

# Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

2018 April - Saturday, April 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by president Chris Brown at 10:05a.m. A quorum was met.

Present: Chris Brown, Jim Kendall, Sherry Copenhaver, Dianna Emerson, Becky Kendall, Shirley Hodges, John Evans, Marijo Wakley, Sharlene Thuma.

Absent: Sher Brown, Liz Jones.

Visitors: Doug Emerson

## Reports of officers & committees

**Recording Secretary:** The minutes of March 17, 2018 were reviewed. A motion was made by Shirley Hodges to approve the board meeting minutes and seconded by Becky Kendall. Motion passed.

**Treasurer:** Sher Brown was absent from the meeting but had reports printed and at the meeting. The reports covered balances of all accounts, March 31, 2018 Balance Sheet and checking account activity for 2018. We made note that we look healthy. Sherry Copenhaver made a motion to approve the Treasurer reports and Jim Kendall seconded. Motion passed.

**Membership Secretary:** Dianna Emerson reported a total of 120 members, which includes 95 paid, 16 spouses, 2 life and 7 comps. These numbers are down from 2016 (168 members) and 2017 (150 members). Dianna distributed a copy of the membership list. Several board members made note of the excellent effort Dianna makes in outreach to members and potential members. Jim Kendall made a motion to accept the Membership report and Becky Kendall seconded. Motion passed.

**Trustees:** Shirley Hodges stated she has the first 12 orders in for T-shirts and 6 of these will be here for the meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> in a variety of colors. Becky Kendall told us she got an email from MGC asking societies about their methods getting volunteers, filling board positions, increasing membership and reaching out to the community. Chris Brown responded that he ended up getting the same email and after asking Sherry Copenhaver for some response as well, has responded for our society. Chris will forward to the board what his response was to the questions MGC asked.

**Vice-President:** Jim Kendall has the information we need for speaker WWII survivor Dick Thelan, which is the introduction material, a chair, a microphone and 3 easels. Dick does not accept honorarium for speaking; however, he does offer the 'Survival' book to sell, which is only for sale by the survivors. Jim asked if we should offer stipends to pre-meeting speakers and our opinion was "No", other than possibly for gas money. When asking other societies to come in for pre-meetings, we could ask for donations for them. Sherry Copenhaver will give a training presentation on our

# Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Digital Newspaper Project Searching for the May pre-meeting. After some discussion, we decided August will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. (See more about that under the old business.) When Sherry was discussing a problem with the State Journal not creating our meeting from my email to them, which is the method they said they preferred, she said someone used to create Facebook Events for our pre-meetings and meetings. Shirley said she would try to do this again, especially since the State Journal Event will link to our Facebook page Event.

**President:** Chris Brown is spending time with his mother taking care of medical issues and we will be covering for him as needed.

- A DNA Special Interest Group meeting has been set up for Monday evening, April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A set of training sessions are going to be held on Saturday afternoon, April 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- A Military Special Interest Group meeting has been set up for Monday evening, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chris needs to change the date of the next board meeting; we will meet on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. A motion was made by Jim Kendall to approve President report and seconded by Sherry Copenhaver. Motion passed.

**Computer and technology:** John Evans installed I-Drive software cloud storage on both new computers, which covers the external 4T drive. He plans to install on the dedicated microfilm reader computer later. The plan backs up to 5T of data and we may need to review what is backed up on the cloud. Sherry can help with this. Some data can either be deleted or archived to other external drives and stored in the vault.

**Historian:** Marijo Wakley showed the scrapbook she has in progress. She needs help with names and Shirley helped her identify names in the pictures after the meeting. Marijo is also working on a new Eaton County Research Guide based loosely on the State Research Guides found in Family Tree Magazine, and she had sent a draft of it to Sherry, who made a couple of alterations and additions. Marijo has made a great start! Marcy suggested she include some new deed lookup available on the Eaton County website, and Probate Packets on our website.

**Librarian:** Sharlene Thuma has three memorial books to purchase and has chosen Dick Thelen's "Survival" book (\$30) for Clarence Hodges, a recent plat book (\$25) for Steve DePeel and a Clinton County Teachers book (\$24) for Jackie Adams. Shar wondered what the budget is for the memorial books and it sounds like the above are within the budget. Shar then showed us a very large framed 1886 Brookfield marriage license CSA no longer wants. However, they want the frame. Bob Phillips can remove the license and place it on a backing, with a covering to protect it at a cost of \$3-4.

# Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Shirley Hodges made a motion to accept all committee reports and Sherry Copenhaver seconded. Motion passed.

## Old Business

**Training Update:** Two training sessions have been set up and a flyer was posted on the ECGS Facebook page a few days ago. Dianna will email the flyer to the membership. Chris will announce it at the general meeting and flyers will be printed for the meeting.

**Survey Results:** We have addressed many of the survey responses as far as speakers and meeting topics. There were some free-form comments that we could look at, such as a cluttered website. We could review the comments, put together a form and see if we can get participation from the general membership on any of the topics.

**WWI Project:** Shirley Hodges expressed interest in working on this project. We can ask people at the meeting and at the Military Special Interest Group. Phyllis Whidden has been working on it.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** We will celebrate at our August meeting and we will use the entire meeting (beginning with the pre-meeting time). We set up a temporary committee for this and it includes Shirley Hodges, Marijo Wakley, Becky Kendall and Sherry Copenhaver. It will be a pot-luck and we will have it someplace other than the courthouse.

**Digital Newspaper Project:** Marcy Cousino reports that she has a flash drive with County Journal papers and Eaton Rapids Flashes to send to New York and have digitized and included in the project. She says she has been working on identifying missing scans and will need to send some microfilms back to New York to be rescanned. A set of Dimondale papers that had been scanned and sent to Tom were not included in the Search Index. Marcy plans to send things to Tom in smaller quantities to make things easier for him to correct, even though he asked to have everything sent at once.

**Old Quests:** We have all the old Quests and other publications that we no longer need and originally offered at the Volunteer Appreciation Party. There are many left over and we will offer these at the April meeting. We discussed other organizations who might like these before we recycle them. One suggestion was to offer them at the Frontier Day bake sale and while that's a good idea, we would have to store them somewhere until then. Other organizations would probably want a set of them, which means someone would have to go through them to see if we have entire sets.

# Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**Volunteer Appreciation Party:** Shirley Hodges made note that the volunteer party was very enjoyable and Sherry Copenhaver's grandkids were very helpful and it is great they were there.

## **New Business**

**Historical Commission Grant:** Sherry Copenhaver had a document describing reasons to request outside help with indexing records for our Index System. The Eaton County Historical Commission will grant up to a possible \$3000.00 for preserving Eaton County history. It is suggested we request a match; whatever we are willing to spend, we can request they match us. The deadline for submitting a grant is April 15<sup>th</sup> and we can actually submit it on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Sherry explained that the grant can be written so that ECGS will have control over how much ECGS spends on this project (if anything). We talked about contacting Family Search to see if they would be interested in putting some of these images in their system. All of this would need further study and planning! Jim Kendall made a motion to write the grant and Becky Kendall seconded. Motion passed. Sherry will write the grant and submit it. Sherry will make initial contact with Family Search.

**Carpeting for Room 1:** Sherry Copenhaver talked to Julie Kimmer about carpet in Room 1. The Probate Packet Scanning Project people are the ones that most notice this problem of the chairs; the rolling chairs were tearing up the wood floors and a rug was put on the floor. However, the rug does not cover the whole floor and people tend to trip over the edges of the rug. Bob Phillips is going to give measure and check for good prices for wall-to-wall carpeting as he used to be in the carpet business. Once we have a price to work with, we will discuss whether this is something we can easily pay for.

A motion was made by Sherry Copenhaver that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Jim Kendall. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Copenhaver, Recording Secretary