



Indiana Genealogical Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Marion County Genealogical Society Office

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2022, Curt Sylvester, IGS President, called the IGS Board of Directors meeting to order. This meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in person:

Sue Caldwell, Lou Ann Clugh, Jill Cobb, Ron Darrah, Kaye Ford, Janet Mobley, and Curt Sylvester.

Attendance online:

Donna Adams, Diana Brumfield, Anne Hager, Susan Heider, Elizabeth Hodges, Michael Maben, Marlene Polster, Allison Singleton, and Rhonda Stoffer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Sue Caldwell moved and Janet Mobley seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

MOTION: Lou Ann Clugh moved and Kaye Ford seconded that the Minutes of the January 29, 2022 Board Meeting be approved. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION: Rhonda Stoffer moved and Lou Ann Clugh seconded the acceptance of the financial report and that it be filed for annual financial examination. The motion passed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rhonda Stoffer, Immediate Past-President, reported that there were no actions of the Executive Committee since the last Board meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

06 August 2022	Plainfield
29 October 2022	Fort Wayne
21 January 2023	Plainfield

Next meeting will depend on dates for Annual Meeting and Conference

UPDATE OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Rhonda Stoffer, Immediate Past-President, reported that the 2022 Annual Meeting was held on April 2, 2022. There were 206 people logged on during the meeting. Minutes of that meeting have been sent to all IGS Board members. New officers and directors were introduced, award and grants were presented, and inductions for the lineage societies took place.

UPDATE OF 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Michael Maben, chair of the Annual Conference Committee, reported that Friday's session had 533 unique users logged in during the day. Allison did an online presentation on the 1950 census that had just been released that day. The reviews for the day were very good. Six door prizes were given.

Saturday's session had 539 unique users logged in during the day with very good reviews. Seventy-nine individuals requested LEU certification and all have been emailed to the individuals. Ten door prizes were given. Our Treasurer has billed Vivid-Pix, our sponsor, for the fee for David Lambert.

MIDWESTERN ROOTS July 15-16, 2022

It was agreed that IGS would have a booth at the Midwestern Roots to be held at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis on July 15-16, 2022. Marlene Polster will create a brochure to promote Indiana County Genealogists. Additional brochures will be printed of our IGS brochure. Volunteers for this event will be Ron Darah, Janet Mobley, Jill Cobb, and Curt Sylvester.

STATE ARCHIVES UPDATE

Michael Maben reported that he had heard of no updates on the State Archives since the June 15 announcement that the archives would be placed on the property next to the canal across from the state library.

AGENDA REFERRED FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING:

HEISS AWARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Sue Caldwell reported that the committee was appointed at the 29 January 2022 Board meeting to review the Willard Heiss Award and bring a recommendation to the April 30, 2022 Board meeting. Based upon discussions, consultation, and research, the Heiss Award Committee makes the following motion:

MOTION: The Heiss Award Committee moves that the Willard Heiss Award be discontinued as an award of the Indiana Genealogical Society. In addition, all references to this award should be deleted from the IGS Website and all IGS documents and publications. The motion was by the appointed committee. The motion passed.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR IGS POSITIONS

There were no recommendations or appointments at this time.

CONTINUING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FAMILYSEARCH PROJECT

Rhonda Stoffer reported that she met in February, via Zoom, with John de Jong and Rob Jackson, the new Family Search contact person. The LDS missionaries are returning to the field and their next work will be in the counties of Putnam, Johnson, and Dearborn. They scan information prior to 1930. Rhonda has passed the information on to Curt Sylvester, who as the new IGS President, will be the contact person for this project.

HENDRICKS COUNTY PROBATE RECORDS PROJECT

Rhonda Stoffer reported that there has been no response from the Hendricks County Clerk. The hard drives with files have been given to Curt Sylvester. We do not have the first batch of probate files on a hard drive; they are on the AWS storage. Heather Henderson was working to download those, but we have had no contact from her. I have sent her a letter. The files are on the website and are available for free for everyone to access. The original files are stored at the Plainfield Library.

MOTION: Rhonda Stoffer moved and Lou Ann Clugh seconded that the files on the hard drives be uploaded to a secure cloud storage, the drive be stored in the IGS box at ACPL, and the project be considered closed. The motion passed.

RECORDING SECRETARY POSITION

Curt Sylvester stated that this position has not yet been filled. He will continue to serve in this capacity until a new person is appointed. He asked for names of persons who might fill this position.

CLOUD STORAGE

Susan Heider reported that some data needs to be in long-term Archival Cold storage and some needs to be in Box.com. It was reported that approximately 7-8 people will be utilizing the Box.com. It was also stated that IGS needs to consult with a professional to determine the best storage.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE

Susan Heider reported that Google Workspace is being used for records sharing and communication among members of the IGS Board.

IGS EMAILS

Susan Heider reported that approximately fifty people associated with IGS have been assigned an Indygenes.org email address.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Kaye Ford, Membership Committee chair, reported that as of 27 April 2022, there were 850 IGS members (824 members + 26 life members).

There have been 160 new and renewal memberships thus far in 2022.

Renewal notices have been sent to those whose membership expired in September and October of 2021. For those whose membership expired in November 2021, renewal notices will be sent by May 1. For those whose membership expired in December 2021, renewal notices will be sent by May 15.

HISTORICAL FILES

It was reported that the IGS Historian is storing our historical items in Drop Box.

OURROOTS PROJECT

Rhonda Stoffer reported that the OurRoots Project is now considered dead. IGS did not contribute anything to the project. We did not have a formal relationship with OurRoots, we just talked to them about the proposed project and gave them initial feedback on what they had produced.

Heather Henderson was volunteering to try to help us download AWS files and was looking at our databases to see if she could help reformat them for a new website. She has not responded to emails for several months. I did send a letter to her last address as a member and will see if she responds.

ACCESS PASSWORDS

There was discussion of the need to back up for IGS-related codes and passwords.

MOTION: Sue Caldwell moved and Jill Cobb seconded that the IGS President, the IGS Treasurer, and an additional person be appointed by the IGS President to have copies of all passwords and access information for all IGS accounts including, but not limited to bank accounts, AWS, PayPal, Zoom, archival storage and other data storage. The motion passed.

WEBSITE

Webmaster Carla Cegielski provided a written report on the status of the website. After discussion, it was agreed the IGS website should be our high priority. The IGS President will hold Zoom meetings with the Board and other persons to create a plan for an entirely new website. These plans will then be presented to the entire IGS Board for review and approval.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Michael Maben, chair of the Annual Conference, reported that the IGS Board needs to decide:

1. Where to have the 2023 Conference (Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, or elsewhere)?
2. Who should be the main speaker?
3. Should the conference be in-person only, virtual only, or hybrid
4. The date – five Saturdays in April 2023 (1, 8, 15, 22, 29) Easter is April 9 and the OGS conference is April 26-29

After discussion, the following things were agreed to guide our future conferences:

1. The 2023 Conference will be held at Fort Wayne; the locations of future conference being held at other locations around state will be discussed at a future meeting
2. The dates for the conference: First choice: April 01; second choice: April 22
3. The conference will be hybrid with in person at Fort Wayne and also Zoom
4. The speaker is to be in person at Fort Wayne
5. Speaker: Michael will discuss recommendations for a speaker with Curt Witcher and report back to the IGS Board
6. Those attending the conference should pay a fee; no more free seminars paid by sponsors
7. Friday topics to be determined later; Possible Jewish genealogy session on Friday
8. For the technology needed for in-person and Zoom, microphones, cameras, etc. hire professionals to perform this task.

QUERIES TO THE WEBSITE

Queries that come to the website will be forwarded by the Webmaster to the IGS President. If the queries are specific to research on the IGS website, the President will forward those to Janet Mobley.

IGS REVIEW AND VISIONING

The document known as IGS Review and Visioning was reviewed. These items along with others will become the topic of Zoom interest sessions to which all IGS Board members will be invited. Out of these Zoom sessions, recommendations for future action will be made to the IGS Board.

35th ANNIVERSARY OF IGS - 21 April 2024

Curt Sylvester reported that April 21, 2024 will be the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of IGS. It was suggested that we attempt to create a history of IGS by that time and that there be a celebration of our Anniversary. This celebration could be a part of our Annual Business Meeting and Conference. It was also suggested that this date could be a goal for completion of all our updating projects.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Curt Sylvester reviewed a document entitled “Proposal for District Meetings” that had been included in the IGS shared document folder. This was a concept of hold in-person meetings in the nine IGS districts in Indiana for education and recruitment of Indiana County Genealogists. This was referred to be discussed by future Zoom interest groups.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

All officers had filed written reports.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Reports had been filed by seven District Directors. Some had questions for clarification.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Reports of the various Standing Committees had been placed in the shared folder for review prior to the meeting. The following had discussion and some had motions:

COUNTY GENEALOGIST COMMITTEE

The report of the Indiana County Genealogist Committee was discussed since it had proposals for changes and updates. There was agreement that these updates would be helpful. This was referred back to the Indiana County Genealogist Committee for further review and to bring the changes and updates to the Board for approval.

MOTION: Marlene Polster moved and Jill Cobb seconded that Marlene Polster be authorized to send a letter via United States Postal Mail to those County Genealogists who had been inactive stated that their appointments were terminated. The four to receive the termination letters were: Diana Biddle of Brown County; Kathy Knight Wade of Washington County; Heather Lynn Allen of Wabash County; Margaret Dilbone of Steuben County; and Debbie Warren of Vermillion County. The motion passed.

LIBRARY STAFF EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Donna Adams, chair of the Library Staff Educational Scholarship Committee, reported that due to the restrictions of COVID-19, some previous recipients had been unable to use their scholarship. She reported that recipient Sarah Wright, of the Plainfield Guilford-Township Public Library is now registered and will be attending the NGS conference May 24-28, 2022. Sarah Wright also reported that the award to the library was used toward the publication of a book titled 50 Historic Buildings of Plainfield, Indiana: The Places and People.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Kaye Ford, chair of the Publications Committee, reported that all four publications are now being produced on scheduled. It was discussed that the contracts are up for review and that the contracts will be reviewed and updated prior to signing new contracts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Lou Ann Clugh moved and Janet Mobley seconded that the Board meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 2:22p.m.

Curt Sylvester
IGS Recording Secretary