

Eaton County Genealogical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

2018 June - Monday, June 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order by president Jim Kendall at 6:35p.m. A quorum was met.

Present: Jim Kendall, Sherry Copenhaver, Becky Kendall, Shirley Hodges, John Evans, Marijo Wakley, Janet Skipper, Liz Jones, Marcy Cousino

Absent: Sher Brown, Dianna Emerson, John Evans

Reports of officers & committees

Motions to Approve Reports: A motion was made by Shirley Hodges and seconded by Marijo Wakley to make one motion to approve all reports from the officer reports to approve at the end all officer reports rather than for each one. This was approved.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of May 20, 2018 were reviewed. We discussed upcoming Board Meetings and agreed that we would meet on Monday evenings at 6:30p.m., 9 days prior to the monthly meeting in July, August, September, October and November. Beginning in December, we will revert back to Saturdays as this seems to work better with the darker days and potential bad weather.

Treasurer: Sher Brown was absent and made this report by email. One deposit was made of \$196. Checks were written for American Legion for room rental of \$100 and Mr. Thelen's book which was \$30. Please keep in mind that income for the summer months is low as is normal. Upcoming monies for Frontier Days and Bus Trip are restricted and paid out in the 2019 calendar year for rent, phone, internet and insurance. The bulk of membership dues renewals start in the January thru March timeframe.

Membership Secretary/Council Delegate: Dianna Emerson was absent and had sent a via email, which was printed for everyone at the meeting. We have a total of 125 members, which includes 99 paid, 17 spouses 2 life, and 7 comp. Shirley Hodges talked about possibly holding some Genealogy-101 Classes and that usually brings new members in. The next MGC meeting will be held on a Friday along with the Abrams seminar on July 20th and the speaker will be David Allen Lambert.

Corresponding Secretary/Digital Newspaper Project: Marcy Cousino reported that she received the Potterville newspapers back from New York and these have been added to the project. Also, some of the Springport newspapers were corrected and all Springport papers were sent back in one folder (rather than multiple folders). Marcy has not looked at these yet. Marcy said she has a flash drive with County Journal and Eaton Rapids Flash papers; however, some of the files are corrupted. She is unsure what she will do next with these. Jim Kendall asked how complete this project is and Marcy responded about 95%.

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Trustees: Shirley Hodges stated nothing to report. Janet Skipper asked what Trustees do and our answer was "we need trustees if we get sued or if we disband".

Vice-President: Shirley Hodges has the July meeting set up with a DAR speaker(s) for the pre-meeting and Jim Kendall has Jessica Trotter set up for a DNA talk. We need to let her know which of her DNA presentations we would like to give. Sherry Copenhaver told the group that she had talked with Ben, who had taped Dick Thelen's WWII Survivor presentation, and he feels he will end up with a good edited product when he has time to work with it. We could possibly use this as a pre-meeting later in the year as we heard from some people that they would like to hear him.

President: Jim Kendall would like to work on a Purpose Statement. We do have a Mission Statement. Jim questioned if we are a corporation and how our members are protected and if we are a 501-c3. We know we are not a 501-c3, but we do file a report with the State of Michigan each year. We will show Jim the paperwork for our Society to make him more familiar. The Duck Lake History and Genealogy Group sent an email requesting to meet at our room for their August meeting (August 12th), as they have done for the last several years. The email went to Jim, Janet and Sherry. Sherry responded with a copy to Julie Kimmer to make sure the courthouse was clear for the afternoon, and it is. Janet and Sherry offered to come in early, at noon, and stay later to help people with research and Sherry offered to train on the fultonhistory.com digital newspaper search if they would like. Anyone is welcome to their meeting!

Computer and technology: John Evans was absent. Sherry Copenhaver mentioned that she was going to let John know that the computers were running slow. Janet Skipper would like to have her user area set up.

Historian: Marijo Wakley reported she received a set of pictures from Shirley, and Sherry emailed some pictures to her. Marijo signed up for Snapfish and she now receives 100 free pictures per month for a year.

Librarian: Janet Skipper is doing an inventory of items in the library that are not in the Library Inventory System yet. She will move the computer things that are under the old microfilm reader desk to vault 3. Janet will create a list of new acquisitions and post them on our Facebook page.

Motion to accept all reports: Liz Jones made a motion to accept all reports and Sherry Copenhaver seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

30th Anniversary: The committee consists of Shirley Hodges, Marijo Wakley, Becky Kendall and Sherry Copenhaver. Judy Chamberlain volunteered to help us. Shirley is working on identifying all

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past officers by reviewing the Quests and will plan on contacting those who she can. She will work on a program of a review of our Society. Jim suggested we have some type of fun fund-raiser and Sherry volunteered to google some ideas. The committee needs to set up a meeting soon.

Frontier Bake Sale: Becky Kendall reviewed all available information and realized there is a lot to do and it is a lot of work. She plans to start a sign-up sheet for baked goods and for people to work the bake sale at the June monthly meeting.

Training: Sherry Copenhaver said she is not scheduling any training at this time. If people request training in the future, we can set it up then.

WWI Project: Sherry Copenhaver said the WWI Project is continuing, but without a target date of this year. There is no target date at this time.

Outside help with Indexing/Eaton County Historical Commission Grant: Sherry Copenhaver requested an extension of time with the Commission to complete the plan of how to get the outside help of indexing our un-indexed holdings. The Commission granted the extension and said to take as long as needed.

Carpeting: Sherry Copenhaver reported that Bob Phillips gave an estimate of about \$225 of new carpeting for our room that would be good for the chairs that we use. This does not include installation. After discussion, a motion was made by Shirley Hodges to allow up to \$475.00 for carpeting, which could include costs for installing the carpeting if we do not find volunteers, and Marijo Wakley seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

New Business

History Harvest: Sherry Copenhaver passed around a flyer that explained a little bit about the idea of having an event where the public is invited to bring in their documents, pictures, or other items. Courthouse Square Association (CSA) talked with us about partnering up and they would take the museum type articles and we would take the genealogy type items. There was general enthusiasm about this idea from our board. This same flyer and idea was presented and discussed at the CSA board on June 6th, and they like the idea. Probably sometime after the first of the year would be the best time to think about this to give us all time to organize how to do this and then publicize this. This project would be basically scanning genealogy items and offering them a copy if they want them, and taking pictures of museum items (in some cases) and offering them a copy.

Memorial for Phyllis Whidden's husband: After some discussion about collecting donations for Phyllis and a memorial for her husband, we decided a gift card to VanAttas would be best for her to pick out what she wants for her garden. We also decided it would be best to let her know we were doing this and we would present it to her at the Memorial on July 11th. Sherry Copenhaver has

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a Memorial Celebration Service card that will be held for Jim and will scan it, send it to Dianna Emerson and ask her to send it to our membership to let them know about everything in case they are interested.

Purpose, Mission Statement?: Should we have a Purpose Statement in addition to a Mission Statement?

Gathering to brain-storm for ideas to fund-raise and also organize rooms?: Perhaps we could use one of our pre-meetings for brain-storming. One idea that worked well for Jim & Becky's church was an auction-bake sale; people knew they were fund raising, so they purchased some of the baked goods for some pretty good prices! It would also be a good idea to plan a work day to organization day, especially of Vault 3.

Contingency Fund?: Perhaps we could determine what would be a good amount of money to keep in the bank for a contingency fund, such as 3 years of annual expenses, or something like that. Other things we could think about is what we could use our money for and if we do want to raise funds, what we would use those funds for. Jim made the observation that when he goes places to research, if he looks at a book and it is not indexed, he puts it back. We already know this is one area we could use help with; indexing. There must be others for our society.

Shirley Hodges stated she plans a Writers Group meeting on Saturday July 14th at 10am, and from that point, will plan one every other month.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 9, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Shirley Hodges that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Becky Kendall. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Copenhaver, Recording Secretary