

# **BIGWILL**

Minutes to Board Meeting 15 February 2003  
Nippersink Library, Richmond, IL

Present: Ann Wells, Margaret Kurzynski, Rollie Littlewood, and Jackie Torrance.

President Ann Wells called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

Rollie Littlewood raised the issue of whether a quorum was needed. As Ann Wells was checking through the by-laws, Prudy Sullivan arrived thus giving the Board a quorum of five members present.

## **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

Ann Wells directed Jackie Torrance that the following corrections to previous minutes should be made:

Under OLD BUSINESS April 2002 Minutes should be emended to reflect the following: correct the spelling of Kirstin to Kerstens and change "Joann" Harvey to "Joanne" Harvey  
Eliminate "Paul in line "speakers invited . . . ." and correct spelling of Kirstin.

In the August 2002 Minutes correct the spelling of Carl to Karl Moore.

Motion was made by Rollie Littlewood and seconded by Margaret Kurzynski.

Motion carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Margaret Kurzynski and Ann Wells discussed the membership renewal situation. It was decided to include individual reminders in the next issue of the newsletter to those members who have not paid their dues stating that their dues are due and that will be the last issue of the newsletter that they will receive. Margaret Kurzynski reported that there is \$1,290.96 in the treasury. Ann Wells asked whether BIGWILL had paid dues to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Margaret indicated the dues to FGS have been paid and the balance in the account at this time is \$1,290.96.

## **PROGRAMS**

Peggy Gleich was not present to give a report on programs.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Joint Conference**

Ann Wells discussed the co-hosting with the McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society of the all-day conference held in September, 2002. Both societies cleared \$112.40. Laurie Turner is to give Ann a cost comparison. Ann stated that all bills and other paperwork were sent to Leora Hoffmeister to be sent on the MCIGS treasurer for payment.

Rollie Littlewood brought up the subject of vendor complaints which were then discussed. He indicated that Beth Peterson would not be back as a vendor because of lack of sales. Others indicated that her product is not directly related to research and, therefore, might suffer if buyers are looking for research materials. Rollie also noted that Origins didn't make any money either. Ann then cited the following:

1. Conference vendors take a great deal of the planners' time and energy.
2. It is easier and possibly more profitable to have a single speaker seminar and have the speaker sell his books.
3. A genealogy fair is mostly vendors.

### **2. Anniversary Meeting**

Ann Wells does not know yet whether any money was cleared.

### 3. Newsletter Name

No action taken.

### 4. On-line newsletter

Rollie Littlewood led the discussion indicating that Paul Milner uses WordPerfect for the newsletter. Rollie has used the next generation of WP and found it to be compatible with putting it on a PDF file for distribution to on-line members. There was some discussion about possibilities and probabilities. Prudy Sullivan raised the issue of incentives for members to receive the newsletter on-line rather than through the mail. It was ascertained that two-thirds of the membership have e-mail addresses. The incentive might be that e-mail is less expensive than postage and the money saved could be put to better use for the members. Prudy raised another question that some members had expressed an apprehension to giving out their e-mail address because of the possibility of spamming. The decision was made to carry on further discussions with Paul before approaching the membership with the option.

### 5. 2003 Budget

Ann Wells opened the discussion indicating that the budget had been sent, revised and sent, and revised again and presented at this meeting.

There was a discussion of the NARA Stern Fund. This was raised because of our membership in FGS. FGS has asked its members to donate to this fund. If BIGWILL goes ahead and donates one dollar per member, it would then ask for members to repay at approximately \$1.00 each. Ann indicated that she had asked Joan to write an article about the Stern Fund and what it does for the genealogical world so that members realize what FGS is supporting.

Ann Wells requested that Newsletter printing and postage be broken out of general office supplies and each receive a separate line in the budget. Margaret Kurzynski agreed to do this as well as separating the speakers' fees from the speakers' expenses. Membership flyers go under Publicity. The Office Expense was noted as being high.

Ann brought up the subject of insurance and had no idea of what the increase will be for this year. The previous premium was \$500 but will probably go up.

Ann raised the question of increasing our donation to the church where we hold our meetings. It has not been raised from the original \$150. Rollie Littlewood suggested that the donation should be increased to \$200.00. (Motion to approve increase: Prudy Sullivan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rollie Littlewood. Motion carried.)

Ann raised the question of book purchases. BIGWILL should be actively putting books on shelves. Other organizations i.e. Elgin asks members for book requests and matches half the cost of the purchase. The negative to this is that the book may not have broad appeal and might not be purchased for as long as two years. It was suggested that Cheryl Hopkins be invited to a board meeting to present what books are in collection and what books should be added.

Ann asked Margaret Kurzynski whether she was now comfortable with the Peachtree program for inputting of budget and expenses. Margaret indicated that she was.

Ann raised the question of dues renewal. It was not put in the last newsletter, also renewals get "buried". Margaret Kurzynski indicated that she did not have a full list of members to present an accurate list of members to show who has renewed and who has not. It was agreed that she should have a complete list of members and that Membership chair and Treasurer must work out a balance of necessary information.

Ann Wells raised the subject of Programs under Budget. She indicated that we may be able to have a joint workshop with the Scottish Genealogy Group in October if David W. Webster will

be presenting at ISBFGH in October, either before or after that program. Jackie Torrance is to contact David W. Webster about the possibility. Paul Milner could be booked in September for \$25.00 because of his membership status. Rhonda Frevert of the Newberry Library could do a presentation at no cost. Jerry of the Wisconsin Historical Society could present for probably \$50.00 in travel expenses, etc. Bob Heck was suggested as a potential presenter as he is an expert in computers and a genealogist.

## **6. Historian**

Ann Wells opened the discussion of needing an official historian for the second decade of BIGWILL. Ann wondered whether Susan Sincere would come to meetings. Rollie Littlewood indicated that she would. Prudy Sullivan suggested that a request for someone who would be interested in the job be put in the newsletter. Jackie Torrance suggested that a job description be included. Prudy Sullivan then raised the question of possibly recovery of the records for the first decade. Ann indicated that Peggy Gleich had been keeping the records but forwarded all material to Mary Ella Strane who told Peggy that she had forwarded all material to Paul Milner.

Peggy Gleich continues to take photographs at meetings and also writes the year-end reports. All of this material should go into the historian's records. Rollie Littlewood suggested that a request for records be put in the newsletter.

Jackie Torrance suggested that photographs be identified with dates taken and names of people.

## **7. Relationship with Church**

Ann Wells gave a brief background of the discontent expressed by some members of the Ladies' Auxilliary concerning special meetings. She suggested that perhaps there had been a health inspector on site who found items in the kitchen that should not have been there. She and Peggy Gleich then met with Terry who gave her a list of requirements for clean up following events. Terry was very compliant but did indicate that they should have a signed contract and notice at least ninety days in advance of a major event. He also indicated that a \$50 donation (not to be referred to as rent) or hiring of an outside janitor for clean up should be considered. All ended the meeting with good feelings. Ann suggested that the end of each president's term both retiring and new president should meet with Terry for a smooth transition. Ann indicated to the Board that only regular meetings should be held there not any special events. Rollie Littlewood suggested that the Board increase its donation (see under Budget).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. BIGWILL not-for-profit status**

Ann Wells indicated that the paperwork has not been completed yet. BIGWILL is still not officially a not-for-profit organization. The application has been passed from Jim Wilford to Paul Milner to Ann Wells without completion. Ann is going to approach Rich VanDenBussche to complete it if it is not too expensive.

2. What to do with on-line votes for officer slate. It was suggested that a count be made of the number of on-line votes as well as the number of votes and non-votes from the membership and this information should be retained in the Minutes. (Motion to retain: Jackie Torrance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rollie Littlewood. Motion carried.)

Jackie Torrance moved to adjourn at 11:22 A.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rollie Littlewood. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Jackie Torrance, Secretary

