

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—June 22, 2023 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Daron Kinzinger, Frank Koehler, Betty Leininger, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Mary Ann Lambert, Jean Legris and Roy Pekoc, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, and Penelope Stickney attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Who am I?”—from the June/July 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). No one knew the answer so Jim decided to roll this over to next month.

MINUTES: The May 11, 2023, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Ken and seconded by Penelope. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of May: general account \$23,288.99; log schoolhouse account \$7731.34; windows account \$526.32; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,534.23 (this account will be updated in July). Steve stated that income of \$2125 came from craft show vendors and \$665 was paid for pest control of Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse. Gary made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Penelope seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: None.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: None.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary asked Ken for a few 2x6 boards to use under bottles for display on top of meeting room display case. He then stated that he has:

- Placed two donation boxes in each Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and has labeled the keys
- Finished updating the price tags of all books for sale
- Displayed Jean Legris-Pekoc’s grandmother’s (Eva Letourneau) rug on top of the meeting room display case
- Placed Carl Moran’s pottery seed container on display case
- Put pen and paper in teacher’s basket on teacher’s desk in log schoolhouse
- Completed reorganizing the 1800s rooms and displays in the Letourneau Home/Museum
- Requested holding off on future donations
- Need for a bookcase
- Need for someone to keep garden bags replenished on the back porch

MEMBERSHIP: Current membership is 51 Lifetime, 2 New, 28 Renewed Memberships, and 44 former members not paid—total members in database are 125. Bonnie said that she will resign as Membership Chairperson at the end of 2023. Who would like to step forward?

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen sent an email stating that there are only three open spaces still available for the July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show. She is placing a total of \$510 for ads in *Daily*

Journal and radio announcements. She will be in the Friendship Festival parade on float #8. Bob Steinke of the Friendship Festival informed her that the festival will present a check for \$500 to the craft fair.

- Jim once again explained the new sign up procedure for volunteering—using SignUp Genius
- Jim re-announced the date for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner has been changed to Tuesday October 17.
- Jim again asked the membership to begin thinking about preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse's Village of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County historic landmark designation.
- Doris and Betty volunteered to chaperon for the July 2 Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse open houses. Doris will chaperon for the August 6 and Judy Smead for the September 3 open houses respectively. Jim will volunteer at the BGHS craft show table from 9-11 am, Steve from 11-1, and Bonnie from 1-3 pm.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Since the log schoolhouse landscaping is done, Steve, Ken, Gary, Jim, and Daron will monitor watering of the new plants. Steve volunteered to set up a soaker hose system around the plantings.
- Jim mentioned again that Angi be used as a resource to find someone to complete repairs as needed for the home/museum upstairs east side wall plaster, back porch repainting, and future roof repairs/replacement for the Letourneau Home/Museum. Daron said that he has not observed any new problems.
- Jim has asked Steve Bisailon of Bisailon Rid All if the log pieces on the back porch should be treated and stay on the back porch. Daron is checking to see if Benoit Wood Services can create items made from the pieces that the BGHS can sell as a fund raiser for the log schoolhouse. Gary will create a design for the log pieces.
- Levi Lawson has emailed that he likes Gary's design for his Eagle Scout project. Levi plans to do the work in August after he conducts a fund raiser for his project. The BGHS will need to supervise his project.
- Regarding the alarm system, Gary said it would be installed on June 29 in the Letourneau Home/Museum and the log schoolhouse.
- The village is pursuing the idea of planting an arbor vitae or shrubs along the west boundary to hide the trash bins and driveway.
- Jim mentioned that he has applied for Camp MOSH to work in the gardens from July 11-12,

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron stated that he is still in the process of editing of the bylaws (drafted by Jim and emailed to Daron on 3/2/22). The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.
- Jim requested that members help in the search for a new BGHS Web Master and Facebook Administrator and Membership Chairperson. Jim read Laurel's insights about advertising her current position. Frank mentioned Amy Laws as a possibility and will send Jim her contact information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next BGHS membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday July 6. Elmira Wilkey will make a 10-minute presentation on her research on

the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary coming to Bourbonnais Grove around 1850.

- Jim announced special BGHS dates for 2023.
- Jim encouraged members and friends of the BGHS to sign up online for volunteering for upcoming open houses, and other events for 2023.
- Jim re-emphasized the need for volunteers on the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee. At the last meeting, Daron asked if there would be a BTPD issue with the open meetings act. Dave Zinanni said that he would check it out.
- Jim said that at the French Heritage Corridor Third Annual Conference on June 15, he introduced a tour document *Let's Spend the Weekend in Illinois's French-Canadian Heritage Corridor*.
- Jim stated that he would like to create a public group Facebook page entitled *Bourbonnais History Dossier* so that more of the public can be informed about the efforts of the BGHS, French Heritage Corridor, Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee, and French Heritage Museum. Frank made a motion to that effect and it was seconded by Daron. Motion carried.
- Frank reviewed his recent trip to France and progress that he has made in creating a sister city with Mortagne au Perche, France.
- Jim mentioned that he, Ken, and Charles will have a book signing at the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival on June 24.
- Several members mentioned that the Kankakee County Museum is planning Bastille Day festivities at the French Heritage Museum on July 14. Jim asked for someone to send him the details.
- Daron gave a report of the BGHS Board of Director's last meeting on April 27. He will type his report and submit to Laurel for posting on the website. Daron suggested more fund raising. Frank mentioned the success of a recent Bradley Bourbonnais Rotary Club fund raiser at Culver's. Daron liked the idea and may pursue it.
- Jim is also working on a screen play *Hooray Bourbonnais Deux* for the 150th anniversary of the Village of Bourbonnais in 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Motion was made by Daron and seconded by Mary Ann. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul