

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—November 9, 2023 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:00 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, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Jean Legris-Pekoc and Roy Pekoc, Marcia Rabideau, Penelope and Phil Stickney, Ellen Stringer, and Gary Seiner attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “What am I?”—from the October/November/December 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). “My family lived at 143 North Bernard Street (Bourbonnais) in a one and one-half story National Gable-Front-and-Wing style frame house that was built by contractor Napoleon Houde for Antoine Lagesse in the late 1800s. I purchased the house in 1927 and later it was acquired by my son Willard whose family occupied the home until 1981. Our former home can still be viewed today. My family (both generations) was well known for our nearby bakery at 261-269 East Marsile Street”. Who am I? Several members answered: George Arseneau. Jim read Tim Arseneau’s email regarding his family.

MINUTES: The September 7, 2023, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Roy and seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of October: general account \$20,955.27; and log schoolhouse account \$8,491.68 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37 (to save a \$15 monthly fee for a separate account if below \$2500). Steve stated that the CFKRV pass through investment has made about \$700 on the initial balance of \$6,534.23 (he will pursue an exact update for this account). Marcia recommended that the Windows money be in the general or Letourneau Home/Museum account. Steve said that account bears no interest, and there is a little on the log schoolhouse account. **The matter was tabled until next meeting.** A motion was made by Gary to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Motion was seconded by Marcia and carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine mentioned several emails that had come into the BGHS Yahoo account. We discussed and resolved each of them. **Jim recommended that Christine also check the gmail account. He will assist her with the password for that account.**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: None.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary stated that he:

- Continues to catalogue artifacts and is almost done in Letourneau Home—log schoolhouse is next;
- Placed new items moved or on display for the first time: bench, lantern, Letourneau’s pick ax, rocks painted like coal in the coal bucket, holy water font, black clock, and drum;
- **Needs more artificial vegetables and fruits (plastic vegetables, fruits, pies, etc) for kitchen and dining room bowls.; and**
- **Gary and Daron requested donation of new curtains for the Letourneau Home.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bonnie's email to Jim: current 50 lifetime members, 56 paid members and 7 new members for total of 113 members.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen gave an update on preparations for the December 2 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show fundraiser at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 3 pm. She is advertising on radio and news. Members volunteered to sit at the BGHS table: Christine and Max Michels 9-11 am, Ken Lewellen 11 am to 1 pm, Gary 1-3 pm, and Steve Monts will come to count and pick up donations in morning or early afternoon. Gary will take rest of supplies and donation money to the Letourneau Home. **Gary will assist Christine and Max in picking up the items needed for the table before December 2.**
- Gary made a suggestion for the design for the remnant log schoolhouse pieces to be used in fund raising. He recommended sanding the pieces so that splinters will not hurt anyone, and a paper wrap identifying the log pieces. Betty and other members opposed the sanding as it would detract from the authenticity of the 1837 log pieces. Jim recommended wrapping the log pieces with see through wrap so the splinters would not be an issue. **The matter was tabled until the next meeting.**
- Jim emphasized the ease of volunteering for open houses by using the Sign Up Genius. Gary will chaperone on Sunday November 19, Gary and Ken Lewellen will chaperone for open house on Sunday December 3. **Several volunteers will be needed to chaperone and bring sweets and beverage for the Christmas open house on Sunday December 17 from 1-4 pm at the Letourneau Home/Museum. The Village of Bourbonnais personnel will volunteer for the log schoolhouse special Christmas open house.**
- Everyone complimented Gary on receiving this year's *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence.
- **Daron explained the fundraiser at Culvers from 5-8 pm on Wednesday November 15. Frank will provide a *fleur-de-lis* garden art as publicity.**
- Jim advertised his new Facebook public group page [Bourbonnais History Dossier | Facebook](#); and
- Jim stated that the Log Schoolhouse's plaque as a Kankakee County historic landmark was accepted from Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commissioners Jane Johnson and Cathy Langlois by a group of BGHS members on October 17. The plaque is now on the log schoolhouse inside wall on the south side.
- **Daron stated that he knows a person who is willing to sell deaccessioned artifacts on Ebay. He requested that someone assist him in identifying such items.**

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- **Levi plans to build his structure using Gary's design after he conducts a fund raiser for his project. He needs an officer's signature on a form before he can proceed. The BGHS will need to supervise his project.**
- Steve gave an update on the new landscape plants at the log schoolhouse.
- Daron gave an update on the new privet shrub hedge on the west boundary of the property. **More plants are needed to hide the driveway.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron and Jim met on September 21 to move this draft forward so that it can be presented to the membership in 2024. **Daron is retyping the agreed upon language so that it can be presented to the membership.**
- Jim confirmed that Doris will assume Bonnie's position as Membership Committee chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Due to Jim's travel schedule, the next BGHS membership meeting will be via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday December 12 at 7 pm.**
- Jim announced special BGHS dates for 2023.
- Jim re-emphasized the need for volunteers on the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee. **Jim stated that a zoom meeting for Thursday November 16 at 7 pm has been scheduled for all who are interested. He will send the zoom link next week.**
- **Volunteers are needed for the log schoolhouse education committee to serve as docents or interpreters for visiting schools and other guests.** Several individuals have already expressed interest: Doris, Betty, Wayne Rybak, Jeanne Benson, Maureen Antignoli, Karen Duchene-Korup, Kristen Singer, Joyce Harris, and Trena Vanleck.
- Daron gave a board update and thanked Jim for donating cost of log schoolhouse landmark plaque.
- We now have a new BGHS logo thanks to Laurie Cyr. Everyone likes it. **Betty will check to see how we can trade mark this logo.**



- **Jim said that the French Heritage Corridor Leadership Team will set up an Illinois Module on the FHC website. He will then put the tour document *Let's Spend the Weekend in Illinois's French-Canadian Heritage Corridor* on the FHC website. He will send a press release to the *Daily Journal*.**
- **Jim asked existing officers if they were willing to serve another year. All said yes. Nominations will be accepted and approved at the December 12 meeting. All board members are up for election except Charles. Daron nominated Ken Ponton to assume the open position created by Carl Moran's death.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Motion was made by Marsha and seconded by Max. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul