

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT for 2018

Gary E Davis
1-17-2019

(Subtle humor included - please read with that in mind!)

Previous Board and Chairperson's reports were intentional so I could limit my presentation to one hour!

In brief, some of the more significant tasks and accomplishments of the last year include:

A fourth successful Conference for a Cause with Tom Jones as presenter. This conference resulted in over \$2,200 being donated to the Ft. Collins Archives and the Colorado Historic Newspapers project, both nonprofits. These conferences are initiated by Chairperson Stacey Rehbein. And for the 2019 conference we've signed up Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist. Stacey says there is no connection between getting the legal genealogist and her inherited wealth from her ancestor Jesse James.

Linda Johnson, our Membership Chair and Corresponding Secretary, has single-handedly maintained our total membership to around 190 members, at least that's her story and she's sticking to it! There was a total of 541 attendees at our programs, including 455 members and 86 visitors – that we know of and that checked in! Some came late for the speaker, and some came, got food, and left. We had a major transfer of our email mailing list to MailChimp, and we are continuing our "NAP" program for those that wish to sleep during my announcements and jokes. Actually, NAP is our New-member Appreciation Program. This program permits an existing member to sponsor one new member for the year, free of dues for one year. Be thinking of someone to invite now.

Our VP Tammie Gregori, put together 11 monthly membership programs with great presentations by six presenters from outside our organization and four presenters from our membership. Program topics included Emigration, Maps, DNA, Brick Walls, the Irish, Neighborhoods, Old Photos, Surnames, and Libraries. To Tammie's credit, all of these were in English! The 12th "meeting" being our Holiday party in December was hosted by Linda Johnson, the gag-gift-gal, and yours truly. We had about 40 people present and 40 presents (door prizes).

Our Education committee, Co-chaired by Bob Larson and Glenn York, (not sure if Glenn was fired or resigned recently) offered 14 free genealogy classes for various levels of genealogical experience at Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Wellington libraries. Attendance total was 266, including 95 members and 171 visitors. Please see Bob's report handout on the table.

With the help of Joy Michels, we established five new Study Groups which meet on a somewhat regular basis. These groups are self-supporting and administering in most aspects and are less formal than our programs. We are seeing growth and may be adding more groups, such as a Beginners' Group or a Germans from Russia Group, and French-Canadian Fine Dining Group. Please get a copy of the handout for more information.

We've finally found a single, year-round, larger, and more centralized-to-our-county meeting location for our monthly programs; we also have a written understanding to continue here. Now if we can just get out of the building without setting off the alarm. Remember it's 8052# on the white keypad by the doors.

As in prior years our volunteers continue to provide free genealogy help at our Loveland and down town Ft. Collins libraries every Thursday of the year, except holidays, thanks to approximately 20 volunteers, coordinated by Kathy Patrick and Rick Searles. These folks are our front-line troops. Please applaud.

Updated for the second-year-in-a-row, and never again my former board will assure you, our 46-page Procedures Manual; this time with more substantive provisions in order to make our procedures clear and current, especially for new volunteers. Hint, hint.

Our Board and Chairs revised and updated over several months a few significant provisions in our Society Bylaws, which you just adopted. A couple of the updates include adding some “Standing Rules” of importance in the Bylaws themselves; including Board input in developing the President’s Yearly Plan; and using emails on record for official notices.

Our Archivist and Recording Secretary Diana Dwyer finalized the uploading of all our Society records, including hundreds of documents and thousands of files to a secure cloud storage site; so now we not only have our old files in one, not three or four, locations, but we might be able to find the files we want!

And thanks to Kathy Patrick, our “property manager” we have an accurate digital record of who has our Society’s valuable resources, such as loud speakers and mics, flash drives, backup drives, software disks, membership databases, paper records, stationary and stamps, post office box keys, check book, and so forth, but most importantly, the roll of tickets for door prizes and the ice-tea jug we deposit them in.

We continued to publish bimonthly Newsletters through November, and for expense and time efficiencies we moved to an email only newsletter; however, that is temporarily on hold for need of an Editor. Applications now being accepted.

We’ve made extensive changes to our website and Facebook pages. In the first half of 2018 Stacey Rehbein and son Bryan revamped the format of our website and changed our website host including many security features and updates. One added change was a new logo, but the same tree remains! Later in the year we transferred the out-of-state website administration to one of our local members, and former webmaster, Bob Larson. Sadly, many people objected, but we appointed him anyway. He is now Web Committee Chair, with Larry Doyle as webmaster. These two and the committee have also made website improvements in navigation and new pages and security. New pages include a Beginners Section, a new online member application form and online dues payment, and an upcoming Study Group information page. Please see the more detailed report on the handout table.

Concurrently Bruce Vigneault, our Publicity Chair and Jack of all trades, has taken administration of our Face Book page, updated it, and brought it back to life. Please join its 773 visitors and 294 Likes and see what’s new.

The Society will likely be undertaking a survey soon of membership expectations for 2019. The board and chairs will then review it for purposes of considering membership suggestions and planning for the future. If you don’t like digital surveys, you can always talk to Glenn or any board member, especially one of our two Directors-at-Large (Carol Stetser and Kathy Patrick) who are charged with the duty of receiving input from our members. They may be armed, so be kind.

Thank you.

Gary E Davis, President 2017-18



Larimer County Genealogical Society

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