

INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

30 January 2016 – 10:00 AM EDT

Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, Plainfield, 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, Ron Darrah, Meredith Thompson, Curt Witcher, Lou Ann Clugh\*, Rhonda Stoffer\*, Mike Lewman, Corasue Hatton, Donna Adams, Randi Richardson and Sue Caldwell

Guests: Linda Malooley (Chapters); Curt Sylvester (Honors & Awards); Mauri Stotts Pratt (Legislative); Rachel Popma (Publications); Matt LaFlash\* (Publicity); Amy Johnson Crow\* (IGS Social Media)

Board Members Absent: Lisa Swanson Ellam, Nichelle Hayes, Julie Schlesselman,

\* Remote attendance through GoToMeeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

President Michael Maben called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. This was the second 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

Curt Sylvester was introduced as the new Awards Chair

Prior to addressing the meeting agenda, there was a moment of silence to honor our respected Board member and Southwest District Director, Connie Conrad.

#### Approval of Agenda

Curt Witcher moved to approve the agenda. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

#### Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Curt Witcher moved to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2015 board meeting. Marlene Polster seconded. Motion passed.

#### Approval of Financial Reports

The Treasurer emailed the financial reports. Sue Caldwell moved to accept the financial report, Curt Witcher seconded. Motion passed.

#### New Business

- **Confirmation of next meeting date** – 7 May 2016 at the Plainfield Public Library
  - Next five meeting dates
    1. 16 April 2016: Fort Wayne (at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting)
    2. 7 May 2016: Plainfield
    3. 6 August 2016: Plainfield
    4. 29 October 2016: Fort Wayne
    5. 28 January 2017: Plainfield
  
- **Executive Committee Actions**
  - Approval of Donna Adams filling out Connie Conrad's term as the South West District Director – 5 yes, 0 no;
  
  - Curt Witcher moved to accept the Executive Committee Action above. Marlene Polster seconded. Motion passed.
  
- **New County Genealogists** (comes as a motion and second from the Long Range Planning Committee)
  1. Emily Noffke – Monroe County
  2. Brian Spangle – Knox County
  - Marlene Polster discussed the nominations. Motion passed.
  
- **Grant applications** – Ten new grant applications were submitted and eight were approved.

#### Resource Development

1. Newspaper Microfilm – Lawrence Co. Historical & Genealogical Society

2. Schools of Kosciusko Co. 1835–1975 – Kosciusko Co. Historical Society
3. County Cemeteries Guide Book – Monroe Co. History Center
4. World War I Veterans Book – Whitley County Historical Society

Curt Witcher made a motion to approve these four grants. Sue Caldwell seconded. Motion passed.

#### Cemetery Restoration

1. Hurd Cemetery Restoration – Gen. Club of Montgomery Co.

Curt Witcher made a motion to approve this grant. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

#### Chapter Resource

1. Video Library Creation – Wabash Valley Genealogy Society

Curt Witcher made a motion to approve this grant. Ron Darrah seconded. Motion passed.

#### Bi-Centennial Grants

1. Franklin Twp., Montgomery Co. Cemetery Index Project – Gen. Club of Montgomery Co.
2. WVGS Education Program Outreach – Wabash Valley Genealogy Society

Ron Darrah made a motion to approve these two grants. Curt Witcher seconded. Motion passed.

Michael Maben reported he received reports from two previous Grant recipients stating they had successfully carried out the work described in the Grants, and appreciated the support provided by the IGS.

- 2015 - Thornton Cemetery Restoration Project – Jefferson County Genealogical Society
- 2014 – Organization and Indexing of Monroe County Oral History Records – Monroe County Historical Society

#### • **Award Nominations**

1. The award for Outstanding Genealogical Contribution will be presented to Carlene Willings
2. The award for Distinguished County Genealogical Service will be presented to Loran Ralph Braught
3. Ron Darrah presented the list of inductees for the Territorial Guard and the SCWFI.
4. Two applicants were approved for the Library Staff Educational Scholarship: Deana Juday - Mishawaka – Penn- Harris Public Library, Mishawaka, Indiana and Janice Kistler – Morgan County Public Library, Martinsville, Indiana

All of the above awards were approved by the board.

- **Election ballot for 2016** – Elections for the Southwest, South Central, Southeast Districts, and At Large District expire April, 2016. Marge Graham (Elections & Nominations) reported the with the exception of the SE District, the ballot for the districts has nominees. The committee remains open to recommendations for the SE District. The board approved the ballot w/o a nominee for the SE District.
- **Membership Management Software** – Meredith Thompson presented a proposal to obtain a software subscription to improve the management of the various membership processes. The software will reduce numerous manual processes through automation, and improve the experience for members who use the IGS web site. The software will also address a web site security concern brought up at the October 2015 board meeting. The 2016 budget includes \$500 for the expense of membership management software. The purchase of the Wild Apricot software subscription is expected to cost \$1560 per year, based on the number of members in the organization. Meredith Thompson made a motion to approve the software subscription. Curt Witcher seconded. Motion passed.
- **Grants proposal** – The Grants program eligibility is limited to genealogy societies & historical societies who are IRS tax-exempt. Indiana has many libraries (public, academic and otherwise) and local archives that have a genealogy collection but don't have access to unlimited funding. Meredith Thompson made a proposal to expand the eligibility for IGS genealogy grants so that it covers genealogy groups, historical groups, libraries and archives in Indiana - anyone who operates as a tax-exempt organization. This change would go into effect for the next round of grants (application deadline December 31, 2016). Meredith Thompson made a motion to approve the expansion of eligibility for IGS Grants. Randi Richardson seconded. Motion passed.

Guidelines for Grants may require updating to allow potential applicants to understand the new changes for the next year

Michael Maben adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:02 PM.

Michael reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM.

- **Kahle Family Foundation Grant to IGS** – A Grant of \$2000 was presented to IGS. Board members are requested to consider specific proposals and to be prepared to reach a decision at the next Board meeting in May. At that time, a news blast will be published.
- **IGS Chapter benefits discussion** – Linda Malooley led a discussion of how IGS might incentivize Chapters to join IGS and perceive benefit from the relationship. Currently Chapters are required to have ten subscribed members to become

recognized by IGS. A few of the ideas included allowing Chapters to utilize IGS GoToMeeting subscription for their local needs, creating an Active Calendar on the IGS web site that includes activities for local Chapters, and sponsoring local Chapter events. No decision was reached.

- **Sponsorship opportunity – South Bend Area Genealogical Society** – A proposal was made by Lisa Ellam to show support for the SBAGS conference. The 2016 Spring Conference (SBAGS) on March 19, 2016 in South Bend. Discussion led to consideration of a one-year membership to IGS as a door prize. Curt Witcher made a motion to approve the sponsorship opportunity. Marlene Polster seconded. Motion passed.

### Continuing Business

- **Webinars – response from the Illinois State Genealogical Society** – Michael Maben reviewed an email from Thomas MacEntee (ISGS) regarding their successful experience hosting webinars. ISGS indicates the webinars program has tripled memberships since 2011. The webinars are hosted on the GoToWebinar platform. They have reached a sponsorship agreement with Family Search. Michael will continue discussions with a volunteer who is interested in the IGS Education Chair position and report back at the next Board meeting.
- **GoToMeeting software** – A discussion ensued regarding the GoToMeeting software which was used by several members at the October 31 Board Meeting and the January 30, 2016 meeting. This allows meeting participants to phone into the meeting if the weather is poor or they are otherwise unable to travel to the meeting. It may also have use for IGS committee meetings. The subscription cost is \$49 per month and can be canceled at any time. Michael Maben moved to move forward with the subscription. Curt Witcher seconded. Motion passed.
- **Bylaws/Standing Rules revisions** – The members approved changing the Bylaws last fall. There was a discussion to change the Standing Rules to bring them into compliance with the revised Bylaws concerning IGS Membership, specifically, Section A. Dues and Fees. The proposed changes are:
  - 1. **Update text** - The membership year shall start from the date of membership purchase and run for 12 months
  - 2. **No change**
  - 3. **Delete this bullet** - Dues for Joint Membership shall be \$35.00 (\$45.00 foreign)
  - 4. **No change**

Meredith Thompson made a motion to approve the Standing Rules revisions. Curt Witcher seconded. Motion passed.

- **Hendricks County Probate Records project** – Continuing discussion from the October 31, 2015 Board meeting, Meredith Thompson and Curt Witcher updated the

Board. Curt is working closely with Family Search to find a solution that is both cost effective and will bring the project to a close. Curt indicated Family Search is interested in the possibility of scanning Probate records from multiple Counties. Curt is requesting the opportunity to follow up with Family Search to determine if details can be negotiated. He will inform Michael Maben of progress and report at the next Board meeting.

- **FindMyPast proposal** – Continuing discussion from the previous Board meeting, Curt Witcher updated the Board on the proposed agreement between IGS and FindMyPast to link “IGS Newsletter” and “Indiana Genealogist” journals to the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) online. Curt reviewed the draft agreement. Based on the discussion, Curt will update the draft agreement and resume discussions with FindMyPast contacts. Curt will keep Michael Maben updated on progress.
- **2016 Conference and Annual Meeting update** – 16 April 2016, Fort Wayne (Allen County Public Library) – Two national tracks are planned for the conference - Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, sponsored by IGS and Jen Baldwin, sponsored by ACGCI. The schedule is coming together and is expected to be published in February.
- **2017 Conference and Annual Meeting update** – 8 April 2017, Indianapolis (Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library). Michael Maben worked with Nichelle Hayes to secure space at the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library’s downtown facility. Ideas and suggestions for speakers should be forwarded to Michael Maben or Nichelle Hayes

### **New Business**

- Ron Darrah has two cameras in storage that are seven years old. There are a few accessories with the cameras. The cameras are not tracked property and are deemed end of life. After discussion, the Board authorized disposal of the cameras and accessories at Ron’s discretion.

Reports – Of the submitted reports, discussion was waived

Adjournment – Michael Maben adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.