



2010 Special Meeting
Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference
Knoxville, Tennessee
18 August 2010
Minutes

Meeting called to order: 4:05pm by President, Billie Fogarty

Board members and committee chairs in attendance:

Billie Fogarty, President
C. Ann Staley, Vice President
Jean Wilcox Hibben, Secretary
Diana Crisman Smith, Treasurer
Gary Smith, National Conference Coordinator and Nominating Committee Chair

10 additional members in attendance.

Absent board members:

Debby Horton, Webmaster
Eric Basir, Director
Fredrea Gregath Cook, Director
Phyllis Ziller, Newsletter Editor

Minutes of 29 April 2010 meeting were dispersed among the attendees – Jean W. Hibben, Secretary. No additions or corrections noted.
Minutes were approved by consent and placed on file.

Treasurer's report – Diana Crisman Smith:

We are solvent but there are some outstanding expenses from the current conference. Payments will be made as the bills are presented and come due.

4 committees have been formed since last meeting – Billie Fogarty:

- 1) *Virtual Technology Committee* (working title)
chair: Thomas MacEntee
co-chair: Marian Pierre-Louis
vice-chair: Eric Basir
purpose: To address issues of virtual presentations, as pertaining to our members; size of committee will be adjusted as needed and into special interest groups.

- 2) *Committee to review web page updates*
chair: position pending
members: 12 volunteers, so far
purpose: To assist members in editing their web pages on the Guild's website.
- 3) *Booth committee*
chairs: Gary Smith
co-chair (unofficial): Diana Crisman Smith
purpose: To relieve the Smiths of some of the obligations (transportation of materials, staffing schedule, etc.) they have been handling at most conferences.
- 4) *Introduction of speakers (at NGS and, if desired, FGS)*
chair: Jean Hibben
co-chair: Margo Fariss Brewer (determined after the meeting was adjourned)
purpose: To contact speakers or the sponsoring organization for list of speakers who wish to be introduced (NGS, 2011, Charleston, SC has already indicated the desire for this service; FGS, 2011, Springfield, IL has yet to decide if the Guild is needed for this); to contact GSG members (via the Guild's Internet List) for volunteers; to have available the script to be used by all introducers; to maintain a schedule for the introducers and their assignments; to be available to fill in wherever possible; and to do whatever other duties are necessary to implement a professional and competent appearance in the fulfillment of this assignment.

Notice to those manning the booth this year: A new presence has been implemented in the form of a slide show, illustrating the information available at our website, featuring our members.

Proposed bylaws revision (see attachment) – Presented by Diana Crisman Smith, bylaws committee chair; vote was unanimous and bylaw revision was passed.

Diana Crisman Smith also proposed Standing Rule change that will allow for moving the dues renewal quarter to a later one "by paying an additional \$10 per quarter delayed" (see attachment). Motion carried. Notice will be sent to all members at renewal time (December 2010) to explain the new procedure and options.

Information on the new dues format and bylaws and standing rules revisions will be published in *Speak!* as well.

Follow-up on last meeting's discussion – Ann Staley asked about the status of the issue of the different "call for papers" submission requirements maintained by NGS and FGS, requesting a uniform policy (this to have been discussed with David Rencher). No new information, but members were encouraged to broach this subject with the administrators of the two organizations to see if the situation can be improved.

Appreciation for attendance – Billie Fogarty expressed appreciation for those who made an effort to attend the meeting, since 15 voting members were required for the bylaws revision.

Meeting adjourned: 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Jean Wilcox Hibben, Secretary

Addendum – Bylaws and Standing Rules Revisions

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT AND STANDING RULES

Currently GSG dues are collected for a calendar year - January to December - for all members. The following proposed amendment still calls for dues to be paid annually, but based on the quarter in which the member joined rather than the calendar year - thus spreading out our income and all of the work for the Treasurer, by not having everyone's renewal at the holidays/year end.

The amendment and accompanying standing rules are recommended for passage by the GSG Board.

To be considered for passage, a bylaws amendment must be presented to the membership with at least thirty (30) days notice before an announced membership meeting at which a vote will be taken. This amendment proposal was published in the May issue of SPEAK, along with the notice of this meeting, thus fulfilling the bylaws requirement for notification of the meeting and advance notice of the proposed amendment.

Two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting are required for passage of this amendment. A majority vote is required for passage of a standing rule. Fifteen members present are required for a quorum.

Bylaw Committee: Diana Crisman Smith (Chairman), Barbara Nuehring, Jean Wilcox Hibben.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Present Wording:

2. Annual dues for each membership classification shall be established by the Board and shall be for the calendar year, 1 January through 31 December. Membership may be terminated automatically by failure to pay annual dues by 15 February.

Proposed Wording:

2. Annual dues for each membership classification shall be established by the Board and shall be for four (4) calendar quarters (January-March; April-June; July-September; October-December). Membership will be terminated automatically if annual dues have not been received by the Treasurer by the last day of the quarter in which the member initially joined.

Rationale:

The timing of the current renewal process is awkward for many members, falling at the holiday season/year-end. Many members lose track of the renewal and miss the cut-off of 15 February. When they are terminated and lose benefits (such as website, newsletter and mailing list privileges), it is cumbersome for the webmaster, Treasurer, and editor to reinstate them onto the appropriate lists.

In addition, the principal opportunities for obtaining new members are during the major conferences – NGS in the spring (usually 2nd quarter) and FGS in the fall (usually 3rd quarter). New members are often hesitant to invest in a full year of dues for a half year or less of benefits; however, if they do NOT join at the conference, the opportunity is lost and they do not usually remember to join online or at another time. By offering annual renewal for whatever quarter they join, this disadvantage is removed and more new members should be obtained at both conferences.

The software used for tracking members is (and has been for several years) QuickBooks Pro. There is a field on each member's record for "expiration date." This field is used for generating reports – such as the newsletter mailing list – based on renewed membership. Having expiration dates at different times during the year will not cause a disadvantage in this regard – the report can be generated based on dates "earlier than" for newsletter mailings or "equal to" for renewals.

Standing Rule Proposal:

1. Members who are active as of the passage of amendment of Article III, Section 2 (August 2010), are considered to have joined in the fourth quarter, thus dues will be delinquent as of 1 January 2011.
2. Members whose current renewal date is 31 December 2010 or 2011 may change their annual renewal date by paying an additional fee of \$10.00 per quarter for up to three (3) quarters. For example, paying \$50.00 would change the renewal date to 1 April; \$60.00 would change the renewal date to 1 July; or \$70.00 would change the renewal date to 1 October.

