

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—June 6, 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, Daron Kinzinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Jean Legris-Pekoc, Ken Ponton, Doris O'Connor, Josué Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended.

**PRESENTATION:** for the third month in a row Jim posed the question again from the BGHS News Eletter of April/May 2024 “Who are We? Daron had one half of the answer: Edward LeVasseur. He gave an incorrect answer for the second person. Later he stated the correct answer: Julia LeVasseur.

**MINUTES:** The May 2, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of April: general account \$20,484.19 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37; and log schoolhouse account \$2,540.99. Balance of the CFKRV pass through investment account on December 13, 2023 was \$7,268.48. A motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Motion was seconded and carried.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT:** Christine has recommended that the Sign Up Genius volunteer sign up should be under “Members” on the BGHS website. Josue will investigate this possibility. Christine reviewed the latest gmail emails to the BGHS.

**EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ken stated that the Illinois History Day (June 15) resolution passed the Illinois State legislature. He stated that there will be a reception at the Kankakee County Museum celebrating this event in the near future. He also rescinded his idea of a donor-paid storage barn that could house tools, and possibly some artifacts. He said that he had a great deal of trouble getting bids for the construction.

**CURATOR’S REPORT:** Gary reviewed his many new ideas for displaying artifacts. Some of his ideas include a pie shelf (with pie) in the pantry, flickering fire embers (fake) in the pot belly stove and kitchen stove, and several others. The membership again thanked Gary and Mary Ann for their care and display of both museums’ artifacts.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Doris has taken charge of the Membership Committee and is in the process of compiling a list of new, ongoing, and lifetime members as the July 1 deadline for dues payment approaches.

**WAYS AND MEANS:**

- Ellen stated that the July 4 craft show is over 80% full and December 7 craft show is 100% full. The BGHS members who will welcome guests to the craft show at the BGHS table are Jim Paul, Steve Monts, Christine and Max Michels, Ken Lewellen, and Gary Seiner.

- Josué gave a website update. He would like a 2024 photograph to post with the 2024 Minutes. Jim will send him a 2024 photograph.
- Jim again recommended that a subcommittee address the issue of pursuing Gary's design for the log schoolhouse remnant log pieces. Betty, Jean, and Josué volunteered. However, since they all live out of state, Jim recommended that a local member also volunteer for the subcommittee.
- Jim encouraged everyone to publicize the Sign Up Genius as the easy way to volunteer for upcoming open houses.
- Jim mentioned that he has completed 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 \$5 each and placed online on the BGHS website. A print copy will be available in the photo album in the log schoolhouse.
- Jim mentioned that the Bishop MacNamara Catholic School (Bourbonnais) students came to the log schoolhouse on May 20. Frank and Jean Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, and Karen Duchene-Korup served as docents for the students at the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse. The experience was very successful for all involved.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Jim has not heard any further from Levi Lawson regarding his Eagle Scout Project, and will take it off the agenda.
- Jim has scheduled several work sessions so that they will look pristine for the Community Campus Grand Opening and the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival: **Thursday June 6 from 9-10:30 am, Friday June 7 from 9-11 am, Saturday June 8 from 9-11 am; Saturday June 15 from 9-11 am; Monday June 17 from 9-11 am; Tuesday June 18 from 9-11 am; Friday June 21 from 9-11 am; and Tuesday June 25 from 9-11 am.**
- Jim supervised the AC tune ups in both the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse on May 15.
- Daron recommended pruning of the boxwoods around the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve sign. Jim agreed but said that it was a low priority at this time when several other garden areas are overgrown with unwanted vegetation.

#### 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 has prepared a supplemental draft and would like to schedule a meeting with Jim to review both drafts. Jim would like a printed copy of Daron's draft before such meeting. After Jim and Daron reach agreement on the changes, the agreed upon language so that it can be presented to the membership.
- Several chaperons 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, Doris O'Connor has volunteered for June 16; Priscilla Dwyer has volunteered for 7/21)—the Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperon "sign up" link is:

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

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

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting will be on Thursday July 11, 2024 and via Zoom only.
- Doris O’Connor has volunteered for an extra open house during the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival on Saturday June 29 from 1-4 pm. Jim asked if anyone would like to accompany her? Gary and Daron volunteered. **Jim will send notice of the open house to the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival committee.**
- At the April 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:**
  - **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 8:15 pm. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.  
Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul