



**INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2023 10 AM**

**PLAINFIELD-GUILFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA**

CALL TO ORDER At 10:17 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2023, Curt Sylvester, IGS President, called the IGS Board of Directors Meeting to order. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom. It began late due to technical difficulties.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in person: Sue Caldwell, Ron Darrah, Kaye Ford, Janet Mobley, and Curt Sylvester.

Attendance via Zoom: Donna Adams, Jennifer Alford, Anne Hager, Susan Heider, Elizabeth Hodges, Allison Singleton, Rhonda Stoffer, and Sharon Whetstone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Donna Adams moved and Rhonda Stoffer seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

MOTION: Sue Caldwell moved and Rhonda Stoffer seconded that the Minutes of the October 29, 2022, Board Meeting be approved. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION: Sharon Whetstone moved and Allison Singleton seconded the acceptance of the Financial Report. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION: Sue Caldwell reported that AmazonSmile program would be discontinued as of January 31, 2023. The loss of donations from this program is minimal at less than \$25.00 annually. Curt Sylvester noted that the Profit & Loss statement for previous year needs to be sent to the membership prior to the Annual Conference, as well as other documents per the Bylaws. These must be sent by March 1, 2023. Susan Heider, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Curt Sylvester, President, reported that there were no actions of the Executive Committee since the last Board Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO IGS POSITIONS

Curt Sylvester, President, reported that he had appointed Kaye Ford as Recording Secretary. The resignations of two District Directors were also reported: Jill Cobb, Central District Director, and Kaye Ford, East-Central District Director.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None reported.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

1 April 2023	Annual Conference and Seminar in Fort Wayne, Ind.
29 April 2023	Plainfield, Ind.
29 July 2023	Plainfield, Ind.
28 October 2023	Fort Wayne, Ind.

MOTION: Sue Caldwell moved and Anne Hager seconded the approval of the Board Meeting dates for 2023. The motion passed.

MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE (EDITORIAL REVIEW)

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EDITORIAL CHANGES FOR CLARIFICATION: The following document was sent at the end of December 2022 to all IGS members. After reviewing the document, an IGS member suggested some editorial changes for clarification. The three suggested changes are in Motion 4, Sections 2, 3, and 4. They do not change the motion but clarify the intent. This is presented to the Board to authorize the editorial changes before this document is sent to the IGS membership for vote. Rhonda Stoffer moved and Sharon Whetstone seconded to authorize editorial changes for clarification to Motion 4, Sections 1, 2, and 3. The motion passed.

MOTION 4: CREATE A NEW ARTICLE FOR AMENDING THE IGS BYLAWS:

The Board of Directors of the Indiana Genealogical Society moves to create a new article for amending the IGS Bylaws which would be stated as follows:

Section 1: Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed in writing by the Board of Directors or by petition of at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing. Proposed amendments shall include the exact wording and rationale for the proposal. The proposal shall be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Conference and provided to the IGS Board of Directors for review.

Section 2: The proposed amendment shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and voted on at any meeting of the IGS Board of Directors.

Section 3: Proposed amendments approved by the Board of Directors shall be sent by the Corresponding Secretary to every member of the Society at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Conference.

Section 4: Proposed amendments shall be voted upon by every member using ballot as provided in the Standing Rules. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of ballots received shall be required for adoption. An adopted amendment shall take effect at the close of the Annual Conference unless otherwise stipulated in the proposal.

MOTIONS REFERRED FROM THE OCTOBER 29, 2022, BOARD MEETING

MOTIONS 1-10: Janet Mobley moved and Sue Caldwell seconded to approve the ten motions referred from the October 29, 2022, Board Meeting. The motion passed.

MOTION 1: The Finance Committee moves that no IGS Board member may hold a paid contracted position while serving on the Board. This is to be added to the Standing Rules and Policies Manual.

MOTION 2: The Finance Committee moves that the Standing Rules be changed to state that the IGS Service Awards will be certificates instead of financial awards.

MOTION 3: The Finance Committee moves that the Standing Rules be changed to state that the writing award be a certificate instead of a financial award.

MOTION 4: The Finance Committee moves that the Standing Rules be changed to state that the IGS Electronic Database Award will be a certificate instead of a financial award.

MOTION 5: The Finance Committee moves that the Standing Rules be changed regarding the IGS Library Staff Educational Scholarship. In the future, the recipient will receive \$500 and the \$500 for the library will be eliminated.

MOTION 6: The Website Committee moves that the description for the Website Committee be approved for inclusion in the IGS Standing Rules. There was an amendment to include Section 10 from the Webmaster's job description in the description of the Website Committee.

MOTION 7: The Website Committee moves that the job description for the IGS Webmaster be approved for inclusion in the IGS Standing Rules.

MOTION 8: The Membership Committee moves that the description for the Membership Committee be approved and placed in the IGS Standing Rules.

MOTION 9: The Membership Committee moves that an IGS Life Membership category be open to members and nonmembers for five hundred dollars (\$500) (payable once), beginning 1 April 2023. An IGS Life Member will receive IGS members' only benefits the same as an individual membership, and those will continue for the remainder of that member's lifetime. The motion was amended to start on 1 April 2023 and conclude on 21 April 2024 as a part of the celebration of the 35th anniversary of IGS. A second amendment was to place a twenty-year limit on the membership. Amended motion reads that an IGS Life Membership category be open to members and nonmembers for five hundred dollars (\$500) (payable once), beginning 1 April 2023 through 21 April 2024 as a part of the celebration of the 35th anniversary of IGS. The term of the membership would be twenty years or the member's life, whichever is shorter.

MOTION 10: Rhonda Stoffer moved and Kaye Ford seconded that the IGS Publicity Committee be discontinued and funds for this committee in the budget be transferred to cover cost of promotions such as printing of brochures and rental of tables at other genealogical venues.

MOTIONS TABLED FROM THE OCTOBER 29, 2022, BOARD MEETING

MOTION (WITHDRAWN): Kaye Ford, IGS Publications Committee Chairperson, withdrew the motion to combine the *IGS Newsletter* Editor and Indiana News E-blast Editor positions.

MOTION (NEW): The IGS Publications Committee Chairperson moved that the monthly e-blast be continued as a duty of said Committee and be sent to those who have requested it. Donna Adams seconded. The motion passed.

MOTION (WITHDRAWN): Kaye Ford, IGS Publications Committee Chairperson, withdrew the motion that Indiana Genealogical Society accepts advertising in its publications.

MOTION (NEW): Rhonda Stoffer moved and Donna Adams seconded that the *IGS Newsletter* Editor can request reciprocal publicity of events from other nonprofit genealogical organizations. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Curt Sylvester, President, asked each of the officers to review their reports and discuss activities with which they had been involved since the last Board Meeting.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Curt Sylvester, President, called on each District Director to discuss their work since the last Board Meeting. It was noted that only five District Directors were in attendance and that only four had filed reports. Sylvester stated that attendance at Board Meetings needs to be better. Sylvester provided a document titled "PROPOSAL FOR NEW POSITION - Dean of the IGS District Directors." Discussion ensued with questions and suggestions (is there a better use of volunteer time for Directors; poll members about how IGS should spend our money; is there a reason for IGS to exist; do webinars (specific to Indiana); Ron Darrah to give brief presentation at 2023 Annual Conference on how to best modernize our Society, then send out survey. After discussion, it was decided to refer this proposal to the next meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Curt Sylvester, President, asked each chair of a standing committee to review their reports and activities since the last Board Meeting.

Annual Conference Committee had no report. Susan Heider, Treasurer, reported a budget of \$2,927.15 for the Annual Conference. A draft agenda was provided for review. The conference registration is active and on the IGS website homepage. Kaye Ford was noted as registrar. Discussion with Allison Singleton regarding technical aspects of hosting a hybrid conference ensued.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee continues its work on preparing amendments to the IGS Bylaws and Standing Rules for the IGS membership ballot to be sent by 1 March 2023. Discussion ensued regarding IGS' statewide presence and district events (see documents titled "IGS Statewide Presence" and "District Events"). IGS officers discussed test sites/events to attend, such as Ron Darrah in Dearborn County and upcoming genealogical events in Henry and Sullivan Counties.

Finance Committee report was presented earlier in the meeting's agenda. Susan Heider, Treasurer, reported that a designated fund for the IGS Website was set up. Curt Sylvester, President, proposed adding a designated fund for seminar income/expenses and a designated fund for program initiatives income/expenses. There was no consensus for a seminar designated fund. Discussion ensued regarding particulars of program initiatives and a designated fund for such, including where would those funds come from (grants/donations) and reimbursement for hotel and meal expenses when a Board member travels for IGS work. Of note, Susan Heider, Treasurer, does not agree with reimbursing hotel and meal expenses for IGS Board members. Rhonda Stoffer moved and Donna Adams seconded that a steering committee be established with a restricted fund created with external funding. The motion passed with Susan Heider abstaining.

Genealogical Service Awards and Honors Committee reported a nominee for the IGS Outstanding County Genealogical Contribution Award, Katheryn Schreiber, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Schreiber was nominated by Michael Vorndran for her efforts in indexing deed records of Allen County (1873-1902) for online searching. Kaye Ford called for a vote; it was unanimous to honor Schreiber with this award.

Grants Committee reported that some disappointment had been expressed regarding the moratorium on grants and scholarships.

Historian Committee had no report. It was noted that items have been uploaded to Box.

Indiana County Genealogists Committee reported there are 46 ICGs. A new ICG for Henry County was recently appointed since the last Board Meeting, Mark Orr. They are preparing the annual survey to go out to all ICGs.

Legislative Committee had no report.

Library Staff Educational Scholarship Committee reported no grants or scholarships are being awarded due to the moratorium.

Membership Committee reported the total 2022 membership of 636 (612 plus 24 Life Members). Lists of members in each district were provided to the District Directors. This committee needs at least 1 or 2 more members willing to learn how to process memberships. The chair is planning an in-service during the Annual Conference. Two tabled motions discussed; see above.

Nominations and Election Committee had no report. Jill Cobb resigned her position on the committee. Committee member Kaye Ford reported that the ballot for the Annual Conference will include the positions of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, the Northern Tier of District Directors, the Central District Director, and the East-Central District Director. Curt Sylvester, President, also provided a list of documents that, according to IGS Bylaws, must be sent to the IGS membership by 1 March 2023.

Publications Committee reported that the quarterly journal, *Indiana Genealogist*, and the *IGS Newsletter* have been published on time since the last Board Meeting. A social media report was provided by editor, Jon Marie Pearson. Facebook Lives began again in early January 2023; two are scheduled for early February 2023. Discussion about restarting a monthly e-blast ensued. The Committee chair offered to send an e-blast monthly via Constant Contact to those who sign up on the IGS website to receive information. This will be a brief message for IGS promotional purposes. The name of the e-blast will be IndyGenes to dovetail with our new email address (@indygenes.org). Two tabled motions discussed; see above.

Publicity Committee had no report. This Committee was dissolved by motion at this meeting.

Researchers List Committee reported that 25 people are on the updated list. Carla Cegielski, Webmaster, has uploaded this to the IGS website.

Society of Civil War Families of Indiana Committee reported two new inductees and one member with supplemental ancestors.

Indiana Territorial Guard Committee reported three new inductees and two members with supplemental ancestors.

Website Committee reported that the third meeting with Firespring is soon with a fourth meeting after that to develop the roadmap for the IGS Website Redesign. Contacted the Indiana Historical Society regarding a grant; the grant deadline is in March. The turnaround time after the fourth meeting with Firespring, receiving the roadmap, and talking with developers will be tight for the March deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

None reported.

DISCUSSION

Curt Sylvester, President, asked Board members to consider meeting logistics, such as in-person, Zoom, or hybrid, as well as possibly meeting every other month. Sylvester reported that the Indiana Historical Society will promote IGS if we send them our promotional material. As a reminder, the 35th anniversary of IGS is Sunday, 21 April 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Rhonda Stoffer moved and Janet Mobley seconded that the Board Meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Kaye Ford
IGS Recording Secretary