

BIGWILL BOARD MEETING ---- 19 January 2008

Present: Roger/Fran Higgs; Jackie Torrance; Margaret Zook; Kathy Brady-Blake; Nancy Holder; Maureen Brady.

Vacant Offices -- Second Vice President is still open.

Treasurer Jackie Torrance – had indicated she would like to be replaced. Time and hassle increasing; bank is being difficult. Treasurer does not have access to our Certificate of Deposit; paperwork needs to be completed. Mail goes to P O Box in Richmond. Roger will call bank to resolve the issues. Jackie will stay on as Treasurer if bank with decent attitude and more amenable processes can be found and/or issues can be resolved.

Vacant Chairs: Librarian - Maureen agreed to accept position; nominated by Jackie, seconded by Nancy; done. Margaret cheered! Maureen also agreed to run for Second Vice President; motion by Margaret Zook, seconded by Kathy Brady Blake. She will be recommended to membership at next meeting.

Historian – Currently is none; and no formal place to keep/store official records. Oral interviews, photo albums, rosters of past Boards, meeting minutes, legal documents, etc. need a home. One possibility for storage would be with our Library collection. Margaret will investigate the possibility of a secure file cabinet at McHenry Public Library.

FGS Representative – Currently is Roger; could be anyone. Tabled.

Financial Review – Fran Higgs has agreed to review our records, prior to the March meeting; suggested by Roger, nominated by Nancy Holder, seconded Kathy Brady Blake. Passed. Tentatively Jackie and Fran will meet to go over books; possibly Wednesday, February 13th. Jackie will create a tentative budget for 2008 prior to March meeting.

Next board meeting will follow March meeting, by consensus. Future meetings will be called as needed; following meeting, at Heuer's Restaurant.

It was agreed routine matters and routine expenditures can be voted by e-mail, copies to be kept by Secretary. Any dissenting vote, and major items shall require a face to face Board meeting and vote. Motion by Margaret, second by Jackie.

Policy and Procedures manual final edition to be followed up on/finalized at March meeting.

Several questions arose while discussing storage of our book inventory, including a discussion of our mark-up/pricing policy. It was generally agreed this is not an area of benefit to the organization. Limited inventory is on hand, and will not be replenished.

Reminders will be sent to members whose dues are delinquent. An e-mail reminder will go to those on the e-mail list; postal mail reminder to the rest. The 2006/2007 list will be used reminding and warning of removal from the list.

The question of whether the Treasurer could exceed two terms with a by-law change was tabled.

It was agreed there is limited need for BIGWILL to present a conference in 2009 as there are multiple other excellent resources and seminars in the area. We should focus on local expertise as speakers, both at our meetings, and if we hold future seminars both from an economic standpoint, and to take advantage of our fortunate positioning with so much national talent locally.

Program suggestions for 2009 included focusing a bit more on Illinois – much has been done recently on Wisconsin locales and topics.

A focus for 2009 will be increasing membership. Suggestions included increased distribution of our literature at area meetings, seminars, libraries; e.g. the DuPage Conference on February 23rd. It was suggested we mail meeting announcements to Family History Centers (Maureen to provide listing) prior to meetings; and the e-mail notices of other groups was also mentioned. Marilyn Romani has indicated she is always willing to accept help with publicity. She concentrates on newspapers. Meeting flyers could be sent to Family History Centers, other genealogical groups, libraries. We could be included on the FGS calendar, and state genealogical society calendars, as well as Everton's Genealogical Helper. Roger will follow up with Marilyn to expand her role. Maureen to provide FHC addresses; Kathy Brady-Blake to provide Lake County's address.

The excellence of our Newsletter has been commented on; and should be entered in the FGS competition for judging, which Dave Dexter has agreed to do.

A summary article of regular meeting minutes should be included in each newsletter, covering items brought before the general membership. A paragraph on our last, and next speakers should also be included.

Bob Greene's book "Our Children's Children" and daily journal of everyday life questions was brought up. Who was your best friend? Where/how did you play? We should place a question in each issue and ask for/publish reader responses. Meanwhile, several Board members agreed to write an article for upcoming issues.

It was agreed dues should not be reduced for partial year memberships. Tracking is complex enough as it is. A question was raised on who sends Registers when the additional \$3 fee is collected. Tabled, to find out who.