

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—August 5, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Bonnie Bergeron, Janet Evans, Daron Kinzinger, Christina and Matt Michels, Steve Monts, Ken and Judy Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, Roberta Renville, Wayne Rybak, Sandi Sandeno, Josue Savoie, Wal Schuler, Gary Seiner, Laurel Soper, and Penelope Stickney attended.

PRESENTATION: Can you identify this local historical person (from July/August 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter)? After several minutes of discussion among the members, Marcia gave the correct answer: Fr. Mose Marsile.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 1, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Ken.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of August 1, 2021: general account \$17,370.76; log schoolhouse account \$60,089.76; windows account \$420.98; and CD \$6531.10. Jim was reimbursed for purchase of the two *Fleur-de-Lis* black steel benches from Lowes. Steve reported that \$152 was donated into the plastic donation box during the July 4th craft fair. Laurel made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Marcia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie stated that there are 125 members in the database including 53 lifetime plus 5 new members, and 67 ongoing regular members. 45 of those 67 have paid dues for this year. The raffle drawing took place for the four new members who wrote a review of our website. The winners were: DeeAnna Hillebrand, Pam and Russ Perkins, and Wayne Rybak. Jim stated that since these individuals were ones he had personally recruited, the lesson learned is that personal recruitment is the best method for growing our historical society.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE: Marcia thanked her committee and the board of trustees for organizing the garage sale. She thanked especially Laurel, Roberta, Mary Ann, Gary, and Andrew Mann. In the attic of the Letourneau Home/Museum, the committee has organized three big drawers of artifacts. She said that she has also ordered the sign replacement for the pin oak memorial to Brad Yohnka. Marcia reported that the garage sale brought in \$611 including sale of items, Marcia's antique toys, and donations. She recommended that this amount be used for all Collection Committee supplies, software, and for processing the inventory. Jim made a motion to that affect, and it was seconded by Charles. Motion carried.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen could not attend the meeting but issued an email report. She wrote the BGHS made over \$1000 profit in booth rentals. That figure did not include \$500 donation from the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival. Also, her entry in the festival parade won \$50. She mentioned that Marcia successfully sold her antique toys at the craft fair, and fair attendees donated many dollars into the plastic BGHS donation box. Ellen donated her commission for organizing the craft fair which would have been over \$600. The membership was deeply touched by her donation and passed a motion to present two gift

Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinners to Ellen and her guest. Charles made the motion and Ken seconded it.

- Daron reaffirmed that he will meet with Nicole Smolkovich of the Community Foundation of the Kankakee River Valley in order to learn more information about how to set up the BGHS as a “Designated Fund” on their website “Donate” page. She recommended that an endowment be created as a “pass through fund”.
- Jim stated that to date, ten individuals had made reservations for the Friday September 17th *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. He sent the formal email invitation on Monday August 2.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Gary is in contact Langlois Roofing to look at the shingles and chimney.
- Two *fleur-de-lis* garden benches purchased from Lowe’s are now in place to enjoy.
- The membership appreciated the July 21 garden and house cleaning work of Camp MOSH.
- Laurel is in the process of putting the garden layout on the website;
- Jim is looking for three Tiger Eyes Staghorn Sumac trees to plant in the west boundary gardens.
- Daron is putting small flags by trees to be pruned. He is seeking bids from tree trimmers.
- Laurel and Marcia volunteered to visit the village official responsible for stopping our neighbor’s discharge of sump pump water onto the west boundary of the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The membership reached a consensus that the Letourneau Home/Museum should remain open on August 15 and September 5. Ken volunteered to chaperon the open house on August 15 and Bonnie volunteered for September 5.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting was confirmed as Zoom only at 7:00 pm September 2 at the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim will participate in the August 18 meeting of the Maternity BVM 175th anniversary (2022) celebration planning session.
- Jim reminded the officers to remain online after the Zoom membership meeting on September 2 in order to pick the person to receive the 2021 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence.
- Jim and Charles reported on the leadership meeting of August 3 for the French Heritage Corridor.
- Josue has Viatorian books and would like to donate them to our lending library.
- Charles mentioned his plan to send *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner invitations to every French-Canadian business in the area.
- Josue provided links to organizations that is associated with:
North House Folk School <https://www.northhouse.org>. and Chautauqua & French Canadian/Metis Festival <https://www.facebook.com/events/337521968110330>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul