

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—April 7, 2022 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Daron Kinzinger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Ellen Stringer, and Josue Savoi attended.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Can you identify these local historical persons?”—from the March/April 2022 issue of BGHS News eletter). After several minutes of discussion among the members, Max identified Edward LeVasseur as one of the two children. Jim provided the other child’s name: Julia LeVasseur.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Ken and seconded by Ellen. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of March: general account \$21, 015.67; log schoolhouse account \$64,040.49; and windows account \$456.01. The former CD (\$6,534.23) is now part of the general account. After explaining the bills that were paid (\$87 to alarm company and \$102.33 to AT&T), Gary made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills and seconded by Christine. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine stated that she continues to forward some emails (from the BGHS website “Drop Us a Line”) to Jim, but he has not received them to date. **She will re-forward them to him, and he will double check his junk mail. Christine said that she will see Laurel tomorrow, and will review this issue with her.** She stated that several museums had sent publicity email, but no emails have been received related to log schoolhouse donations or inquiries about the society.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken stated that he received several items from Melanie Holmes on April 2. Melanie is the great granddaughter of Mary (LeVasseur) Castigan, and great great granddaughter of Michel LeVasseur, Noel LeVasseur’s brother. Jim asked Ken to describe the “clean-up table” that he has built for the log schoolhouse. Ken said that the table is 24”x36” built out of barn wood and has a stool.

MEMBERSHIP: No report.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Daron recommends the CFKRV Pass Through Fund investment option. He was told that the fee would be 2.5% of any generated revenue from our deposits and our organization could withdraw our total balance if we deem necessary. At this time, Daron is not recommending the Endowment option which would only charge a 1.5% fee but would lock-in our primary funds with interest-only withdrawals. The Endowment option has a long term focus and we must be cognizant of short-term needs given our current financial status. If excess funds become available in the future, the Endowment option might be a viable option. The board would need to vote to approve such an investment if it is

desired. Daron explained that the interest rate income on the Pass Through Fund would vary like a mutual fund. The \$6,534.23 from the former CD—which is now in the general account—could be used for this investment. Jim wondered if donors who go to the CFKRV website will find the BGHS as a possible recipient for donations. Steve made a motion to support the Pass Through Fund because bank interest rates are so low and this would be a way to earn money for the BGHS. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Daron will now seek approval from the board of trustees, and if passed, the amount to be invested.**

- Jim recommended that the ten year anniversaries for the Letourneau Home becoming an historic landmark (7/10/2012) and the opening of the French-Canadian Heritage Wall at KCC (8/30/2012) be commemorated with the inauguration of the log schoolhouse. The members agreed.
- Ellen gave an update on the July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. To date, 37 vendors have registered representing 40% of capacity. She asked for suggestions on a new food vendor.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Gary expressed concern about replacing the furnace filter this spring. Jim replied that the service tech will replace the filter when the spring air conditioning tune up is done. Gary also illustrated a remedy to keep the benches from being blown over by the wind.
- **Laurel will put the garden information from Gary and Marcia on the website in the near future.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim and his granddaughter, Cayla Bradley, volunteered to chaperon the Letourneau Home open house on May 1. Gary plans to chaperon the May 15 open house.
- Ellen still plans to interview her Mom, Dad, and Aunt for the MBVM 175th anniversary history of the parish.
- Daron said that when all the bylaws are redone, he will ask the board to approve the bylaw, loan, and acquisition policy approved last year by the membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jim and Daron stated that they are working on the bylaw language that would restructure the BGHS so that all current officers join the current board members on the Board of Directors. The monthly meetings would combine board and membership issues. Jim mentioned that a 12 person board would include all current officers and board members. All BGHS members would be invited to the board meetings and be designated as board members-at-large for that specific meeting. These individuals could express a “straw vote” on issues that are under the purview of the board. A more defined committee structure will included these committees:
 - Executive Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Bylaws and Policies Committee
 - Ways and Means/Fundraising/Special Events Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Publicity/Communications Committee
 - Collections Committee

- Finance/Budget Committee
- Education Committee
- Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee
- Auditing Committee, and
- Ad Hoc Committees

Jim and Daron will work on the restructuring bylaw language to submit to the membership in the near future. They mentioned that, if approved, the restructuring might be implemented after the December 2022 membership meeting.

- The members decided that the next BGHS membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm on May 5, 2022.
- Regarding the French Heritage Corridor Conference on May 12-13, Ken stated that he did not receive an acknowledgment of his registration. Jim did not either, and will follow up with the FHC Leadership Team.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul