

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2009
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Bob Larson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:30 pm. He presented the attached agenda.

Recycle Table

Cathi Smith encouraged everyone to visit the Recycle Table. She stated that she has a number of magazine holders which members might find useful.

Publications

Hap Hazard reminded everyone that Society lapel pins are available at the Publications Table for \$5. In addition, various genealogical videos are available for loan to members. Hap also has Society business cards which are nice to hand out when members talk to prospective members or when visiting various libraries and/or court houses, etc.

Since the members agreed last month to try a new meeting schedule in which the refreshment and conversation period was held prior to the actual meeting, a break was taken at this point for refreshments and conversation. President Larson thanked Dana Howk, Linda Simonetta and Hildy Morgan for organizing and presiding over the refreshment table.

Business Meeting

Visitors/New Members

Bob introduced the following guests and new members: Carol Bergerson, Sharon Foster, Vicky Gray, Debbie Harrison, Phyllis Heech, Raymond Hmielak, Kurtis Kelly, Judy Krieger, Sharon Lundt, Marge Michaud, Harry Mueller, Joanne Schendel, Helen Weber and Ellen Wheeling. Bob welcomed them all and encouraged visitors to consider joining the Society.

Recording Secretary

Since the current Recording Secretary, Carol Stetser, has taken on the position of Vice President, a new Recording Secretary is needed. Carol urged members to consider volunteering for this position.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith was ill, but Bob reported that the Society bank balance is currently \$3248.00. Everyone wished Paul a speedy recovery.

Clipboards

As usual, the Society is in need of several committee chairs, so Bob passed around the infamous clipboards for anyone to sign if he/she is interested in filling any of these positions. The Society currently needs a Newsletter Editor, an Education Chair and a Publications Chair. In addition, the Society needs a Hospitality Chair. Since no one has volunteered, the Board has agreed to try having different members volunteer for each month, rather than having one person assume complete responsibility for organizing the refreshments for a full year. Bob also reported that McDonald's will donate free coffee, so that no one will need to make it. A clipboard for Hospitality was also circulated.

Study Groups

Sonny Hygh in Fort Collins and Boyd Johnson in Loveland have begun holding some informal study groups for members who want to discuss and, hopefully, find answers to their genealogy puzzles.

Sonny reported that the Fort Collins group will meet at 1:00 pm on Thursday, February 26 at the Harmony Library. Boyd Johnson reported that the Loveland group met on February 10 at his home in Loveland from 3:30 until 5:00 pm. They plan to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. In addition, he and his wife Gwen intend to start an evening group that will meet from 7:00 until 8:30 on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

All members are invited to join either of these groups, based on which of the two cities they live in.

Colorado Expo

President Larson reminded everyone that the Colorado Expo will be held on June 12 and 13 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Loveland. Bob stated that the Expo will encompass 80 classes taught by national and regional speakers such as Dear Myrtle and Beau Sharborough. There will also be 40 vendors of genealogical products.

Bob will be giving members more details next month, but, in the meantime, members can visit the Family History Expos website at www.familyhistoryexpos.com for further information and to register.

A number of volunteers will be needed for the Expo; Bob circulated a clipboard for potential volunteers to sign. As a perk of volunteering, entrance to the Expo will be free for those who help at the Expo.

Guest Speaker

Ken Goldsberry introduced Sharon Greenlee, who was the speaker for the evening. Her topic was "Writing to Capture Memories."

Sharon stated that many people are overwhelmed at the idea of writing an autobiography, so she has put together a program in which people write "vignettes", or small personal essays. Since these are only about a page or so, writers feel less overwhelmed and are more eager to start writing.

As an example for the audience, Sharon had a former student read one of her essays entitled "The Coal Cellar". This short essay captured the student's memories of coal being delivered to the house when she was a child.

Sharon next shared the process she uses when she teaches students to write their vignettes. She begins with what she calls a “master web”. She starts by writing a general topic, such as “Grandma’s House”, encircled on the center of a page. From that circle she draws lines outward upon which she writes a more specific memory. Each of these memories will be the focus of a vignette, or, if the topic is still too large, sub webs can be made to further break down topics.

Sharon believes that the “master web” helps writers because it is very visual and is less structured and intimidating than an outline. Also, each memory can be written as a stand-alone story, so that eventually the writer will have a group of essays that can be combined into a larger chapter or even a book.

Sharon teaches her writing method at various locales in the area; she handed out brochures for those who were interested in enrolling.

Final Business Items

Survey

Bob reminded everyone that he has emailed a survey to members, which he would like everyone to fill out. This survey will help the Board tailor Society activities and projects to the needs and wants of the membership.

Website

Webmaster Pat Walker reminded members to use the Society website when they are making purchases from Amazon.com. Purchases cost the buyer nothing extra, but the Society earns a commission from every sale that is made through the Society website.

Pat also reminded members that past issues of the newsletter are archived on the Society website, where members can access them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.