

Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

2018 January - Saturday, January 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order by president Chris Brown at 1:10pm. A quorum was met.

Present: Chris Brown, Jim Kendall, Sher Brown, Sherry Copenhaver, Marcy Cousino, Dianna Emerson, Becky Kendall, Shirley Hodges, John Evans, Marijo Wakley.

Absent: Liz Jones.

Visitors: Sue Thompson, Doug Emerson.

Reports of officers

- **Recording Secretary**: The minutes of December 11, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made by Shirley Hodges to approve the minutes and seconded by Sher Brown. Motion was passed.
- **Treasurer**: Sher Brown presented the Treasurer's Report, which included the Quickbooks Balance Statement for the month of December and a summary of amounts that came in and came out of our account. She described the transfers of money and bills paid she had completed. Some money amounts are approximate because there are always outstanding checks. Rent, phone & internet has been paid for the year. Insurance for about \$550 and the bus trip deposit of \$250 will be due in April. Although all Pay Pal information has been submitted, the account has not yet been changed. Eaton Federal has had all necessary banking paper work signed by the new President Chris, Recording Secretary Sherry, Trustee Shirley and Treasurer Sher. A motion was made by Jim Kendall to approve Treasurer Report and seconded by Dianna Emerson. Motion was passed. The Treasurer then explained she would like to transfer \$1000.00 from the Pay Pal account to the checking account. Some money will be left in the Pay Pal account to make purchases from, such as software, scanners, etc. Jim Kendall made a motion to transfer the money and Shirley Hodges seconded. The motion was passed.
- **Membership Secretary**: Dianna reported there are 9 members for 2018. Last year, membership letter reminders were emailed. This year, about 179 letters are being mailed within the next week. Dianna posted a 'Welcome Letter' from our new president on Facebook and at Julie Kimmer's suggestion, posted on Courthouse Square Association's Facebook page as well two other local group sites. A motion was made by Sher Brown to approve the minutes and seconded by Jim Kendall. Motion was passed.
- **Trustees**: Shirley Hodges reported everything is fine.
- **Vice-President**: The March 2018 meeting speaker will be Shirley Hodges and she will speak about the Women in World War I. He talked with Jim Moses, who is working on new programs. Shirley suggested several places for Jim to check for speakers, such as the MGC

Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

website and the Speakers Guild. We will want to review the surveys to see what the interest is before we line up too many speakers. Shirley said if someone cancels, she should be able to cover. We do not have anything set for a pre-meeting yet. Jim will check with the County Journal to see if they have a method of notifying other newspapers of meeting events and announcements.

- **President**: Chris has contacted MGC to notify them of the Presidency change. MGC will send him a new password. Chris will reappoint delegates to MGC and. He still needs to talk to people and verify that they will carry on and he will check with MGC to see if we can have more than two alternates. Eaton Federal banking transfer documents are completed.

Reports of Committees

- **Computer and technology**: John Evans installed the new librarian "Twin One" computer. "Twin Two" computer was brought in today and the process of installing it was begun after the meeting. The old librarian computer was in very bad shape; it had bad sectors and it is not considered usable now. The old microfilm reader computer will continue to be used with the microfilm reader and will be considered dedicated to the reader. This will solve the problem when we have a researcher using the microfilm reader and Marcy is researching requests, as she will no longer be removed from the computer to research while someone is using the reader. Adobe Pro will be purchased and installed. John will be researching on-line backups.
- **Historian**: Marijo said there was only one notice she saw last year about ECGS and she did clip it and save it. We talked about taking more action to get announcements into as many papers as possible and Jim will be checking into this. Some other things we would like to discuss is to see about some articles in papers about various things, such as letting people know more about our society. We can all help Marijo by saving anything we do see and sending her copies of things.
- **Librarian**: Sherry updated everyone on Sharlene Thuma's health status.
- **Publicity**: Vacant
- **Web Maintenance**: Many of the board meeting minutes are caught up on the Members Section page.
- **Newspaper Project**: While the 20 remaining reels from Archives have been paid for, they have not been received yet to send to New York to be digitized. The Newspaper Project received \$1,000.00 from Eaton County Genealogical Society. They are verifying the reels with the digitized images and will request corrections if needed.

Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

- **Michigan Genealogical Council:** Jim Kendall reported this month as he and Becky attended and because Becky's hand was in a cast, Jim had all the notes. Kris R. from State Archives was a speaker and he reported they plan on having a new guide list, by county, on Seeking Michigan, by May. Archives is collecting information on World War II veterans and Sherry will contact Kris to see what the project is and see about getting the WWII Photo Project that was completed by CSA involved with this. They also plan on redesigning Seeking Michigan. One society told about a successful community "Hobo Dinner" they held, that was a fund raiser in addition to bringing people to their society.

Old Business

- **Clarence Hodges Speakers Fund:** There is about \$1300.00 in this fund. This is an on-going fund and people can continue to contribute to this fund.
- **Frontier Days:** We will need to prepare for this in the next few months. During some unrelated discussion of genealogy books that people no longer need or want, Marijo suggested we sell them at our bake sale and we all liked that idea! We can add that information to our request for baked goods donation.
- **Bus Trip:** The bus trip to Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be November 3rd, 2018. The contract with the bus company has been signed and the down payment will be paid in April.

New business

- **Newspaper clippings & notebooks:** Phyllis Whidden has been collecting all county papers for the past 3 or 4 years and clipping articles, creating scrapbooks and indexing them. These are comprehensive scrapbooks, including anything that had names attached. She gave notice a couple of month ago that she would discontinue this at the end of 2017. However, she did say she would miss working on the project. In talking with her, she agreed she would enjoy working on it in a less intense way, such as fewer papers and perhaps just obituaries, births, weddings and anniversaries. She cancelled her subscription to the State Journal: Sue Thompson volunteered to collect the vitals from the State Journal since her husband usually gets that paper each day.
- **Train room volunteers:** There is a great deal of interest in training for the volunteers. It looks like Sherry and Marcy are the ones who need to head this up.

Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

- **T-Shirts:** There is interest in T-Shirts and polo shirts. It would be nice to have people wearing the shirts on the bus trip to easily see everyone and it would be great if people wore them to the seminar in Grand Rapids. Shirley will check with Barb Wright's daughter to get prices and also see about different colors of shirts.
- **Surveys:** A 2018 survey has been prepared for ECGS and is now on the website. A few board members have taken it and an error was identified and corrected. After the meeting, Shirley posted the survey on Facebook. The purpose of the survey is mainly to identify people's interest in meeting/speaker topics.
- **Society Forms** - Short-term committee: We have formed a short-term committee to review all society forms and update if needed. Sherry asked Sue Thompson prior to the board meeting to join this committee. At the board meeting, Dianna Emerson volunteered to join. Sherry suggested the committee also include the old Quest issues and other publications since these could impact some of the forms. President Chris Brown agreed and asked Marcy Cousino if she would join the committee for that portion. This committee plans to have recommendations for the next board meeting.
- **Speakers:** Discussion was held about how it usually works with speakers for the new Vice-President, and where there are resources for speakers.
- **Pre-Meetings:** It's important that we offer something during these pre-meeting times to bring people in. One idea is to invite other societies in during that time to speak about their society.
- **Format of meetings:** We did not have time to talk about this today; we will need to talk about this next month.
- **Office Hours, Change?:** We are now open on Tuesday through Thursday from 10-2. Gary Copenhaver and Sharlene Thuma are the Thursday room volunteers and because Gary goes to Georgia for the winter and Sharlene has health problems, this leaves Thursdays with no coverage. Chris Brown and Marcy Cousino have been covering for the time being. If Chris moves to Grand Rapids, he will no longer be able to come in on Thursdays.
- **Contact Funeral Homes:** Contact funeral homes about copying records and memorial cards Shirley would like to add to this; contact lawyers to request they
- **Possibly meet in January & February:** Jim brought up possibly meeting in January and February because that's when people might feel cooped up and might want to get out. Sherry told how in 2014, we decided to begin the Special Interest Groups and we began those in Jan & Feb. While it's too late for this year, we need to keep on the agenda for next year. Sherry suggested perhaps we could have meetings where we researched together; where no one had to actually "run" the meeting.

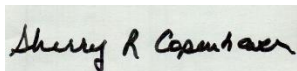
Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

- **Other types of meetings:** Jim brought up the problem of implementing the suggestions we get from a speaker after we go home, such as from Family Search. When we have a speaker give a program on "How To", perhaps we could have a follow-up workshop the next week, bring in our laptops, and actually help each other use the speaker's hints. Another suggestion was to organize periodic field trips to Lansing State Archives and maybe there are other places we could go. Chris told us about how they have World War I index cards at the Archives and maybe we could have a Work Project Group to identify the Eaton County World War I veterans as we would like to have a WWI veteran project.
- **Open Houses for Other Societies:** Invite other societies to research for a morning and/or afternoon and/or day. The Duck Lake Historical Society does this once a summer and they look forward to it. Ionia did this one year and they really enjoyed it and it has been several years since they did it.
- **Find out about People (Members):** Becky talked about how she wondered about the people at our meetings, such as what their strengths were, etc. Sherry told her about the "Mug Book" that tried to answer that exact thing. The Mug Book is on the Members Page on the website, started in 2015. There is a reference to this book on our website. The question is: Should we try to revive this and get interest in it again?
- **Wish List of Things To Do:** Sherry told about a list of items she had sent to Chris the night before about things to possibly do or think about doing in the coming year or years and asked if everyone would like to get a copy of it. Everyone agreed. Chris has some items to add to this list. This list should end up being a living-document for us.

A motion was made by Sher Brown that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Shirley Hodges. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 24, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Copenhaver, Recording Secretary