

Board Meeting for January 16, 2016

The January 2016 board meeting was postponed by email to Saturday morning, January 16th at 10:00am. Chuck Chamberlain, Marcy Cousino, Dianna Emerson, Kent MacDonald, Sherry Copenhaver, Sher Brown, John Evans & Shirley Hodges attended.

The Treasurer reports were distributed for November 30, 2015. Sher is waiting for more statements for the December balance sheet. AT&T charges for Uverse is going up and Kent will look at ACD.net and WOW to see if we can get a lower phone and internet rate.

Our February, March and April board meetings are being changed to the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00am at the Charlotte Big Boy restaurant.

Dianna reports she got about 75 paper memberships and 6 Pay Pal memberships. Sherry and Dianna discussed how Dianna will email new member information to Sherry so new members can be added to the website Members section database. Sherry gets the emails when people pay by Pay Pal and she forwards them to Dianna (for membership) and Sher (for Treasurer). Sherry asked if this was working for them and they both said yes.

We talked about possibly working with a restaurant as a fund raiser because some of them offer this option. Kent said Big Boy has some different options and he will check with the corporate office to see what they are and we can decide if we can do this. Ideally, we would have our people at the restaurant to greet people as they come in and give them information about us in addition to whatever deal the restaurant offers such as 10% of their meal.

The Writing Group will probably have to start back up in the spring as Shirley needs to get some medical issues taken care of.

The Military Group is still on hold and will be unless we can get someone to take over the leadership of the group.

The Farmer's Market is now coming into the Courthouse to sell baked goods and crafts on the second and fourth Saturdays until they can go back outside again. This will probably be in April. We could try opening up for research on one of these

Saturdays and see how it goes. Also, if Shirley would like to have the Writing Group on that same day, perhaps the Writing Group could meet from 1-3. Julie did say the group could meet upstairs if we wanted to meet during the morning.

We reviewed the Project List from our 2013 Workshop and there were a couple of unfinished projects. The Pray Funeral Home books are partially completed. The cd of excel files are at ECGS and we have identified what still needs to be done. Bill Haines may try to work on completing this project. Sherry explained about the dvd of Benton Township cemetery reading and headstone images has been available since about 2011 and this led to another discussion about our whole publication process (see below). Shirley remembered that we wanted to have a follow-up workshop in a few years to see how we were doing and this might be a good thing to do for the fall of 2016.

We really need to see about digitizing our publications and see about selling them on other venues such as ebay. Marcy was contacted by 'Ancestorstuff', a website that shares genealogy publications and invited us to share ours with them on their website. Kent said he would check out their website. He reported today that they looked legitimate.

There was a lot of positive discussion about a booth at the Eaton County Fair. We would need to check out the cost of a booth and find out how much help we could get. Some ideas we talked about was to have laptops there with our Index System on it so we could look up names for people and it would be nice to have it show on a projection screen if possible. It would be good to have things that would appeal to kids and/or parents to work with their kids.

Marcy talked about the \$20 Research fee and how she sometimes feels uneasy charging them more money for paper copies and postage. We assured Marcy she can use her judgment as to whether she wanted to request more money once they have paid the \$20.

We held a brief discussion about requesting the general public for photos to scan and we know we would like to collect what we can. We will need to put some more research into this.

John will see about purchasing Office for the new laptop; at least the laptop for the desk. This is the laptop we want to use for the Index System if we need extra computers because we have extra people researching.

We should keep a notebook of speakers we have each year as a reference.

Programs during some of our social hours such as photo slide shows and website training.

We want to define some goals for 2016. Kent will be asking the members in the newsletter for ideas of goals. Some goals we thought of are:

- John will document all electronic equipment.
- Reach out to all of the Eaton County historical and genealogical societies.
- Find more people to help us scan the probate packets on Tuesdays.
- Publicize in newspapers more (Joy Black is happy to submit articles; we just need to let her know.)

Accomplishments for 2015:

- Upgrades of two computers.
- Special Interest Groups
- Monthly Digital Newsletter
- Completed Boyd Preston Card File scanning project at the Charlotte Library.
- Changed format of General Meeting, such as friendly tables, business meeting at end, social hour before meeting.
- Poster board of surnames at meetings.
- Meeting at Eaton Rapids GAR.
- Purchased two laptops.
- Received new large-paper scanner from Historical Commission grant.
- New copier.
- New Vault 1 Shelving.
- Detailed Documentation for Officers Tasks.
- Cloud storage.
- Probate Packet scanning.
- Scanning of VF Files and Z Files in Vault 1 and beginning to scan Genealogy files in Room 2.
- Open for research on Saturdays once a month

