

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—September 2, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** After some technical difficulties, President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**ATTENDANCE:** In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Christine and Matt Michels, Steve Monts, Ken and Judy Ponton, Wayne Rybak, Josue Savoie, Wal Schuler, Ellen Stringer, and Gary Seiner attended.

**PRESENTATION:** Can you identify this local historical person (from August/September 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter)? After several minutes of discussion among the members without reaching an answer, Jim gave the person's identity: Lucy LeVasseur.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 5, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Christine and seconded by Charles.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Steve provided the bank balances as of September 1, 2021: general account \$16,693.85; log schoolhouse account \$64,122.26; windows account \$420.98; and CD \$6531.10. He stated that the CD matured at the end of last month. Steve will let it roll over until the board suggests a better alternative. Several bills were paid. Charles made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

**COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** Marcia had requested identification of the two portraits in the August/September 2021 news eletter (both hang in the Letourneau Home/Museum. No one responded with their identity. Marcia also asked for membership approval of the following addition to the BGHS Acquisition Policy:

CRITERIA FOR ACCESSIONING FOR THE LOG SCHOOLHOUSE

- School furnishings from the period 1837-48;
- Books printed up to 1848; and
- Artifacts and information pertaining to residents of the home from 1848-2011 in the form of signage and photographs.

Charles made a motion to that affect and it was seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

**WAYS AND MEANS:**

- Ellen sent out emails to vendors for the upcoming December 4, 2021 *Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair*. She will set up a BGHS scarecrow at the Perry Farm during the Scarecrow Festival. The scarecrow will publicize the December 4 craft show. She thanked the society for the gift of *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinners for herself and her husband Larry.
- Daron 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, 63 individuals had made reservations for the Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. He read Elmira Wilkey's note about the recent "Family Circle" cartoon about the one-room schoolhouse

where the boy asks “Wonder whatever happened to the poor little kids who had to go to school there.” She wrote, “. . . we have heard, read the success of some of the individuals who were taught in one room schools.”

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Gary reported on his problems with re-contacting Langlois Roofing to look at the shingles and chimney.
- Laurel is in the process of putting the garden layout on the website;
- Jim suggested planting the three Tiger Eyes Staghorn Sumac trees in the west boundary gardens during the next work session on Saturday October 9 from 9:00-11:00 am. Charles reemphasized the importance of a fence on the west boundary. It would define our campus and further hide the trash cans and cars of our western neighbor. Gary has submitted a design for the fence.
- Daron has put small flags by white oaks and other trees to be pruned. He is seeking bids from tree trimmers. Once he has sufficient bids, he will convene a board meeting to pick the contractor.
- The membership thanked Laurel and Marcia for working with the village to stop 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 September 19 and October 3. Gary volunteered to chaperon the open house on September 19 and Christine and Max volunteered for October 3. Jim will open and close the home/museum on October 3.
- Daron asked the members to not remove the small flags on the property (indicating trees to be pruned) and said that the sump pump swamp on the west side of the property was dying out.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm October 7.
- Jim will participate in the September 21 meeting of the Maternity BVM 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2022) celebration planning session. Jim has been appointed chair of the Anniversary History Committee. Josue volunteered to join the committee.
- Jim reminded the officers to remain on the Zoom session after the membership meeting was adjourned. The officers will select the 2021 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul