

**IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
REGULAR QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
August 9, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) Board was held Saturday, August 9, 2008 at the IGS Library Conference Room in Des Moines, Iowa.

Present: Theresa Liewer, President; Denise Gripp, 1st Vice President; Dennis Allen, 2nd Vice President; Barbara Hug, Treasurer; Diane Densmore, Secretary; Alan Neve, Region 2 Representative (Rep.); Michael Magee, Region 4 Rep.; Stan Jeffers, Region 5 Rep; Ted Lussem, Region 8 Rep.; Betty Cross, Region 9 Rep.; Sandra Leininger, Region 10 Rep.; Adrian Brisee, Region 15 Rep.

Absent: Pat Border, Region 3 Rep; Eileen Johnson, Region 7 Rep.; Judith Runestad, Region 11 Rep.; Grace Hertz, Region 12 Rep.; Janice Danielson, Region 14 Rep.; Linda Abercrombie, Region 16 Rep.

IGS Members Present: Dolly Flinn, Margaret Foster (Historian), Marcia Martin, Cris Nagla, Duane Pierce, Betty Standley

Staff Present: Debi Chase, Administrative Assistant

1. **Call to order** at 10:07 a.m. by President Theresa Liewer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Theresa added two more items since emailing the agenda to the board members earlier this week.
3. **Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee:** Ted Lussem and Barbara Hug volunteered for this duty.
4. **President's Report:** Theresa stated that her report remained as she had reported at the Executive Board Meeting on July 19, 2008. Her next presentation on Iowa Public Radio is August 19th and the topic will be family health histories.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** (See Attachment 1) Barbara Hug reported that thanks to donations, membership dues and credit card income received in July, we have a balance of \$6423.02 at the end of July. However, we are not out of trouble and have had to make arrangements with State Savings Bank to pay interest only mortgage payments for August, September and October. Our gas and electric budget bill has been adjusted to about \$100 more beginning in August. Our furniture lease has a balance of \$5706 and the reader/printer lease has a balance of \$3630 remaining. The reader/printer should be paid off in about a year.

- 6. First Vice President's Report:** Denise Gripp reported that the July 19th member appreciation day was a success with about 20 people attending the classes, 30-35 attending the townhall meeting and 18 people participating in the slumber party. She continues to coordinate the fall conference plans with Dennis Allen.
- 7. Second Vice President's Report:** Dennis Allen has two large vendors arranged for the fall conference. He presented the list of 54 new members who have joined since the last board meeting. (See Attachment 2, 2 pages) Ted Lussem made a motion to accept these new members. Seconded by Stan Jeffers. **Motion carried.** Dennis also reported that Legacy software has given us the opportunity to become a vendor for them. IGS would profit about 10-15% per program sold. We could then also present classes for a fee on its use. Barbara Hug made a motion that Dennis Allen investigate Legacy software and providing that there are no strings attached or quotas involved that IGS becomes a vendor. Seconded by Sandra Leininger. **Motion carried.**
- 8. Audit Report:** (See Attachment 3, 11 pages) Theresa presented the audit report for the year ending December 31, 2007 submitted by the Audit Committee, Chaired by Thomas W. McGarvey. The report states that bank account reconciliations tie out to the end of year financial balances as does the various liabilities, including the mortgage and lease-purchase liabilities. Barbara Hug made a motion to accept the audit report. Seconded by Mike Magee. **Motion carried.** The board also wished to express their appreciation to Tom McGarvey for his work on this report.
- 9. Nominating Committee & Election Committee:** Theresa reported that the Election Committee is composed of Ted Lussem and Helen Phillips. A third member is still needed.
- 10. Staff Reports:** Billie Murano was absent, but her report submitted was the same as she submitted to the Executive Board for the July 19, 2008 meeting. Debi Chase reported that we currently have 1882 members, including 92 chapters and 63 exchange members (libraries and other societies). About six genealogy societies have notified IGS that they will no longer be exchanging publications with us, due to the expense and/or space constraints of their societies. The newsletter will be mailed this coming week. Debi's suggestions include developing a class entitled "Writing Your Own Obituary" and developing a class for students and their parents for collecting family stories.

11. Region Representatives' Reports:

- a. **Region 5** – Stan Jeffers submitted his and his wife Fran's resignation to the Board. They will be moving to Spokane, Washington at the end of the month to be near their children and grandchildren. Midge Kjome has agreed to be his replacement from the Decorah area. Barbara Hug made a motion to accept Stan and Fran Jeffers resignation. Seconded by Ted Lussem. **Motion carried.**
- b. **Region 2** – Alan Neve reported that Keo-Mah had an open house and have applied for a Mahaska County grant to obtain internet access for their facility. Iowa County Genealogy Society has moved to 121 South Main Street, P.O. Box 207, North English, Iowa. This provides them with more space, including a storage area, and less worry of flooding.
- c. **Region 15** – Adrian Brisee reported that Carroll County is business as usual. There is nothing new to report for Crawford County or Exira. The Nishnabotna society has not met for 2 ½ years.
- d. **Region 9** – (See Attachment 4) Betty Cross reported that both Appanoose and Monroe Counties are walking cemeteries. Davis and Lucas Counties were active in their county and 4-H fairs, respectively. Wapello County has applied for a grant to upgrade their reader printer and get a phone so they can have internet access.
- e. **Region 10** – (See Attachment 5) Sandra Leininger reported that her region held their first spring seminar on June 28th and are already planning the next one for April 2009. Adams, Clarke and Union Counties remain active and all meet monthly. Ringgold County is no longer an active chapter, although there is a volunteer who answers inquiries and their record collection is at the Mount Ayr Public Library.
- f. **Region 4** – Michael Magee reported that Theresa Liewer will be at the Northeast Genealogical Society's gala on September 13th. Their new facility opens November 15th and is connected to the Grout Museum in Waterloo. Michael will be attending Tama County's meeting in October. Dubuque County is still searching for a site for relocation of their collection, since they are no longer at the public library.
- g. **Region 8** – Ted Lussem reported that the Polk County Genealogical Society has acquired updated records for Laurel Hill, Glendale and Woodlawn Cemeteries. Jasper County will have a display in the Newton Public Library in August and will be presenting beginning research classes in September. Ankeny will have a potluck dinner in August.

- h. Region 12** – (See Attachment 6) Grace Hertz was absent, but submitted a written report by email. Laurens Genies, Pocahontas Genies and Webster County remain active answering research requests. Palo Alto County had a float in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the 150th Founding of Palo Alto County Parade, both held in Emmetsburg. Humboldt County had a booth at the County Fair in July. They are planning to compile an alumni book as a fund raiser. Calhoun County has continued to record cemetery information. Kossuth County has completed copying the 1896 plat book with an index which will sell for \$25.
- i. Region 7** – Eileen Johnson was absent due to her husband’s illness and house damage from the Parkersburg tornado last spring. She did report to Theresa that the Region 7 meeting will be September 27 at the Down Home restaurant in Dows.

12. Old Business

- a. Endowment Fund** – No report.
- b. Hawkeye Heritage** – Barbara Hug reported that the committee is meeting almost weekly working on the next issue. They hope to mail it in November.
- c. Matching Funds Program** – Theresa reported that a donor has stepped forward and offered \$500 per month for July, August and September. She is in contact with another possible donor for the last three months of 2008 for the same amount.
- d. Feb Goal Setting** – Theresa stated that at least of the two goals that we set at February’s meeting have been met. The Hawkeye Heritage has been published and the volunteer hours have been tallied on an on-going basis. Barbara Hug has asked Cris Nagla to compare websites of genealogy societies in our neighboring states with our website. She will also be comparing membership dues and what benefits that members receive for their dues.

13. New Business

- a. Mortgage – State Savings Proposal & Wells Fargo Proposal** – Theresa presented a comparison of two mortgage proposals. Our current mortgage holder, State Savings Bank, has offered us an interest rate reduction from our current 7.875% to 6.125% for a 1% origination fee. This would reduce our current monthly mortgage payment from \$5017.67 to \$4525.12. Well Fargo Bank has proposed a loan at a permanent rate of 5.34%, but does not allow for prepayment of the loan for two years and prepayment after that two years must be in the full amount of the mortgage. Wells Fargo also would not allow for interest only payments in our times of financial difficulty. Six board members showed interest to pursue further information from Wells Fargo, since Wells Fargo could now have our 2007 audit report. This information will be presented to the board members via email.

- b. Professional Fund Raising Proposal** – Diane Densmore had contacted Isaacson Consulting for information to help us with fund raising and grant writing. Connie Isaacson submitted three proposals to assist IGS. Barbara Hug made a motion that if we can find IGS members to pay the fees, that we hire Isaacson Consulting for researching grants and this list of grants would be presented to our Grant Committee. Seconded by Ted Lussem. Vote: 2 for, 3 against, 1 abstain. **Motion did not pass.**
- c. Financial Status** – Theresa reiterated our current financial difficulty. We need to continue fund raising and grant writing. She has written a plea for donations in the newsletter which will be mailed next week.
- d. Pioneer Certificate Program & Civil War Certificate** – Theresa reported that it has been suggested that we reduce the price of our Pioneer certificates since it appears that interest has waned. Betty Cross made a motion to adjust the cost for the Pioneer Certificates to \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members effective October 1, 2008. Seconded by Ted Lussem. **Motion carried.** Theresa then reported that the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War will be in 2015 and some genealogy societies are starting to issue Civil War Certificates, much like our Pioneer Certificates. Sandra Leininger made a motion that we pursue a Civil War Certificate Program at a cost of \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Seconded by Alan Neve. **Motion carried.**

14. Calendar – The next Executive Board is October 11, 2008 and the next Board meeting in November 8, 2008.

15. Adjournment – Adrian Brisee made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Lussem. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Diane Densmore, Secretary
Iowa Genealogical Society