

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—October 7, 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, Mary Ann Lambert, Steve Monts, Carl Moran, Ken and Judy Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, Wal Schuler, Laurel Soper, Ellen Stringer, and Gary Seiner attended. Two guests also attended: Dr. Kyle Robinson and Hayden Souza of Olivet Nazarene University history department.

**PRESENTATION:** Jim introduced Dr. Kyle Robinson and Hayden Souza. Dr. Robinson had recently written to Jim about the possibility of ONU history students volunteering for the BGHS. The membership next discussed “Can you identify this local historical person”—from September/October 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter)? After several minutes of discussion among the members without reaching an answer, Jim gave clues and the person’s identity was revealed: James Ruder.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 2, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Mary Ann.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Steve provided the bank balances as of October 1, 2021: general account \$22,662.86; log schoolhouse account \$62,454.16; windows account \$425.89. Instead of rolling over the CD, Steve deposited it into the general account. He will check to see if there is any significant interest bearing accounts to put the CD into. It matured at \$6,534.23. Several bills were paid. Carl made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Laurel seconded the motion. Motion carried. The membership noted Marcia’s donation of \$67.55 for a new memorial sign for the pin oak tree in memory of Frederick J. Yohnke.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Bonnie stated that there are 129 individuals in the data bank (53 life members, 9 new members, 49 paid members, and 19 not paid).

**COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** Marcia stated the following:

- Newspaper articles have been sorted and filed;
- Files in the office have been organized;
- This year’s work is done;
- A future project recommendation is the interviewing of Celeste Regnier and Adrien Raymond.

Marcia also recommended 1) that someone volunteer as a Research Coordinator—a person to oversee all volunteers; 2) one person be put in charge of exhibits; and 3) a Curator be hired and paid to work once a week. Discussion followed, but there was no consensus.

**WAYS AND MEANS:**

- Ellen reported that 75 of 90 booths are filled for the upcoming December 4, 2021 *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair. She expects a full show, and will purchase publicity ads;
- 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 reiterated his summary of the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner success which was published in the BGHS News--September/October 2021, and stated that more photographs would be published in the October 16 issue of *The Daily Journal's Lifestyles* magazine;
- Collaboration with ONU—the membership discussed with Dr. Robinson and Hayden Souza ways in which the ONU students could volunteer; and
- American Recovery Act funds—Bonnie volunteered to check into state Covid funds for non-profit organizations that could not fund raise in 2020 or 2021.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Jim has arranged with Daryl LeBeau, of Langlois Roofing, repair of the south chimney which has been leaking;
- Laurel is in the process of putting the garden layout on the website;
- Three Tiger Eyes Staghorn Sumac trees will be planted in the west boundary gardens, and the DAR will groom the herb garden during the next work session on Saturday October 9 from 9:00-11:00 am; and
- Daron will seek approval of one of the bids for tree trimming at the next board meeting on October 11.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- The membership reached a consensus that the Letourneau Home/Museum should remain open. Gary volunteered to chaperon the open house on October 17 and November 21 and Laurel volunteered for November 7.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm on November 4;
- Laurel stated that the Graveline family is donating a large stone with their name on it (taken from meat market on S. Main Street), and it will be brought to the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve for placement on Sunday; and
- The status of the Christmas Open House will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul