

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—April 3, 2025 (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.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim, Daron Kinzinger, Frank Koehler, Betty Leininger, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Ken Ponton, Josué Savoie, Gary Seiner, Penny Stickney, Phil Stickney, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the “Who am I?” question from the BGHS News Eletter of April/May 2025. No one had the answer, so Jim will roll it over for next month.

MINUTES: The March 13, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve stated that the end of February 2025 account statuses were: \$23,567.79--general account; \$4138.29--log schoolhouse account; and \$8501.28--KRVCF. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills by Frand and seconded by Penny. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: none.

CURATOR'S REPORT: Gary brought us up to date on his artifact improvements in the Letourneau Home/Museum as he creates a “living museum”: more fake food and drinks; rearranging items so that they are in an orderly and proper place; and fake fires for kitchen and pot belly stove. He thanked Ken P. for arranging the Methodist reenactment at the log schoolhouse on March 16 and the \$54 donation to the log schoolhouse. He also would like some wood blinds on certain windows to stop sun fade on artifacts. Gary has placed lamps in certain areas of the home/museum to help with lighting until an electrician can take care of the issues mentioned the last few meetings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Doris asked if she will need to provide everyone a membership card as the new bylaws state. The membership consensus was that this would not be necessary. Daron will address this issue.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Josué has updated the website and is working with Daron on more improvements.
- Ellen gave a report on the upcoming July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. The show is about 2/3 full. Jim signed the contract for 2026 and gave a copy to Steve.
- The membership discussed the creation of more log schoolhouse remnant pieces. Jim has asked Randy Papineau how he can assist in cutting and sanding them. Gary's model will be on display at the *Soirée de Bourbonnais* on May 17 so that individuals may place an order at \$50 each.
- Daron has organized a Culver's fundraiser on Tuesday May 6 from 5-8 pm.
- The viewing of an outdoor silent movie on the museum campus was discussed.
- Ken reiterated that the first Methodist circuit rider reenactment service at the log schoolhouse took place on Sunday March 16.

- Jim is creating an INaturalist identification of flora and fauna at the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve. The public will be invited to use the identification program as they come to the museum campus, and a side product will be their enjoyment of two historical landmarks.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- B&C Yards Plus (owner Pete Gryzlak) has prepared an estimate for future work on more tree/shrub removal/pruning.
- Gary reiterated his requested that someone replace the florescent lamp in the Military Room upstairs. In the meantime, he has made temporary accommodations.
- Daron still plans to contact an electrician to repair the many lights in the home/museum.
- Daron will check out possible solar lights for a few places on the museum campus to provide more light at night.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron and Jim moved the restructuring of the BGHS bylaws draft forward with the first three Articles of the bylaws attached to the April/May BGHS news eletter for the membership to review. The membership seemed agreeable with the articles except for the membership card issue addressed above. **Jim will ask for a motion to approve the first three articles at the May membership meeting.**
- Tabled: Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot for where the Letourneau Home once stood.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting will be on **Thursday May 8, 2025 at 7 pm** and via Zoom only.
- **Steve and Jim will create a new gmail password.**
- Jim proposed a new possible slogan for BGHS: *Your History Starts Here*. Doris suggested *Our History Starts Here*, and Penny suggested *Since 1837, [Your or Our] History Starts Here*. **Jim will ask for a motion at the May meeting.**
- Jim and Daron are considering who will be the videographer for the September 27, 2025 at 7 pm production of “Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*.”
- Gary requested that the Camp MOSH youth volunteers work on cleaning the crawl space in July, as well as working in the garden. **Someone needs to contact the Camp MOSH supervisor to set up the work.**
- Jim announced the following special BGHS 2025 dates:
 - Saturday April 19 from 9am-12pm--Daughters of the American Revolution meeting at the Letourneau Home/Museum;
 - April 23-26--Fifth Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference at Washington University, St. Louis, MO https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=5d49c2a770212a80ceddc94d4&id=b6705d20dc
 - Tuesday May 6 from 5-8 pm--BGHS fundraiser at Bourbonnais Culver's;
 - Friday July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show from 9 am to 3 pm, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair>

- Camp MOSH--July 20-25--Amanda Fierce afierce@mbvm.org 815-933-825x336
- [August 1--nomination deadline for 2025 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence, https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration)
- [Saturday September 27 from 7-9 pm at the Grove--Bourbonnais sesquicentennial history pageant Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*, https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend)
- [Saturday-Sunday September 27-28, 2025--Bourbonnais sesquicentennial French Heritage Weekend, https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend)
- [Thursday November 13, 2025--Eight Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner, https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration) --**Price change \$85/member, \$95 non-member**
- [Saturday December 6 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show from 9 am to 3 pm, https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair) and
- [Saturday December 13--BGHS Christmas Open House from 1-4 pm.](https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair)

OTHER

- The membership thanked Ken for fixing the boardwalk broken slat and donation of the 1790s map for the log schoolhouse.
- Jim and Steve Liehr volunteered to work a BGHS table at the Lifelong Learning Institute's 10th anniversary event at KCC on Friday August 11.
- Frank and Ellen will meet with Bourbonnais Public Library director soon to discuss BGHS exhibit space etc.
- Daron is working on BGHS shirts for wearing at volunteer events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. Motion was made by Daron and seconded by Penny. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul