

Board Meeting for August 11, 2014

The August 2014 board meeting was held as planned. There were seven people who attended (Bill Haines, Barb Smith, Sher Brown, Chuck Chamberlain, Liz Jones, Sharlene Thuma & Sherry Copenhaver).

The Officer Position Descriptions were completed (with the exceptions of Trustees and Society-Member Benefits Committee) and distributed. A notebook on the shelf behind the desk contains the Bylaws and the Duties. The Society-Member Benefits Committee will be added as a regular committee and will probably plan to meet each summer for a 3-4 week period for the coming year plans. Open positions are the Historian, Resource Room Chairperson, Social Media & Publications.

The Treasurer reports there is \$3266.54 in the checking account.

The Librarian computer prints to the printer ok.

The computers still need to be upgraded to Windows 7. We will check with John to see exactly what needs to be ordered and get them purchased for him.

Sue Bellows offered to put together the December Quest issue. Items to put into the issue can be emailed to Bill Haines.

Frontier Day Bake Sale - Barb will send out mass email to ask members for help with the bake sale, including providing baked goods.

Banking - Much discussion about possibly changing banks. It was suggested that we not keep all of our money in one bank account. If money was separated and one of the accounts were hacked and drained, we would still have some in another account. We feel that Pay Pal will work with any bank account we have and that we should begin a new account to use for the Pay Pal. We discussed getting the Pay Pal card readers for the Frontier Bake Sale.

Pay Pal - Chuck called Pay Pal customer service and from speaker phone, several of us asked questions about how Pay Pal details work. We believe that the invoice option that Pay Pal has will give us the detail in reports as to what people have purchased. Someone will need to monitor the Pay Pal reports to let Barb know of membership payments. We will begin our Pay Pal adventure with memberships, then add more things next year. We can let people know of this option on our website, in meetings, in the final Quest and on the application. We will add other items in the coming year.

A motion was made by Barb Smith to have Sher Brown decide which bank or credit union to begin a new account with, and set up the account; then Chuck Chamberlain will set up the Pay Pal account for that new account. Chuck will work with Sherry on the invoice information we will need to have. Liz Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Membership, Dues & Benefits discussion - The consensus is to discontinue the Quest. Barb checked the Bylaws and did not see anything in there about the Quest being part of our membership. Discussion was held as to whether we should ask for a vote at the general meeting and we eventually concluded that if we did that and the vote was to keep it, we are right back where we are now... no Quest editor and the expense of printing and mailing it. Instead, we can create a monthly digital newsletter that will contain the officer and committee chair reports and other items, such as coming events. We will put whatever we get into each newsletter and if reports are late, they can go into the next issue. We can put member news in as we hear about things. We can invite members to share their family history and/or submit queries. We could put birthdays in. Some people may not have computers to see the newsletter and we can print a few of them (black & white) at ECGS for them to pick up. If they don't come to the meetings or the room, we can attempt to find a way for them to get them, such as going to their local library. Sherry offered to maintain the newsletter unless someone else would like to. Once the format is set up (and we do need people to help with this), it should be fairly simple to change each month.

We need to provide instructions and backups of data for those positions that are 'critical'. This would include Website, Databases, Membership, Librarian, Computers & Treasurer people. These backups & instructions can be stored in Vault 1. For the Membership secretary, we can export contacts from her email, then import contacts into the ECGSBoard email for a backup of email contacts. For the website, databases and membership database, we can create a copy on cd/dvd or flash drives to keep in the vault. Quick Books from the Treasurer may work the same way... simply copy the file(s).

Special Interest Groups - A special interest group could be people interested in researching Eaton County History and another one could be for people who might like to write about their family history. We could have meetings in January & February for these, then see how they develop for future meetings.

Meeting format - We would like to promote more socialization at our meetings and discontinue the business part of the meeting with the exception of votes as needed. There are some folks who meet at the Eaton Place for dinner before the general meetings and this promotes fellowship for those that can go. We want to also allow for people to come to ECGS early and bring their own supper ('sack lunch', McDonalds, etc.) and mingle. Some of us can be here at 5pm and people could come in whenever they can. The assumption is that some people cannot make the 5pm at the Eaton Place, but may be able

to make 6pm or so at ECGS. We also want to set up easels of large paper for people to write their names and the Eaton County surnames they are researching. At the November meeting this year, Sherry will provide training on the website for the early meeting and ECGS will provide pizza.

The following chart shows what we will present to the general meeting on new dues & prices, and what we will do with the dues money & member benefits.

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| <p><u>Income/Charges/Prices:</u></p> <p>Annual Dues: \$25.00 per household.</p> <p>Soda & Water price: Raise to 75 cents.</p> <p>Snacks price: Raise to 75 cents.</p> <p>Research beyond initial database lookup: \$20.</p> | <p><u>ECGS Costs:</u></p> <p>Expand research materials in library (ex: microfilm). Expand web space and presence. Purchase Ancestry and other subscriptions (like Newspaper Archives?) for ECGS library use. Digitize more materials. Computer hardware/software.</p> <p><u>Member Benefits:</u></p> <p>Monthly Digital Newsletter. 10% discount on publications. Discount for paper copies: 15 cents for members, 20 cents for non-members. Discount for Pioneer & Civil War certificates. Discount on soda/water: Members: 50 cents. Discount on snacks: Members: 50 cents. Discount on ECGS workshops. Provide ½ hour free research to members. \$5.00 discount for officers and volunteers on following year membership. More website Database data. Submit queries in Newsletter. Advertise genealogy-related in Newsletter. Special library open hours. Scanned probate packets available online. On-line surname contacts/member info: (Members Section already exists). Members Book (same concept as on-line surname contacts with slightly more info, optional picture and perhaps digital copy that we email to members who participate).</p> |
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