

EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Haines at 7:00pm.

Bill Haines reminded everyone that our Genealogy room will be closed Thanksgiving, in December it will be closed from Dec. 23-26 as we are not open on Friday's and Dec. 31-January 2, 2014. Also there are no regular membership meetings in January, February, or March. We will resume our regular membership meetings April 16, 2014.

Bill Haines reported that a copy of the Treasurer's review was on the front table for your information.

Membership Chairman, Barb Smith reported we will end the year with 125 members, with 9 new this year. We were down a little. We have 4 or 5 new memberships that will appear in January.

Bill Haines reported that the Quest publication is available in the office and please sign the sheet indicating that you have received one, so we do not mail one to you.

MGS delegates meeting is tomorrow and Jim Collins and Jo Glasgow will attend. It was mentioned that anyone can attend and they have some excellent programs. It is at the History Library, Lansing, at 1:00pm.

Webmaster, Sherry Copenhaver stated that the new plan for unlimited space is now active. We are using the same web address. John Evans has agreed to work with Sherry in this area. Suggestions are welcome as to how to improve our website. Thank you John!!

Publicity Chairman, we now believe we have Joy Black to help us. She has done articles in the paper before. The One Room School House Project is one of them.

OLD BUSINESS:

ECGS shirts: Bill Haines reported you are able to get shirts during the winter months by contacting Barb Wright's daughter directly. You can also contact Bill Haines. And we will probably be making an order in the spring.

Township records: This is a long term project. We plan on contacting each township asking that they not toss out records so we could copy them. See if they have been turned over to the State of Michigan. There is a Michigan Township Association link.

Cookbook: This publication will be on hold until spring.

Room Assistance: Please consider just an hour or two once a month. See Marcie Cousino

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Haines reported that we need a By-Laws change to continue conducting business while some of our Board members are not present. The **By-Law change:** When a vote is necessary to conduct business, a phone/e-mail vote may be conducted in lieu of an Executive Board Meeting.

The second By-Law change would pertain to the quorum of Board Members. The **By-Law change:**
A quorum for a phone/e-mail vote shall consist of six (6) Executive Board Members.

Also the phone/e-mail voting results shall be recorded and filed by the Recording Secretary.

Discussion held. Motion to accept the By-Law changes as presented made by Shirley Hodges and
Seconded by Barb Smith. Motion passed. Changes will be implemented.

Bill Haines reported on the **2014 Proposed Budget** in that it was similar to 2013 with these exceptions:
Some of the changes are an increase of \$10.00 for room content/liability insurance; an increase of
\$200.00 for telephone; \$100.00 in copy machine supplies; computer web page proposed change be
\$400.00 and increase of \$275.00. Other change the sub total of \$10,300 that was accidentally put on
the proposal be stricken.

Discussion was held, with Bill Atkinson wanting a clarification of there being no budget for income.
The majority of our income comes from fund raising, donations. There has not been an income
forecast in previous years.

Motion made by Gary Copenhaver, that the proposed budget be accepted with changes discussed,
seconded by Joann DePeel. Motioned passed with one nay vote.

A break was taken for refreshments and reconvened at 7:45pm.

Bill Haines went through for us a general overview of the Strategic Planning Session held on Saturday,
November 9, 2013. Deb Deal from Ohio, lead us in discussion and kept us on track. We had a round
table discussion and then break out sessions in smaller groups. We covered a lot of subjects, one of the
main emphasis was our Mission Statement, our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Discussion was held and suggestions made. Promoting our society is a biggie. Maybe contacting
County extension offices if they still exists, have a family research or history project. These ideas
along with the printed overview of the planning session provided by Sherry Copenhaver will all be
looked at and addressed systematically. Comments from membership seemed to agree we hit the nail
on the head.

Other comments, addressed the threat of fire to our collection, insurance and the need to back up and
have an off site backup. Do we have an inventory of our Library up to date?

To look at other societies and what they offer. MGC may have information on other societies in the
state. Getting new computers will be a challenge and we are looking into it.

Greeting new members at meetings, it was suggested we have then fill out a sheet which asks who they
are, who they are researching and present it to the membership.

Bill Haines reported the last item, our program, was watching a DVD on the War of 1812. He brought
up the fact that it was almost entirely fought in Michigan and Niagara area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

We had 29 people in attendance.

Respectfully submitted, Janyce Shepler, Recording Secretary

