries when weather permits to update records; Davis Co. held a successful "Heritage Road Show;" Lucas Co. donated a collection of handmade greeting cards to IGS with proceeds to help defray expenses; Monroe Co. is planning the annual Cemetery Walk held with the Albia Restoration Days; Wayne Co. continues to clip obits and answer queries. See the attached written report for details.
- g. **Region 10 - Sandra Leininger** reported she has visited two counties. There is an all-day regional conference on June 28th at Corning in Adams Co. They are hoping this will become an annual event.
- h. **Region 11 - Judith Runestad**, although absent, submitted a written report that is attached.
- i. **Region 12 - Grace Hertz** reported that the Laurens Genies continue to actively respond to queries, collect obituaries and hold regular programs; Pocahontas Genies continue to copy birth records, answer queries and hold monthly meetings with programs; Palo Alto Co. are transcribing the 1934 Old Age Assistance cards and answer queries; Emmet Co. meets monthly, answer queries, add obituaries to the IAGenWeb and take photographs of tombstones and put on IAGenWeb Gravestone Photo Project site; Humboldt Co. has a few calendars left for sale and this is the last year they are doing the calendar; Webster Co. has indexed the 1917

Fort Dodge Messenger and will continue walking and photographing grave markers at cemeteries this summer; Calhoun Co. are recording and compiling information in the Pomeroy Catholic Cemetery after looking at the priest's records; Kossuth Co. have copies of death records available for sale and is active in other projects. See the attached written report for details.

- j. **Region 14 - Janice Danielson** reported that Buena Vista Co had indexed old newspapers and Janice is teaching classes for community education on Internet Genealogy, they meet at the library; Cherokee Co. continues doing their obituary notebooks; Plymouth Co. has two groups, the Northwest Iowa Computer Genies travel to different counties for their programs; Woodbury Co. is a large group and they are involved in the county fair; Sac and Ida counties are both small and neither meet during the winter months.

11. Old Business

- a. **Endowment Fund** - no change.
- b. **Hawkeye Heritage** - Barbara Hug reported that the 48-page publication is at the printers and should be mailed no later than the end of June. The printer is the Des Moines School District with a cost of about \$.90 per issue. Carl Nollen, Diane Densmore and Barbara amended the copy submitted by David McDonald several years ago. A new e-mail address hawkeye_heritage@yahoo.com has been set up so committee members can access mail from home. Diane sold several advertisements to local merchants, Denise Gripp paid for a business-card ad for her business and Barbara purchased the same sized ad for the IAGenWeb and for the Jasper Co. Genealogical Society. We're hoping other counties might like to purchase the business-card ad for \$15 to advertise their specialties. The mailing committee will have to get together to mail the publication.
- c. **Review of goals set at February 9, 2008 board meeting:**
 - i. Hawkeye Heritage - done
 - ii. Roof - Original person is out of business. A member, Cal Sale, is a home inspector and will take a look at the roof and try to get some people to fix it.
 - iii. Chapter Relations - Denise Gripp is in constant contact with the chapters via e-mail and regular mail.
 - iv. Tally Volunteer Hours - Diane Densmore is starting to enter sign-in sheets on the computer.
 - v. LDS project - they are no longer interested in doing any Iowa projects.
 - vi. On-line Data Bases - Dennis Davies and Dennis Allen are working on this. This goal is critical to our continuing success as a society.
 - vii. Volunteer training - Billie and Margaret are redoing the handbook.

12. New Business

- a. **Mortgage interest rate pay-down.** Theresa has met with the banker about lowering our interest rate from 7.8675% to about 6.5% which would save us more than \$400 per month. Motion by Janice Danielson and seconded by Eileen Johnson to have Theresa renegotiate the loan if we can do so for \$2000. Motion carried.
 - b. **Matching Funds** - the matching funds that have been donated for the last few years will be discontinued in June. To date the match has amounted to \$12,000 a year. Theresa will put this in the newsletter but encourage people to continue with their donations. The board agreed that they will each donate a portion of the federal government's economic stimulus check to IGS and Theresa will encourage others to also do so.
 - c. **Town Meeting** - a town meeting of the society will be held July 19th from 1:00 to 2:00. Essentially if something doesn't happen soon to change our financial status, the building is going to have to be put up for sale as we can not continue much longer with our current financial situation.
 - d. **Goal setting** - we'll continue with those we have as they are good ones and we are making progress. Our number one goal is to get an on-line data base going for members only.
13. **Calendar** - Next executive committee meeting is July 12 and the next full board meeting is August 9th.
14. **Adjournment** - motion by Ted Lussem and seconded by Betty Cross to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Minutes taken by Barbara Hug, Treasurer

Minutes approved as corrected by Grace Hertz via e-mail dated Tue, 13 May 2008 and Janice Danielson e-mail dated, Mon, 12 May 2008.