

INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

31 October 2015 – 10:00 am EDT

Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Officers' Contact Information:

President – Michael Maben  
1212 Barnes Drive  
Bloomington, IN 47491

Vice President – Marlene Polster  
1437 W. 97th Ave.  
Crown Point, IN 46307

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

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

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

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

Board Members in Attendance: Michael Maben, Marlene Polster, Adam Walters, Meredith Thompson\*, Curt Witcher, Connie Conrad, Sue Caldwell, Corasue Hatton, Rhonda Stoffer, Lou Ann Clugh, and Randi Richardson.

Guests: Amy Johnson Crow (IGS Social Media); Mauri Stotts Pratt\* (Legislative Chair); Matt LaFlash\* (Publicity Chair); Linda Malooley\* (Chapters Manager);

Board Members Absent:, Ron Darrah, Lisa Swanson Ellam, Nichelle Hayes, Mike Lewman, Julie Schlesselman,

\* Remote attendance through GoToMeeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

President Michael Maben called the meeting to order at 10:12a.m. This was the first meeting that remote attendance was possible through GoToMeeting software. Four attendees successfully used the web conferencing software to attend the meeting.

Welcome to New Board Members

Lou Ann Clugh, Northwest District Director, was introduced.

### Approval of Agenda

Sue Caldwell moved to approve the agenda. Marlene Polster seconded. Motion passed.

### Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Corasue Hatton moved to approve the minutes of the August board meeting. Rhonda Stoffer seconded. Motion passed.

### Approval of Financial Reports

The Treasurer emailed the financial reports. Marlene Polster moved to accept the financial report Connie Conrad seconded. Motion passed.

### New Business

- **Confirmation of next meeting date** – 30 January 2016 at the Plainfield Public Library
  - Next five meeting dates
    - 30 January 2016: Plainfield
    - 16 April 2016: Fort Wayne (Annual Meeting)
    - 7 May 2016: Plainfield
    - 6 August 2016: Plainfield
    - 29 October 2016: Fort Wayne
  
- **Executive Committee Actions**
  1. Approval of endorsing the nomination of the Hoosier State Chronicles for the “Outstanding Bicentennial Collaborative Project” award given by the Indiana Historical Society – 4 yes, 0 no
  2. Approval of 2 May 2015 Board meeting minutes – 3 yes, 0 no
  3. Approval of 8 August Board meeting financial reports – 3 yes, 0 no
  4. Online meeting software—adoption of Meredith’s report and the 30-day free trial of GoToMeeting – 3 yes, 0 no
  5. Northwest District Director – appointment of Lou Ann Clugh – 3 yes, 0 no
  6. Financial Review for 2014, acceptance of report – 3 yes, 0 no
  7. New County Genealogists (motion and second from the Long Range Planning Committee): Amanda Clark (Henry County); Nancy Strickland (Floyd County); Cassie M. Blankenship (Dearborn County, replacing Joyce Baer) – 3 yes, 0 no
  8. Hendricks County Probate Records project: a) Purchase of 35 Flip-Top Archival Boxes (\$300) – 3 yes, 0 no; b) Digitizing of Folders by Internet Archive – 3 yes, 0 no (this will be discussed and voted on under continuing business – see below)
  9. Appointment of Marlene Polster as Vice-President – 3 yes, 0 no

Michael Maben moved to accept each of the Executive Committee Actions above. All nine actions passed.

- **Budget proposal for 2016** - The Treasurer emailed the Budget Proposal for 2016, which as written, has a surplus of \$3,410. Details are included in the report. Curt Witcher suggested that the Board be open to future projects that may be outside the proposed budget as IGS currently has a healthy reserve. Corasue Hatton moved to approve the proposed 2016 budget. Sue Caldwell seconded. Motion passed.
- **New County Genealogist** - Scholarship recipient Paul McNeil, Reference Librarian at the Hancock County Public Library, to become the Hancock County Genealogist. The motion (which already came as a second from the Long Range Planning Committee) was passed.
- **Member's Only Section of Website** – Randi Richardson reported unauthorized use of the IGS member's only website. It was decided that Michael Maben will request Meredith Thompson and Amy Johnson Crow to investigate options to strengthen the authentication to the member's only portion of the IGS website and return with a proposal.
- **Education/Events Coordinator** – Michael Maben was approached by a volunteer who is potentially interested in the open positions. After discussion at this meeting, it was proposed to eliminate the Events Coordinator position. A vote to remove the position will be taken at the next Board meeting. Michael Maben will contact other Genealogical Societies to better understand and define the potential role of the IGS Education Coordinator position. Though the position has not been filled recently, it appears to be in line with the core mission and might include coordination of webinars.
- **Other New Business**
  - Elections for Southern District Directors and the At Large District Director will be held next year. Michael Maben will appoint a Nominating Person/Committee.
  - Linda Malooley made a request to add a line to the individual membership application/renewal to allow members to note if they are members of local Societies. This would help with the names of the ten IGS members needed for continued IGS chapter membership. Michael Maben will discuss the proposal with Meredith Thompson. Also, Linda inquired if there is a way to get a list and contact information of the Societies that are paid IGS members. Linda would like to contact these groups about the benefits of becoming a chapter. Curt Witcher can provide this list.

- Linda Malooley inquired if GoToMeeting is accepted by IGS, can the use of the tool be offered to the IGS Chapters as a benefit? There could be a fee associated with the use, but this would be a valuable Chapter benefit. Michael Maben will check with Meredith Thompson as she set up the software.

### Continuing Business

1. **Hendricks County Probate Records Project proposal** (Digitizing of Folders). At the previous August Board meeting, it was 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. The motion passed. Because this is a large expenditure, Michael was to contact the members of the Board who were not present to get a consensus of their approval before any contract would be signed. During this Board meeting, there was a discussion of alternative digitalization options and whether it was feasible to scale the project over multiple years. It was agreed not to approve funding at this time, and allow Meredith Thompson and Curt Witcher the opportunity to explore Family Search and other options to digitize the records.
2. **Ancestry day – Indianapolis.** The current working date is April 30, 2016. IGS will co-sponsor the event and help fund the cost of the reception the evening prior to the event. The event has been well attended in the past.
3. **State Archives update** – Involved parties are negotiating a location in downtown Indianapolis, possibly a decision by year end. Currently some preliminary requirements gathering and architectural plans are occurring.
4. **Wabash County site visit** – Michael Maben visited the Wabash County Historical Museum in Wabash, Indiana. They expressed interest in hosting an IGS conference in the future. Michael reported the center is very professional with good technology. The center may be too small for the IGS conference, but has potential for smaller events. Please visit if you are in the area.
5. **2016 Conference and Annual Meeting – Fort Wayne.** Current proposal: main speaker and topics (Jeanne Larzalere Bloom) sponsored by IGS; and Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI), with the support of the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, to fund an additional national level speaker (Jen Baldwin). In exchange for underwriting the second track national-level speaker, the ACGSI has requested to be recognized in all publicity for and about the 2016 IGS Conference. ACGSI also would like to reserve the prerogative to choose

Ms. Baldwin's topics, and they will ensure attention is paid to avoid conflict with the topics IGS picks for the other national-level speaker. There was significant interest in the two speaker proposal. Lou Ann Clugh moved to accept the proposal. Marlene Polster seconded. Motion passed.

6. **2017 Conference and Annual Meeting – Indianapolis.** Discussion of the date for the event resulted in a proposal for April 1 or April 8, 2017 at the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. Michael Maben will contact Nichelle Hayes, who works with the Indianapolis library, to determine if the library has any events already scheduled for these dates.

Michael Maben adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:55 p.m.  
Michael reconvened the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

7. **Orange County/Jasper County digitization update.** Randi Richardson submitted Paoli Will book images to Meredith Thompson to be published on the IGS website.
8. **Bylaws/Standing Rules revisions.** The four amendments passed with greater than two thirds vote of the ballots cast. See Curt Witcher's email for details. The amendments concerning memberships may take effect at the end of the calendar year to avoid confusion with current year memberships.
9. **Other Continuing Business.** A proposal was made to develop an agreement between IGS and FindMyPast to link "IGS Newsletter" and "Indiana Genealogist" journals to the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) online. Curt Witcher previously emailed and handed out paper copies of a sample agreement. Carrying on from a general discussion of this topic in the past, Curt would like to move forward if the board concurs. It is an opportunity for increased exposure as well as a possible revenue generator over time. It was agreed that Curt should pursue negotiations with FindMyPast, assuming publications from the current and proceeding year would be included in the initial agreement. Curt will return to the Board with a negotiated proposal for review by the Board.

Reports – Of the submitted reports, discussion was waived, except these additions:

East Central District – Corasue Hatton – Corasue worked with Paul McNeil, new Hancock County Genealogist at the Hancock County Public Library and invites Hancock County researchers to stop by. Matt LaFlash (Publicity) will ensure notifications go out to announce Paul McNeil's new position as County Genealogist. Rush County Genealogist position may be open, and follow up/clarification may be required.

South Central District – Randi Richardson - Indiana State Library will make newspaper microfilm available to Orange County, who may purchase a new reader. Randi Richardson plans to attend the Owen County Genealogical Society meeting in two weeks.

Adjournment – Michael Maben adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.