

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—April 6, 2023 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the in-person and 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, Christine and Max Michels, and Steve Monts attended in-person; and Daron Kinzinger, Jean Legris-Pekoc, Roy Pekoc, Marcia Rabideau, and Gary Seiner attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Who am I?”—from the April/May 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). Max correctly identified the person as Alexander Lamontagne.

MINUTES: The March 9, 2023, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Steve and seconded by Jean. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of March: general account \$21,773; log schoolhouse account \$6814.55; windows account \$521.26; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,523.23. Steve stated that he has no update on the earnings of the CFKRV investment. Gary made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Max seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine reviewed an email sent to the BGHS regarding Jeannie Benson’s willingness to volunteer in portraying someone connected to French-Canadian history. Christine also mentioned an email from Greg Sturgeon requesting information about the Sturgeon Clan of the Potawatomi.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: None.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary stated that he:

- Will paint the coal bucket black
- Will put the log schoolhouse emblem in the display case with the fused dishes from the Chicago Fire
- Has corrected the wrong address on the Map of Bourbonnais display
- Has placed the oval rug in the “office” room
- Has put the high chair in the kitchen
- Supervised Charlie Marquette and Laurel Soper picking up the washing machine
- Has created a holder for the stick matches (tightly rolled paper) in the kitchen
- Has accepted Laurel’s photograph donation
- Has put his drawing of a rope bed in an upstairs bedroom
- Has put a sign by the thermostat regarding high and low temperatures
- Needs the acquisition form address portion corrected—**Marcia will do so when she finds the original**
- Has put the cloth-woven rug on top of the display case in the meeting room
- Will find a suitable location to preserve the 1849 *Chicago Tribune* and other items donated by Judy Wolfe

- Is concerned about the log pieces, from the log schoolhouse, that are on the back porch (they must be sealed and stored somewhere or Benoit Wood Services should be contacted)
- Asked Jim to give Laurie Cyr his sketch of locks for the Community Room display cases

MEMBERSHIP: Same as last month: 53 Lifetime, 7 New, 52 Renewed Memberships, and 17 former members not paid. Total members are 112.

#### WAYS AND MEANS:

- Jim once again explained the new sign up procedure for volunteering.
- Jim re-announced the date for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner: Friday September 15, 2023 (it has now been changed to Tuesday October 17).
- Jim asked the membership to begin thinking about preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse's Village of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County historic landmark designation.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Steve gave a report on his work on the log schoolhouse landscaping. The three bids should be forthcoming.
- The cedar fencing along the NW corner of the museum campus was discussed.
- Jim mentioned that Angi be used as a resource to find someone to complete repairs as needed for the home/museum upstairs east side wall plaster, back porch repainting, and future roof repairs/replacement for the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Gary recommended replacing or refilling four (three large and one small) fire extinguishers for the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse. The membership agreed. This will now need board approval.
- Gary explained the Aaron Alarm Company bid to replace the current Protective Associates alarm system. The Letourneau Home/Museum would cost \$300 to install (keeping current sensors, but adding new keypad and control box) plus \$360/year for monitoring. For the log schoolhouse, the monitor/keypad sits on a table and plugs into an outlet. The door sensor and one wall sensor will take batteries. The log schoolhouse installation is \$700 plus \$360/year for monitoring. Before agreeing to this bid, Gary wants to field test the system to make sure the police are called.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron stated that his editing of the bylaws (drafted by Jim and emailed to Daron on 3/2/22) is not completed. The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.
- Jim requested that members help in the search for a new BGHS IT Director.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- The next BGHS membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday May 11, 2023.
- Jim announced special BGHS dates for 2023.
- Jim encouraged members and friends of the BGHS to sign up online for volunteering for April 16 and May 7 open houses, and other events for 2023.

- Daron reminded everyone about two time capsules: one behind the 4 drawer *chiffonier* in the dining room and the other under the Letourneau sign in front yard. **It was suggested that Mary Ann Lambert and Ken Ponton open the capsules in 2025.**
- Jim has a new *French America* book by Ron Katz. **The members suggested that this book be auctioned at the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.**
- Jim mentioned that a KCCVB grant might be available to build a Letourneau barn as extra space for museum displays.
- Jim mentioned that the French Heritage Society has restoration grants available. **He recommended that once a new roof is needed for the Letourneau Home/Museum, the estimate for restoration could then be submitted to the FHS.**
- Daron will call a Zoom board meeting soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul