

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2018
Auburn Public Library

President Father Parent called the 2018 MFGS Fall meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. About 20 members were present for the meeting.

President: Father Parent introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He then led the opening prayer, the Our Father, remembering members who have passed or were severely injured; then led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Father introduced Richard Gamache, chair of the nominating committee, who conducted the election of officers and board members.

Election:

Richard Gamache presented the slate of candidates for Officers and Board members:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>
President: Fr. Robert Parent	2018-2020
Vice President: Arthur Allard	2018-2020
Treasurer: Lucille Langelier	2018-2020
Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau	2018-2020
Recording Secretary: Connie Hitchcock	2018-2020
Board of Directors:	
Rita Melendy	2018-2020
Michael Poulin	2018-2020

No nominations were forthcoming from the floor. Sue Rowe moved and Claire Poulin seconded that the nominations be closed. Richard G instructed the recording secretary to cast the ballot.

Continuing the President's opening:

1. Father thanked all directors, librarians, committee members and volunteers on special projects. He gave a special thank you to Sue Beaulieu for putting together the newsletter which is also on our website, to Sue Beaulieu and Sue Rowe for organizing the raffle, and to Jeanne Letourneau, Connie Beliveau and Connie Hitchcock for providing the refreshments .
2. He informed the attendees that membership renewals, changes of address and other contact information should be given to Lucille Langelier.
3. Father stated that MFGS has lost librarians to illness and moves, and that although we have some new ones, we are still in need of volunteers to cover the times when we are open. there are three [3] slots that need to be filled. If MFGS does not find more people, the open hours may have to be reduced. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.
4. Bates College Clean Sweep – June 16th
As a non-profit, MFGS receives a percentage of the sale profits based on the number of volunteer hours the organization accumulates. This year,

MFGS netted over \$500 that was used to purchase books from the Vermont Society. that collection is almost complete.

5. **Buy-a-book/Dedicate-a-Book program**

This is still going well and Father Parent has the list of available books if you wish to make a donation. A number of books were purchased from a sum received in memory of Pauline Dufresne.

6. **Father Parent asked if everyone had received the digital newsletter. It was noted that the front page did not always come through correctly. Sue will adjust the format to PDF before emailing it to members.**

7. **Father urged people to make certain that their email addresses on MFGS' contact list were current.**

Recording Secretary: The minutes of the April 21, 2018 spring meeting were distributed. Connie Hitchcock asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, she moved and Bob Pelletier seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report.

1. Lucille pointed out the Bates Clean Sweep income of \$535.27

2. At the time of her report, 1270 raffle tickets had been sold and \$1075 collected.

3. As of September 30, 2018, MFGS has \$10,377.51 in savings and \$280.54 in checking for a total of \$10, 658.05 in assets.

The report was placed on file for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau reported that she sent a sympathy card to Roger Dufresne to express our condolences on the loss of his wife.

Librarian: Father reported:

1. A head librarian needs to be appointed.

2. Two of the Vermont books were acquired via the Buy-a-Book/Donate-a-Book program.

3. A series of books was acquired from the Curtis Memorial Library that list information on the headstones of non-Catholic cemeteries in the greater Brunswick area.

Web Master: Norm Cote noted that the site has received 125-150 hits.

Face Book: No report

Father Parent noted that Amazon.smile purchases has resulted in \$14.20 being donated to MFGS.

Research: Art Allard – no report

Ongoing Projects:

1. Obituary collection: This is ongoing.

237 volumes are completed and are being digitalize and indexed.
The question arose as to who would replace Pauline Dufresne who has recently passed away.

It was noted that records begin in 1996 when this project started. But there are obituaries that date back to 1880's and these have come from members bringing in their own memory cards or clippings.

Bob Pelletier Is continuing to collect the newspapers from which the obituaries are gleaned.

2. Sue Rowe continues to index the Father Labonte books of family trees and reports that she is more than ½ done. The collection has a total of over 80 volumes.

3. Sue Rowe and Sue Beaulieu continue to scan records of cemetery monuments from the company records of Murphy Co. into a database.

4. Lucille Langelier and Connie Hitchcock continue to work on creating an automated catalogue of the family books collection.

Old Business:

New Business:

Announcements

1. With Lucille Langelier's help, Arthur Allard researched direct lines for people to give as Christmas gifts. The results of the research were printed on a nice presentation sheet. This was very successful with over 40 lines requested.

Question from the audience:

Are the results of these line searches available to the general membership?

Attendees agreed that it would be a good resource.

2. Father announced that Lucille Langelier will be our presenter at the Spring General Meeting. She will speak on the Acadian deportation and share related information she obtained on her recent trip to France.

3. Father encouraged new visitors to join as members. Memberships provide unlimited visits and use of the Genealogy library. Non-members pay \$3/visit.

4.. The 50/50 winner of \$38.00 was Bob Pelletier.

Meeting adjourned: Rita Melendy moved and Jeanne Letourneau seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:46. The motion was carried.

Raffle drawing: Names were pulled to determine the raffle winners.

All attendees were invited to participate in refreshments while the guest speaker set up his presentation

Program: The formal program featured author James Myall who spoke about his findings and final selections as he researched his book Stories from Lewiston: the Rum Wars.

Next general meeting – mid-April 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hitchcock,
Recording Secretary