

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society
Membership Meeting Minutes October 5, 2017

Call to Order/Pledge/Attendance:

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Paul at 7 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. In addition to President Paul and Treasurer, Tim Arseneau, other members in attendance were: Gary Seiner, Ken Ponton, Mary Ann Lambert, Marcia Rabideau, Sandi Sandeno, Bonnie Bergeron, Nelda Ravens, Laurel Soper, Ken Lewellen, Mimi Raiche, Daron Kinzinger, Charles Balesi, and Wal Schuller. Roy Van Ostend attended as a non-member.

Presentation:

Jim Paul portrayed Noel Levasseur who spoke on the topic of "Bourbonnais Grove: A Pioneer Educational Oasis from 1837-75".

Minutes:

The minutes for the September 7, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report/Finances:

Treasurer Tim Arseneau stated that as of August 31, 2017 the balances are \$10,570.09 in the checking account and \$130.51 in windows account. Jim Paul documented that the society had brought in \$341 on September 10 at the Maternity BVM French-Canadian Fest ((\$249 in new membership dues, \$50 for sale of two books, and \$42 in donations). Motion carried to pay the bills and accept the treasurer's report.

Ways and Means/Programming/Publicity:

Jim Paul mentioned that members pay by mid-October for the *Fleur-de-lis* celebration dinner on November 3 at the Kankakee County Country Club. He will send out a general press release on October 6 that announces that the dinner will benefit the restoration of the Bourbonnais Grove first log school house. The format of and wording on the award to be presented at the dinner was discussed. The membership thanked Marcia Rabideau for framing (her donation) and Gary Seiner for hanging portraits of the last three BGHS presidents.

Memberships:

Bonnie Bergeron presented an updated list of members to the society.

Curator:

As assistant curator, Marcia Rabideau reviewed several new items in the museum. **NEW ITEMS ON THE SHELVES IN THE ENTRANCE:** 1930's scrapbook; 1974-79 scrapbook containing newspaper stories of Friendship Festival, the LeVasseur Memorial, the St. Victor room, and the Les Artisan Craft Fair; a binder with *The Village*; a binder with the interviews of the French/Canadian Interview Project; a photo album of BGHS events; and a photo album of Friendship Festivals. There will be a list of all the items left on the shelf. **NEW ITEMS IN THE OFFICE:** old photos of Bourbonnais churches, schools, homes, streets and businesses, and 20 different families in file drawers; extra Centennial Plates and books for sale are in cupboards under the microwave. **NEW ITEMS IN EXHIBIT ROOM:** lists of items in the glass cases in the Exhibit Room will be on the back of the glass showcases.

Marcia suggested that the society develop a LENDING LIBRARY which will consist of: history books pertaining to French/Canadian history and our area which can be used by our members. Marcia will prepare a box to gather the books. Regarding DVDs, Marcia has asked Malette Trudeau-Stevenson to make copies of the DVD of the tour of the Letourneau House and the DV of Tales of Another Day. Marcia has a DVD of Levasseur-Prairie Trader and a DVD of an interview of Adrien M Richard by his grandson Paul. Once Marcia has copies of these DVDs to keep in the safe, the society will have copies available for members to view. At that time Marcia will propose we purchase an inexpensive DVD player to be used at the House or maybe someone will donate.

Building and Grounds:

A garden work session was scheduled for Saturday October 21 [later changed to October 28] from 8-10 am. Jim complimented Gary Seiner on his hard garden work and his continuing efforts to beautify the grounds of the Letourneau Home/Museum.

Old Business:

Jim will invite JoJo Sayson to the next meeting to speak about the Ian Fleming Foundation Fund Raiser event for October 2018. Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society will be one of a consortium of organizations sponsoring the fund raising event (and sharing the benefits of the fund raising) in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration of Illinois. The fund raising topic that Jim presented to the Ian Fleming Foundation on Saturday September 30 was “Rescuing a forgotten colonial French America and its post-colonial legacy in the river valley corridor heart of North America from Lake Michigan to St. Genevieve, Missouri.”

In other Old Business, there was no action taken on joining the Illinois Heritage Association or pursuing an archeological dig at Windrose, Jim stated that he is waiting to hear from Amy Ciaccio Jarvis about how her meeting about saving St. Rose Church went with the Kankakee County Historical Society. The BGHS plans to write a “Voice of the People” article in the future. Tim Arseneau plans to determine the best way to handle our high telephone monthly bill.

New Business:

A moment of silence was held in honor of Dave King. In honoring his memory, Nelda Ravens will inform the society on what needs to be done regarding the Van Meter Cemetery. The membership agreed to offer a coffee cup, with Letourneau Home/Museum 1883 Kankakee County Atlas logo, to all new members. Jim will determine cost before the next meeting. Jim mentioned that the BGHS will have a video on the new Village of Bourbonnais website. Laurel Soper proposed to create on line dues payment and a “donate” button for our website. She will work out the details with Tim Arseneau before our next meeting. A motion was made by Laurel to accept John Hassett’s bid of \$900 to paint several downstairs rooms of the interior of the home/museum. Daron Kinzinger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laurel stated the need for more articles for *The Herald*. Norma Meier submitted an article about the French-Canadian home on East Armour Avenue.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul and from notes taken by Marcia Rabideau