

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—November 7, 2024 (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, Daron Kinzinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Ken Lewellen, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Josué Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the question from the BGHS News Eletter of November/December 2024 "Who are we?" Daron and Max gave the correct answer: Clayton Osborn "C.O." Letourneau.

MINUTES: The October 3, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Daron and seconded by Mary Ann. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of October: general account \$25,625.23 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37; and log schoolhouse account \$3,358.15. Balance of the CFKRV pass through investment account on December 13, 2023 was \$7,729.05. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills by Betty and seconded by Ken L. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine brought us up to date regarding emails to the BGHS gmail.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: None.

CURATOR'S REPORT: Gary asked the membership about displaying the George Letourneau portrait from the Paschke family--general consensus was to place it in the Sewing Room (SE corner of the Letourneau Home). He will also compile a photo book of Letourneau family members donated (digital photographs) by the Paschke family. **Jim will send Daron the digital photo file so that he can print the photos for Gary.** Gary explained his idea about a faux flickering fire in the pot belly stove during the Christmas Open House. **Steve Monts will provide a tablet for Gary to use.** Gary will soon start to put up Christmas decorations in the home/museum and log schoolhouse. The membership again thanked Gary and Mary Ann for their care and display of both museums' artifacts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Doris stated that there are now 127 BGHS members for 2024—73 individuals plus 54 Lifetime (includes business). We have recently gained 4 new members and 3 Lifetime members.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Daron and Josué are working on a new website Landing Page. This page will include student resources, an overview of the BGHS, and a short video. Steve will assist as needed with Go Daddy, our website provider.

- Ellen gave a report on the upcoming December 7 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. The show is full and she has completed the regular publicity with signage, posters, radio, and newspaper ads. The membership thanked her for all her hard work on this fund raiser.
- Chaperones for the upcoming open houses are: Doris--November 17; and Gary--December 1. The chaperones for the BGHS table at the craft show on December 7 and the Christmas Open House will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Josué showed how he can wood-burn a *fleur-de-lis* on the log schoolhouse pieces. **Josué will pick up a few log pieces to work on, the next time he is in Bourbonnais.** Betty showed how she has placed a log schoolhouse card in a slot of one of the pieces. Gary added to this idea.
- Daron has planned a Culver's fundraiser for Wednesday November 20 from 5-8 pm. **Jim will help him to publicize by sending a blanket email two days before the event.**

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- B&C Yards Plus (owner Pete Gryzlak) is in the process of finishing his work on clearing unwanted trees, shrubs, and weeds from the southeast boarder along the water retention creek. He will prepare an estimate for future work on more tree/shrub removal/pruning.
- **Gary requested that someone replace the florescent lamp in the Military Room upstairs.**
- **Daron will contact an electrician to repair the many lights in the home/museum.**
- Jim gave an update on the 10/18 pest control and the 10/28 furnace tune up. Fortunately the tech diagnosed the furnace malfunction as "water in the pressure switch". He drained all hoses and now all works well. The additional cost was only \$53.
- **There is a broken slate in the rear boardwalk that needs to be replaced.**
- Daron stated that mold/mildew is forming on the lower siding of the Letourneau Home. The shrubs must be cut so that they do not touch the house.

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 outline 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. Daron has sent a general overview to Jim. After Jim and Daron reach agreement on the changes, the agreed upon language so that it can be presented to the membership.**
- Tabled: Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot for where the Letourneau Home once stood.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting will be on Thursday December 5, 2024 at 7 pm and via Zoom only.
- Doris and Frank recommended a map--for tours--showing the water routes from Quebec in relation to the Midwest. **Frank and Jim will create such a map.**
- Jim requested a videographer for the September 27, 2025 production of "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux"--**no one immediately volunteered to videotape the show although an ONU person may be available--Daron will check:**
- Jim requested volunteers to present an onstage pro and con debate with rebuttal during the September 27, 2025 production of "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux":

- “Was Noel LeVasseur’s legacy positive or negative?” **Jim will portray LeVasseur and present the positive view. Rodney Miller is thinking about presenting the negative view. Jim will send Rod the primary arguments for that view.**
- “Was the Excommunication of Fr. Charles Chiniquy justified?” **Ken L. volunteered to present the pro “yes” view and Josué volunteered to present the con “no” view. Jim will send each of them to the primary arguments and resource book.**
- “In the 1980s, should Durham-Perry Farmstead/Perry Farm Park be commercially developed or left in its natural state?” **Volunteers to debate each view are needed.**
- Jim announced the following special BGHS 2024 dates with link—**save the dates:**
 - **Thursday December 5--**membership meeting, election of officers and board members
 - **Saturday December 7** from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fair* [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://bourbonnaishistory.org)
 - **Saturday December 14 from 1-4 pm--**Christmas Open House at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse.
 - **Saturday/Sunday September 27-28, 2025--**French Heritage Weekend at The Grove
 - **Saturday September 27, 2025 at 7 pm--**“Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*”
 - **Thursday November 15, 2025--**Eighth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm after motion by Ken L. and seconded by Daron. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul