

**MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**FALL MEETING – OCTOBER 21, 2017**  
**Auburn Public Library**

President Father Parent called the 2017 MFGS Fall meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. About 24 members/ 5 guests were present.

**President:** Father Parent introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He noted that October is Genealogy Month. He then led the opening prayer, the Our Father, in French and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Father called on Richard Gamache, Nominations Chair, to present the slate for two openings on the Board of Directors. The nominees are Jeanne Letourneau and Richard Gamache – each for a 2-year term. Since there were no nominations from the floor, Connie Hitchcock moved and Sue Rowe seconded that “Seeing no nominations from the floor, let the Secretary cast the ballot.” The motion was carried unanimously.

Father thanked the Board, librarians and all volunteers who contribute time and energy to the organization. He informed the attendees that membership renewals, changes of address and other contact information should be given to Lucille Langelier.

**Recording Secretary:** The minutes of the April 22, 2017 spring meeting were distributed. Connie Hitchcock asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, she moved and Sue Rowe seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report.

1. Amazon Smile is calculated every 3 months; 6 months increase is on the report.
2. The Bates Sweep netted \$1,080.73; thank you to all volunteers.
3. As of September 30, 2017, MFGS has \$11,122.58 in assets. The report was placed on file for audit.
4. Lucille also noted that Microsoft Excel has been installed.

Father Parent explained how Amazon.Smile works: register once and then it's automatic when you make purchases.

He also explained how MFGS can profit from Sun Journal annual online subscription renewals: 1) Click on Benefits; 2) Register with MFGS; 3) every renewal = \$100 free advertising.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Connie Beliveau reported no activity.

**Librarian:** Richard Bourget

1. He has a long list of donations to the Father Begin library.

Father noted that they have also received: a) 7 boxes of books from the Galen Ouellette Estate in northern Maine; b) and a set of F. Bilodeau family books.

2. Addressed access to the library –
  - a. Father has spoken with Fortin's. They cannot do anything that would further narrow the already narrow staircase. If members are unable to climb the stairs, they are advised to let Father know in advance and arrangements can be made to use a downstairs room.
3. Addressed access to bathroom facilities: Follow directions to the bathroom if Fortin's is closed. Any straying from the indicated path will set off a very sensitive alarm system.

**Web Master:** Norm Cote noted that the web page has been updated. There is a link to Face Book on the page, and the Newsletter has been posted. The site has received 125-150 hits.

**Face Book:** No report

**Research:** Art Allard received eight (8) requests for a direct line to French ancestor genealogy searches as a result of the ad placed in the Sun Journal. The ad was made possible by the Sun Journal subscription renewal donations. Father thanked Art for placing the ad.

**Ongoing Projects:**

1. Obituary collection: Norm Cote reported that the committee has completed 231 books compiling a total of 106,456 obituaries of Franco-Americans. This project was started in 1985. All entries are indexed and scanned into the computer to facilitate searching. Some have photos available and have "photo" identifying the entry.
2. Sue Beaulieu and Sue Rowe are up to Volume 35 of 82 and continue to index the Father Labonte books of family trees.
3. Lucille Langelier and Connie Hitchcock continue to work on creating an automated catalogue of the family books collection.

**New Business:**

1. Librarians needed. Sickness is depleting the number of librarians available. Art Allard or Father will answer any questions from those interested. George Blouin suggested that a class be held to facilitate the learning process for those interested. The Librarian, Richard Bourget, could teach the class at a time when the library is not open to the public, thereby allowing for uninterrupted instruction and time for questions.
2. The old index/ list of books needs to be updated.
3. The Blue book needs rebinding – hardbound.
4. Father informed the audience about a potential project: Digitalize Le Messager.
  - a) the oldest and longest lived [continuous publication] French newspaper.

- b) Need volunteers to learn the use of the equipment and systematically proceed; must be done at the State Library in Augusta.
5. A question arose on the Dostie records that resulted in acknowledging the need for an index of these; this is another future project.
  6. A member requested that the library purchase a step stool with handles that would make it easier to reach the higher shelves safely.
  7. Father made a strong plea NOT to re-shelve the books, but to leave that to the librarians.

**Announcements**

1. The 50/50 winner of \$35.00 was Father Parent who returned the entire amount to MFGS.
2. Sue Rowe and Sue Beaulieu conducted the Fall Raffle. A list of winners will be published.
3. Books for purchase are on the back table.
4. Father Parent will be giving an Adult Ed program at Lewiston High School on October 25 at 7:00pm. He will be speaking on *Les Filles du Roi*. Pre-registration is required and the fee is \$10 for the session.
5. Our Spring General Meeting April date is to be determined.

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by general consensus.

**Program:** The formal program was cancelled because of the unavailability of the scheduled speaker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Hitchcock,  
Recording Secretary

