

Dallas Genealogical Society
General Meeting
Minutes
7 March 2020

President Suzan Younger opened the meeting at 11:00 am.

Membership: Gloria Goodwin, Director of Membership, reported there were 42 members and 5 visitors present, and there were 5 people who joined remotely. There was a quorum present.

Minutes from the Prior Meeting: Jan Samuels made a motion to accept the February 1, 2020 minutes. Richard Schlaudroff seconded the motion. There were no corrections or changes and the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report: February 2020 activity shows total deposits of \$1,991 and total expenses of \$4,054. The cash in the bank is \$29,153 and savings is \$97,097.

Changes to DGS Bylaws and Standing Rules: The DGS Board sent an email to all members on February 16, notifying you that on March 7 we would vote on changes to the DGS Bylaws and Standing Rules. The proposed changes were thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the 2018-19 and 2019-20 DGS Boards. The Board last revised the Bylaws four years ago in 2016 and revised the Standing Rules ten years ago in 2010. Most changes reflect "house-keeping" updates. The most significant change is to the terms of DGS elected officers. Currently, we elect the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary for one-year terms with a limit of serving only two years in a particular office. The proposed change is to increase the limit by one year, allowing a volunteer to serve three consecutive terms instead of two. This does not mean a volunteer must serve three consecutive terms but allows that flexibility. The proposed changes reflect the challenge of finding individuals to serve on the board.

Jean Larson made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules, Caroline Simpson seconded the motion. After a discussion of the motion, typos were noted. With noted corrections, the motion passed on Bylaws and Standing Rules revisions.

Membership Category Revisions: The February 16 email also gave notice of a vote to change the DGS membership categories. The DGS Board reviewed the use of the household category of membership. Based on the actual use and practices of other major societies, the DGS Board recommends deleting the category of household memberships. This will mean there would be three categories, member, life member under age 65, and life member over 65.

Barbara Ware made a motion to accept the revisions. Anne Broihier seconded the motion. There was a discussion of the motion with comments from the audience about concern for losing the household discount for those on a fixed income, both for the increased membership fee of \$30/couple, and the loss of the discount for seminars if only one person in the household is a member. There was a suggestion that existing household members be grandfathered in. Caroline Simpson made a motion to table the vote until April to give the board an opportunity to

review the matter of grandfathering in existing household memberships. Anne Broihier seconded the motion. The motion to table was accepted.

New Online Resources in the Genealogy Section: In September 2019, Suzan Younger shared with you some of the goals of the DGS board. One of the goals was to fund access to two online subscription sites to be available on the computers in the Genealogy Section of the Central Library. This goal was completed with the addition of NewspaperArchives.com to the Genealogy Section's online resources this month and HistoryGeo.com last month.

NewspaperArchive.com contains more than 14,400+ different titles from every US state and twenty-eight other countries around the world for the time period 1607 until today. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword, date, place, and title. This database is available on the computers in the Genealogical Section.

New Special Interest Group: We have a newly formed Special Interest Group thanks to the efforts of Patti Huff Smith. The Coppell Genealogy Special Interest Group was formed in early 2020 to assist Coppell residents who have an interest in researching their family history.

The group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Cozby Library and Community Commons, 177 N Hertz Road, Coppell. Patti, DGS's Volunteer Coordinator, is currently the group's leader.

Upcoming SIG meetings were noted. The Events tab on the DS website contains details about dates, times, and locations of the SIGS.

Reorganization of Events Pages on DGS Website: Tony Hanson, our webmaster, recently reorganized the DGS website's Events pages. There are four categories of events: DGS General Meetings, DGS Seminars, DGS Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and Other Organizations. Under the "Other Organizations," we will list national and regional events (conferences, workshops) and meetings of genealogical societies within a specific range of Dallas County. We recognize there is a wealth of excellent educational opportunities within reasonable driving distances, and we hope our members and visitors to the DGS website will use this enhanced Events Calendar. Societies can send their meeting information to Webmaster@dallasgenealogy.org, and you can find additional information on the DGS website under Events>List Your Event. We've listed the counties we will accept event information from on the "List Your Event" webpage.

Community Indexing Project: The DGS Board will announce a special community indexing project at the April General Meeting. Last week, at RootsTech, Barbara Ware, Suzan Younger, with Tony Hanson on a conference call, met with representatives of FamilySearch records groups and agreed to a joint project involving the DGS Cemetery Database and the newly digitized Oakland Cemetery records. We are working through the final details, and Tony has already created an online indexing portal and training material for DGS volunteers. We will announce details at the April General Meeting.

Next General Meeting Venue: The March meeting was held on the 8th-floor Genealogy Section of the Dallas Central Library. We will be back in the 1st-floor auditorium for the April General Meeting.

Upcoming Seminars: Vice President Jim Thornhill highlighted topics and presenters for upcoming seminars.

- **Spring Seminar** April 18, 2020 with Tony Burroughs. "Paths to Freedom: African American Research in the South"
- **Summer Seminar** July 25, 2020, with Blaine Bettinger, Diahann Southard, Patricia Hobbs and Mary Eberle. "DNA from A to Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code"
- **Fall Seminar** October 24, 2020 with David Lambert. "Maine to Virginia: Finding Your Colonial Ancestors"

Board Vacancies

Director of Publication Content

- Chairs the Publication Committee
- Solicits reviews and content for publication in the eNews, Blog and on the DGS website
- Edits contents for publication

Today's Program: Stephanie Bennett - "Enhance Your Genealogy Research with Resources from the Dallas Public Library"