



Local History and Genealogy Section
Standing Committee & Corresponding Members
May 7, 2020, 9:00 AM, CST
Via Zoom

Minutes

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, CT.

2. Roll Call – Member present were:

Cherie Bush, Megan Butcher, Russell Lynch*, Dragan Milosevic, Maja Markhouss, Laila Hussein Moustafa (Secretary), Takashi Nagatsuka (Information Coordinator), Laverne Page, Cecilia Salvatore (Chair)

Introduction of new member, Megan Butcher, Chief of Orientation and Genealogy for Canada.

3. New Business

a. Cancellation of WLIC 2020 – What next?

Several ideas were shared. It was agreed that the section would do a series of webinars beginning with one that will be held at the same time and dates that the now-cancelled Satellite Meeting was scheduled. Webinar topics could focus on some of the papers submitted for the WLIC 2020 Open Session and the Satellite Meeting, as well as other topics from invited speakers. It was agreed that a survey would be sent out to section members, as well as members of other sections, asking for preferred or suggested topics related to Local History and Genealogy. Cecilia S., Laila M., and Cherie B. will develop the survey.

Cherie B. suggested that along with the webinars, a virtual, mini conference could be held in October, perhaps around Family History Month in the United States. It was agreed that one or more of the programs could be light-hearted – e.g., inviting people to share their local tradition. Laila M. emphasized the importance of bringing in other regions as well, such as Latin America.

All endorsed the idea of sending out an announcement about the first webinar to the general community right away. The announcement could be brief for now – like a “save the date” for “our first webinar” announcement.

A Programming Committee to develop the webinars and virtual conferences was formed. Members include: Cherie B., Laverne P., and Cecilia S.

[Update: Megan Butcher has since volunteered to join the committee.]

[Update: Cherie B. has since communicated with Drew Smith, who has presented on DNA and libraries, and Mr. Smith is willing to be involved with the August webinar.]

b. IFLA Restructure - Update

Cecilia S. shared the letter from Christine McKenzie to section and group leaders in which she discussed the IFLA restructure. The Governing Board is working on the plan, but has not announced a final decision.

The background of the IFLA restructure plan was discussed. The restructure plan was announced to everyone at WLIC 2019 in Athens. While IFLA had been concerned about the membership of our section, the plan grew out of a consultant's report which also concluded that IFLA could increase efficiency by merging some sections and groups.

More on the restructure may come up at the next Division II officers meeting. The section will be informed of any new information.

c. Action Plan Status

Just like other sections and in light of the pandemic, our section's Action Plan need to be revised. The Action Plan consists of three focus areas. Some of the tasks are off to a good start. Cherie B. has been working with groups in the United States. Dragan M. started to communicate with the Eastern European countries, but that came to a stop because of the COVID-19. Maja M. is working with the Nordic countries. One of the problems that has to be addressed is communication from coordinators from other regions. Need to assess the status of the coordinator from Latin America and Asia. All are grateful for Megan B.'s role representing Canada. Laverne P. will be connected to and will work with the coordinator from South Africa and Africa, Nikiwe Momoti.

Cecilia S. has started working, with help from Joyce Jelks, on gathering and publishing best practices, models, and standards.

Further discussion of the Action Plan and revisions will take place online and at the next meeting.

d. Communications (Blog, Minutes of Previous Meetings, Facebook or Other Social Media Group Page)

The section's communication activities were discussed. Laila M. and Cecilia S. commended Takashi N. for his great work in sending out communications and information to the section. Takashi has promptly uploaded materials sent to him.

Maja asked about the missing minutes from previous meetings. Laila pointed out that other sections haven't uploaded all their minutes. It was pointed out that minutes and other information are also on the blog that was started by and moderating by Bozena Rasmussen, former section chair. Dragan pointed out that a blog is a nice medium for other types of material and information, besides those that are appropriate to post on the IFLA website. It was agreed that the section could ask to access the existing blog or start a new blog with some materials from the current blog. Maja M. will contact Bozena R. Cecilia S. and Laila M. will work with Takashi on gathering other minutes and documents and uploading them on the IFLA website.

Cherie suggested that there could be a regular assignment of individuals who could contribute to the blog – e.g., one month, Dragan M. could contribute and another month someone else could contribute.

A Communications Committee to assist the Information Coordinator with a new or updated blog and other communication tools was formed. Members include: Dragan, Maja, Takashi, and Cecilia

e. Others

It was agreed that section should stay in contact by having a regularly-scheduled monthly meeting. The chair will schedule a meeting for June.

4. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. (CT)

*Russell L. had to leave the meeting early.