

**BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

March 7, 2019

Call to Order: President James Paul called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Attendance: James Paul, Tim Arseneau, Roberta Renville, Ellen Stringer, John Hassett, Laurel Soper, Mimi Raiche, Nelda Ravens, Norma Meier, Richard Piggush, Daron Kinzinger, Charles Balesi, Mary Ann Lambert

Minutes: Nelda Ravens made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 6, 2018 meeting; seconded by Mary Ann Lambert. Motion carried. James Paul, president, asked Laurel Soper to take minutes, since Faith Quigley, secretary, was absent.

Treasurer's Report/Finances Tim Arseneau, outgoing treasurer, distributed the final report for 2018, which included the following account balances as of December 31, 2018:

Checking \$10,792.24
Windows \$210.72
Schoolhouse \$6,934.89

John Hassett, newly elected treasurer, distributed the first report of 2019, which was reformatted for readability as a quarter-to-date, (rather than year-to-date) report and included the following account balances as of January 31, 2019:

Checking \$10,096.63
Windows \$215.74
Schoolhouse \$6935.48

John also distributed a 2018 report of Paypal transactions by date. Paypal is used on the BGHS website as an online payment option for membership dues, donations and Fleur-de-Lis Dinner reservations. Finally, John stated his intention to use online banking to produce more up-to-date treasurer reports and pay bills.

Norma Meier made a motion to accept the treasurer reports and pay the bills; seconded by Nelda Ravens. Motion carried.

Treasurer duties were formally transferred from Tim Arseneau to John Hasset. Members expressed their thanks for Tim's 10 years of service as treasurer. A motion was made by Nelda Ravens and seconded by Darin Kinzinger to remove Bonnie Bergeron and Carl Moran as signers on BGHS checking accounts and add James Paul and John Hassett as authorized signers. Motion carried. Gary Seiner and Tim Arseneau will remain as signers on BGHS checking accounts.

Membership Report: There was no membership report. New membership forms, in postcard format, have been printed with the new June 1 deadline. Paypal transaction fees and raising dues were discussed. It was suggested that the board of directors consider increasing membership dues, as they have not changed in many years.

Curator's Report: There was no curator's report.

Ways and Means/Programming/Publicity

Les Artisans Fair: The December craft show realized a profit of \$2319.90. Ellen Stringer, craft show coordinator, has ordered all printed publicity materials for 2019 from Vistaprint at a very good price. John Hassett will meet with Tammy at the Kankakee Fairgrounds to sign contracts for the 2020 craft shows.

Chocolate Tour: Over 300 visitors came through the Letourneau Home Museum on Feb. 2, 2019. Milk and dark chocolate fleur-de-lis, hot coffee and lemon-cucumber infused water were served. Chalkboard signs welcomed and guided visitors through the house. Volunteers Ellen Stringer, Michelle Meier and Laurel Soper hosted the BGHS tour stop.

Sister City Project: Charles Balesi reported that the Bourbonnais sister city project has been revived. He has been in contact with the Delegate of the Government of Quebec to the Midwest and Mayor Paul Schore's office. Charles' research has found a city in Quebec, Boucherville, that is already a participant of the program, with a sister city of Morotagne-au-Perche, Normandy, France. Boucherville, the home of *boudin noir*, is located in an area where many French Canadian immigrants came to Bourbonnais and surrounding Kankakee County.

Charles is encouraging Bourbonnais to choose Boucherville as a sister city and would like a delegation from Bourbonnais to go to Boucherville in June, during the Feast of Saint Jean de Baptiste on June 24, a national holiday in Quebec. Jim Paul will discuss Charles' recommendations with Laurie Cyr, assistant village administrator.

Social media: Jim asked Laurel Soper to grant Laurie Cyr administrator rights to BGHS Facebook page.

Walking Tour Books: Jim Paul requested that BGHS have 200 copies of Bourbonnais Historic Walking Tours be printed by Advantage Printing at \$7.50 each for a total of \$1500. He suggested books would be sold to individuals for \$10 each and to other museums for \$8 each. A motion to print 200 copies at \$7.50 each made by Charles Balesi, seconded by Mimi Raiche. Motion carried. A motion to sell for \$10 to individuals and \$8 to other museums was made by Nelda Ravens and seconded by Darin Kinzinger. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds: A house key will be checked out to John Hassett, recently elected treasurer. The second P.O. box key has been misplaced. The George R. Letourneau sign outside the museum has been restored. Gary Seiner purchased and installed the new refrigerator. The old one must be disposed of. If Com Ed will not take it, Laurel Soper will dispose of it during Bradley clean-up week in April.

Old Business

Log Schoolhouse: The steering committee is planning a fundraiser for Saturday, June 29, during the Friendship Festival. That day is well attended, as it is the day the festival honors veterans. A booth will be located in the Municipal Center. A pledge card, 4-page information booklet, 1-page mailer and FAQ sheet are being developed.

Van Meter Cemetery: Nelda Ravens reported that the sidewalk, light and flagpole have been installed. Funds are needed to finish the project and a fundraiser is planned. Nelda distributed fundraiser information.

New Business: There was no new business.

Announcements: For anyone who is interested, Nelda has 2 tickets available for the Manteno Historical Society Dinner on Sunday, April 14.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Soper
Secretary pro tem