

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—August 4, 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, Carl Moran, Judy and Ken Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, and Gary Seiner attended. Guest Nicole Smolkovich also attended.

PRESENTATION: Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley, explained the “pass through” fund in which the BGHS has invested \$6523. She answered several questions. She encouraged the BGHS to publicize the opportunity to donate to the fund on the CFKRV website. An annual report of the invested funds will be sent in April-May of each calendar year. Although there is a fee of 2.5% on the account, the average annual yield has been—before the recent downturn—as high as 12.44%.

The membership then discussed “Who am I?”—from the July/August 2022 issue of BGHS News (letter). Carl Moran was the first to identify Sister St. Alexis de St. Joseph as the Congregation of Notre Dame nun in 1860 who taught French.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Carl and seconded by Ken. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of June: general account \$19,241.59; log schoolhouse account \$64,603.52; windows account \$476.40; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,523. The former CD (\$6,534.23) is part of the general account. After Steve explained the bills, Gary made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills and it was seconded by Marcia. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine reported on recent emails from Mary Salon. She is assisting the new VRBO owners of the Legris Home, and she plans to visit the Letourneau Home/Museum on August 21 during the open house. Carl Beyer is rehabbing the home. Christine also mentioned the upcoming Community Arts Council and Kankakee Genealogical Society’s upcoming events.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken thanked Marcia for volunteering to organize the recently donated items now in the Letourneau Home/Museum meeting room. Jim offered to separate the log schoolhouse donations from the Letourneau Home donations. Marcia plans to organize the Letourneau Home artifacts. Marcia suggested that the items be displayed and not packed away. She suggested that the BGHS purchase a display case for the recently donated items. However, after discussion as to where to put this display case, she withdrew her motion/suggestion for now. . Marcia then made a motion to remove the two desks that had originally been donated to the log schoolhouse and the overstuffed chair in the front “office” pending board approval. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Although Bonnie could not attend the meeting, she emailed her report to Jim. She wrote that to date we have 124 individuals in the data base (55 lifetime, 42 paid, and 27 not paid). She sent a reminder on July 11 to those who had not paid. She plans to send follow up thank you messages via email next year, as postage is going up to \$.60 per item. If no email address, she will send via USPS.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Jim explained the reason for the Tuesday November 15 date for the log schoolhouse inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Jim asked for help on Saturday August 6 from 9-11 am to groom and mulch the two small Staghorn Sumac Gardens. They are located northwest of the log schoolhouse foundation, and he thought that if they are groomed/mulched, they will be apparent to the construction workers—and thereby not trampled.
- Daron is waiting to hear from Alex Salazar about the landscape pruning around the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- The members thanked Daron for hauling the pruned tree limbs to the curb for Public Works pick up.
- Marcia reminded us about using the foundation stones from the Letourneau Home in the landscaping for the log schoolhouse.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim reminded everyone about the history tours from 12:00 – 1:00 pm for Sunday August 21 MBVM 175th Anniversary celebration. He has written the tour narrative.
- **Daron will edit the bylaws drafted by Jim. The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- The members decided that because of Jim's travels, the next BGHS membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm on September 15, 2022.
- Carl reminded everyone that the BGHS will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2025. He suggested that a dedication plaque be purchased. The membership then entered a discussion as to the exact date that the BGHS was formed. **Daron and Jim will check their records.** Ken stated that the only living original BGHS founder is Sherry Duncan.
- The following members volunteered to chaperone the Letourneau Home/Museum open house on
 - August 7—Judy Smead and Christine
 - August 21—Gary
 - September 4—closed due to Labor Day weekend

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm with a motion made by Marcia and seconded by Carl. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul

