

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—August 8, 2024 (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, Charles Balesi, Barbara Cantwell (guest), Daron Kinzinger, Frank Koehler, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Ken Ponton, Josué Savoie, and Gary Seiner attended.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the question from the BGHS News Eletter of August/September 2024 "Who am I?" Daron, Gary, and Max gave the correct answer: Moses Marsile.

MINUTES: The July 11, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Betty and seconded by Max. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of July: general account \$28,360.32 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37; and log schoolhouse account \$3,517.20. Balance of the CFKRV pass through investment account on December 13, 2023 was \$7,268.48. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills by Gary and seconded by Ken. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine mentioned recent emails in the gmail account. Jim has responded to all of them.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: Ken will present the extra copy of the Illinois History Day resolution to the BGHS.

CURATOR'S REPORT: Gary reviewed his many new ideas for displaying artifacts. Some of his changes include making a sugar ax, cloth checker board; finding artificial brown eggs and a cork for the moonshine jug, a desk blotter, wood bucket, and wood stands for plates. He will put dark stones in the coal bucket. He and Mary Ann have opened the safe and are reviewing its contents. The membership again thanked Gary and Mary Ann for their care and display of both museums' artifacts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Doris stated that so far, 78 individuals are BGHS members for 2024—29 regular plus 49 Lifetime. 9 past members have not paid dues to date.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Josué gave an update. Daron asked about a Landing Page. Josué is still working on placing French Heritage Corridor logo on website plus the Pictorial History of the Log Schoolhouse. Jim will send Josué recent news eletters and approved minutes to post.
- Betty asked about the remnant log pieces, and is donating a log piece that she has created. Jim has not heard back from Randy Papineau (who is a wood worker) for his suggestion. Josué said that he will look into some techniques to burn or carve the wood pieces with an inscription.

- Jim encouraged everyone to publicize the Sign Up Genius as the easy way to volunteer for upcoming open houses. Doris O'Connor has volunteered to chaperone on Sunday September 1, but no one has volunteered for the September 15 open houses. **Jim asked Village of Bourbonnais personnel to help publicize the need for volunteers—and how to sign up—on the village website.**
- 50 copies of the 16 page booklet *A Pictorial History of Bourbonnais Grove's First Log Schoolhouse (1837-48) and Home for French-Canadian Families from 1848-2010* have been printed for \$5 donation each—to be purchased at the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner and afterwards. A printed copy is in the photo album in the log schoolhouse. The BGHS gives a big Thank You to Tyler Goodrich (Village of Bourbonnais) for creating and printing the booklets and larger copies.
- Frank gave a summary of the upcoming September trip to Boucherville, Quebec Province. The purpose of the trip—which includes representatives from the village, MBVM church, BGHS, Kankakee County Historical Society, and Bradley-Bourbonnais Rotary Club—is to foster the creation of a “Sister City” between Bourbonnais and Boucherville.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Pam and Russ Perkins have begun to expand the Native Garden behind the Letourneau Home and dedicate it to the late Joanne Schnell.
- Jim presented an \$1380 estimate from B&C Yards Plus (owner Pete Gryzlak) to clear unwanted trees, shrubs, and weeds from the southeast boarder along the water retention creek. Daron will mark the white oak trees—for non-removal—that he and Carl Moran transplanted in that area years ago. Jim made the motion to do the work and it was seconded by Josué. Motion carried. **The motion will now go before the board of trustees for approval.**
- **Ken said that in November, he will transplant the oak tree that is growing in the front Boardwalk Garden.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tabled: Daron and Jim met on September 21, 2023 to move the draft (created by Jim) forward so that it can be presented to the membership in 2024. Daron has prepared a supplemental draft and would like to schedule a meeting with Jim to review both drafts. **Jim would like a printed copy of Daron's draft before such meeting. Daron has sent a general overview to Jim. After Jim and Daron reach agreement on the changes, the agreed upon language so that it can be presented to the membership.**
- Several chaperons have volunteered for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and craft show. **However, there are many open dates in need of volunteers.** At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Doris O'Connor has volunteered for September 1, but there is no chaperone for the September 16 open house. The Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperone “sign up” link is:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Letourneau Home/Museum Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](#)

(At the Log Schoolhouse; Judy Smead has volunteered to chaperone from 4-5:15 pm before the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner—one or two more chaperones for this time are needed. The Log Schoolhouse volunteer chaperone “sign up” link is: [Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Log Schoolhouse Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](#)

- Daron reviewed his ideas about temporary signage advertising open houses.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Due to Jim’s travel schedule, the next meeting was set for Thursday September 19, 2024 at 7 pm and via Zoom only.
- At the April meeting, Jim asked the members “Can we engage the community more in our museum campus with the iNaturalist app? The response was “great, cool”, so he will pursue this idea. **Jim will work on this idea.**
- Jim announced the following special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
 - **September 14**—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
 - **September 17**—BGHS Board of Trustee meeting at 7 pm
 - **September 19**—BGHS membership meeting at 7 pm
 - **Tuesday September 24**, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
 - **October 17**—Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting at 7 pm
 - **October 22**—Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 pm
 - **Saturday December 7** from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm. Motion was made by Daron and seconded by Josué. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul

In the post-meeting of officers and board of trustees, Mayor Paul Schore was unanimously chosen as the recipient of the 2024 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence—to be presented at the celebration dinner on September 24.