

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—May 2, 2024 (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, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Frank Koehler, Betty Leininger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Marcia Rabideau, Josue Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Penelope and Phil Stickney attended via Zoom, and Ken Ponton and Mary Ann Lambert attended via telephone.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the question in in the BGHS News Eletter of April/May 2024 “Who are We? For the second month in a row no one knew the answer. So the question will roll over to next month’s meeting.

MINUTES: The April 4, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Penny and seconded by Mary Ann. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of March: general account \$22, 208.67 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37; and log schoolhouse account \$2,541.14. Balance of the CFKRV pass through investment account on December 13, 2023 was \$7,268.48. Steve said that he has mailed in the 2023 IRS report. A motion was made by Ken to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Motion was seconded by Frank and carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine recommended at the last meeting that the Sign Up Genius volunteer sign up should be under “Members” on the BGHS website. **Josue will investigate this possibility. Christine will review all gmail emails and review with us at the next meeting.**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken stated that the Illinois History Day (June 15) resolution passed in the House on March 21, and is in the Senate for consideration. He introduced the idea of a donor-paid storage barn that could house tools, and possibly some artifacts. Marcia and Daron said that climate control would be needed if artifacts were stored or put on display in the barn. **Ken will try to get an estimate on the cost of a climate controlled barn, and see if the donor will consider paying the extra cost.**

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary asked if anyone would take the books (donated by Carl Moran’s wife) to the Kankakee County Museum. **Max said he would do so.** Jim commended Gary for his care and artistic display of the artifacts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Doris said that Bonnie and Laurel will teach her the Membership Committee Chair duties in two weeks.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen Stringer submitted an email to Jim stating that the July 4 craft show is nearly full and December 7 craft show is 100% full.

- Jim recommended that a subcommittee address the issue of pursuing Gary's design for the log schoolhouse remnant log pieces, but no one volunteered. The matter was tabled.
- Jim encouraged everyone to publicize the Sign Up Genius as the easy way to volunteer for upcoming open houses. Since no one has volunteered for the open house on Sunday April 21 from 1-4 pm, Jim will be the chaperone for that date.
- Jim mentioned that he is almost done with the first draft of the 16 page booklet: *A Pictorial History of Bourbonnais Grove's First Log Schoolhouse (1837-48) and Home for French-Canadian Families from 1848-2010*. The booklet will be printed and for sale at a nominal price, placed online on the BGHS website and a print copy available in the photo album in the log schoolhouse.
- Frank mentioned that Bishop MacNamara Catholic School (Bourbonnais) students will come to the log schoolhouse on May 20. He, his wife Jean, Cindy McBarnes, and Karen Duchene-Korup will serve as docents for the students at the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Jim has not heard any further from Levi Lawson regarding his Eagle Scout Project.
- A log schoolhouse key is now in the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim has schedule a work session for the gardens on Saturday May 24 from 9-11 am.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Tabled: Daron and Jim met on September 21, 2023 to move the draft (created by Jim) forward so that it can be presented to the membership in 2024. **Daron is retying the agreed upon language so that it can be presented to the membership.**
- Several chaperons (see below with links) have volunteered for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and craft show. **However, there are many open dates in need of volunteers.**

(At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Ken Lewellen has volunteered for June 2; Priscilla Dwyer has volunteered for 7/21)--Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperon "sign up" link:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Letourneau Home/Museum Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](https://www.signupgenius.com/organizations/Bourbonnais-Grove-Historical-Society)

(At the Log Schoolhouse; Ken Lewellen has volunteered for July 7 and August 4)—Log Schoolhouse volunteer chaperon "sign up" link: [Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Log Schoolhouse Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](https://www.signupgenius.com/organizations/Bourbonnais-Grove-Historical-Society)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting will be on Thursday June 6, 2024 and via Zoom only.
- At the last meeting, Jim asked the members "Can we engage the community more in our museum campus with the iNaturalist app? The response was "great, cool", so he will pursue this idea. **Jim will work on this idea.**



- Jim announced special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
  - **May 17-19**—YOUR INVITATION TO THE Fourth Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference “What’s Cooking: Creating Collaboration in the French Heritage Corridor”, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, 333 N. Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI, [French Heritage Corridor 4th Annual Conference - May 17-19, 2024 \(mailchi.mp\)](#);
  - **Saturday June 15**—possible first Illinois History Day;
  - **Thursday July 4** from 9am – 3pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
  - **Sunday July 14** from 11 am to 1 pm—Bastille Day Brunch fundraiser at Kankakee County Museum
  - **August 1**—deadline for nomination for annual Fleur-de-Lis Award of Excellence [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
  - **August 30**—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
  - **Tuesday September 24**, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
  - **Saturday December 7** from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. Motion was made by Charles and seconded by Doris. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul