

INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

8 August 2015 – 10:00 am EDT

Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, Plainfield, Indiana

Officers' Contact Information:

President – Michael Maben
1212 Barnes Drive
Bloomington, IN 47491-8666

Vice President – Vacant

Recording Secretary – Adam Walters
0N576 Marks Place
Geneva, IL 60134-6011

Corresponding Secretary – Ron Darrah
8126 Bittern Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46256-1780

Treasurer – Meredith Thompson
1455 Cherry Tree Road
Avon, IN 46123

Immediate Past President – Curt Witcher
7525 Linde Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46815-5631

Board Members in Attendance: Michael Maben, Ron Darrah, Meredith Thompson, Connie Conrad and Randi Richardson.

Guests: Donna Adams (Indiana County Genealogist Program Co-Coordinator; Library Staff Educational Scholarship Chair); Matt LaFlash (Publicity Chair); Linda Malooley (Chapters Manager); Marlene Polster (Indiana County Genealogist Program Co-Coordinator).

Board Members Absent: Sue Caldwell, Lisa Swanson Ellam, Corasue Hatton, Nichelle Hayes, Barbara Kirkpatrick, Mike Lewman, Julie Schlesselman, Rhonda Stoffer and Adam Walters.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

President Michael Maben called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Because there were not enough members present for a quorum, the meeting was declared to be an executive session. Because Adam Walters could not attend, Meredith Thompson volunteered to take the minutes.

Welcome of New Board Members

Matt LaFlash, Publicity Chair, and Linda Malooley, Chapters Manager, were introduced.

Approval of Agenda

Michael Maben moved to approve the agenda. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Ron Darrah moved to approve the minutes of the May board meeting. Meredith Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Financial Reports

The Treasurer submitted the financial report. Linda Malooley initiated a discussion of the liability insurance listed in the Budget vs. Actual portion of the report. Michael Maben moved to accept the financial report. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Confirmation of next meeting date** – 31 October 2015 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Curt Witcher has indicated the library will offer extended research hours on Friday, October 30.
 - Next five meeting dates
 - 31 October 2015: Fort Wayne
 - 30 January 2016: Plainfield
 - 16 April 2016: Fort Wayne (Annual Meeting)
 - 7 May 2016: Plainfield
 - 6 August 2016: Plainfield
- **Executive Committee Actions** - Because the meeting was an executive session, no votes were taken on the executive committee's actions.
- **Online meeting software** - Meredith Thompson submitted a report on her findings about various vendors, with the recommendation to use GoToMeeting. Linda Malooley also gave a positive recommendation to this, noting that the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society has utilized it. Ron Darrah moved to have IGS sign up for the 30-day free trial of GoToMeeting and then do a test run of it sometime in the fall. Michael Maben seconded. Motion passed.
- **Northwest District Director** - Michael Maben announced that Barbara Kirkpatrick has submitted her resignation as Northwest District Director due to health issues and Lou Ann Clugh, the Indiana County Genealogist for Tippecanoe County, has volunteered to take over the position. Ron Darrah moved to appoint Lou Ann Clugh as Northwest District Director. Meredith Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

- **Financial Review for 2014** - Meredith Thompson presented CPA Carrie Hanni's findings, which included an urgent recommendation to change the IGS bylaws regarding the word "audit" being used in connection with the information presented at the annual meeting portion of the annual conference. Ron Darrah moved to accept the financial review for 2014. Michael Maben seconded. Motion passed.
- **New County Genealogists** - Marlene Polster presented information about the 2 nominations for new County Genealogists (Amanda Clark for Henry County and Nancy Strickland for Floyd County) as well as the nomination for a replacement County Genealogist for Dearborn County (Cassie Blankenhorn in place of Joyce Baer). The motion (which already came as a second from the Long Range Planning Committee) was passed.
- **Hendricks County Probate Records Project proposals:**
 1. Purchase of 35 Flip-Top Archival Boxes - Ron moved to allow \$300 for the purchase of the boxes needed to complete the transfer of the collection from the courthouse. Michael Maben seconded. Motion passed.
 2. Digitizing of Folders by Internet Archive - The group discussed Meredith's report, including some of the issues others have had working with FamilySearch. Matt LaFlash gave a positive recommendation to Internet Archive, reporting on what he had observed of their digitization efforts during the time he worked for the Allen County Public Library, and also noted the potential to do lots of publicity surrounding the completed project. The lack of other "shovel-ready" projects in the state was also discussed, particularly in regards to the state's bicentennial in 2016, and the society's \$112,000 in assets was also noted. Discussion was also made as to having 3-4 smaller receipts combined into one image when they are scanned. After much discussion, Ron Darrah moved to designate this project as a bicentennial project for IGS and to move forward with plans to contract with Internet Archive to do the digitizing. Michael Maben seconded. The motion passed. Because this would be a large expenditure, Michael will contact the members of the board who were not present to get a consensus of their approval before any contract would be signed. In the meantime, Meredith will give Internet Archive 2 or 3 folders of varying degrees of difficulty to scan as a "test", which they will do at no charge.
- **Other new business**
 1. Vice President - Marlene Polster, who previously served as Corresponding Secretary and was also previously the Publications Committee chair, has volunteered for the vacant position of Vice President. Michael Maben moved to appoint Marlene. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

Michael Maben adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:03 pm.
Michael reconvened the meeting at 12:56 pm.

2. Indiana State Archives - In his past president's report, Curt Witcher reported that the Indiana State Archives staff is interested in doing an inventory of their materials before the collection is eventually moved to a new site. Jim Corridan thought that genealogists could be helpful to have as volunteers to help with this inventory. Curt wanted to know if IGS would be interested in promoting this volunteer opportunity, should it come to pass. The consensus of those present was to promote this, particularly to those who are in the Indianapolis area.

3. FamilySearch digitizing of microfilm - Curt Witcher's report also mentioned that FamilySearch is interested in digitizing their vast collection of microfilm (which includes some 20,000 rolls about Indiana), but their legal team has advised them that the agreements that were signed back when the records were microfilmed does not apply to them being digitized. Thus, new agreements will have to be made and permissions obtained from the custodians of those records - whether it be a county government official or a church or funeral home (which may have disbanded, merged, etc. since the original agreements back in the 1970's and 1980's). The state officials that would be involved could benefit from the connections IGS has on the local level, as well as the sense of goodwill. We discussed some of the "bad blood" that may exist between FamilySearch and those on the local level, particularly in reference to the Indiana marriage records, and how IGS, through its network of board and committee members as well as Indiana County Genealogists, may have a more personal connection to local officials to make them see the positives of such a digitization agreement. The consensus was to tell Curt we would be interested in helping to promote the digitization agreement and to assist in procuring the necessary signatures when possible.

4. Ron Darrah's list of digitization projects - Ron reported he has only received a few suggestions for collections that IGS could assist in being digitized and online by the state's bicentennial. Suggestions are still being accepted.

Continuing Business:

1. Ancestry Day in Indianapolis, November 2015 - Michael Maben reported he has heard nothing further from Jim Corridan about this proposed event, including the reception that IGS agreed to co-sponsor.

2. Orange County/Jasper County digitization update - Randi Richardson has no update on this project. There was a technical discussion about converting her JPG files of the Orange County will book into PDF files, so it could be given to the county clerk and library and also placed on the IGS website.

3. Bylaws/Standing Rules revisions - Meredith Thompson presented a report with 4 proposed changes to the bylaws. These 4 proposals concern: 1) the changing of memberships from being calendar year (always expiring December 31) to 12 months from time of purchase; 2) the elimination of joint membership as a membership category; 3) the elimination of the "audit" term in the language about the annual meeting portion of the conference and 4) the elimination of the requirements for President & Vice-President

that they be a resident of Indiana and have previously served on the board in order to be eligible to run for these positions. Per our existing bylaws, no vote is needed by the board to accept these proposals, they are just to be presented to the membership for a vote. Per the existing bylaws, Ron Darrah, as Corresponding Secretary, is tasked with arranging for these proposals to be sent to the full membership for a vote, and will also include a rationale for these proposed changes. In order for these changes to be adopted, there must be a 2/3 approval among those ballots that are returned, and they can then go into effect before our annual conference if the proposal explicitly states this.

4. 2017 conference - At the May board meeting, it was decided to hold this at the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. Michael Maben will find out what the date of the Ohio Genealogical Society's 2017 conference is, so we will not conflict with it. He will also contact Nichelle Hayes, who works with the Indianapolis library, to see if we can find out if the library has any events already scheduled for April 2017.

5. Future conferences beyond 2017 - Lisa Swanson Ellam had reported that the Wabash County society is interested in hosting a future conference. There was discussion about possibly having them host a smaller event - like a workshop or seminar - as a test run and also because this event could happen in 2016 (keeping in mind the need to avoid conflicting with Midwestern Roots in 2016 as well as the FGS conference in Springfield, Illinois). Michael Maben moved to investigate the possibility of holding an event in Wabash County sometime in 2016. Ron Darrah seconded. The motion was passed. Michael will talk to Curt Witcher about existing 2016 events in northern Indiana and possible speakers.

Reports - several reports were not submitted. Of those reports that had been submitted, discussion was waived.

Adjournment – Michael Maben adjourned the meeting at 2:23 PM.