

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING – MAY 4, 2019
Auburn Public Library

President Father Parent called the 2019 MFGS Spring meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. About 24 members were present for the meeting.

President: Father Parent introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He then led the opening prayer remembering members who have passed and who are ill; then he led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 and to Jeanne Letourneau, Connie Beliveau and Connie Hitchcock for providing the refreshments.
2. Father recruited members to serve on the Board of Directors and directed them to speak with Richard Gamache.
3. Father reminded people to pay their dues and to give any changes of address or other contact information to Lucille Langelier.
4. Father stated that MFGS also recruited librarians. He explained the basic responsibilities of those volunteers, that training is available and the days for which people are needed. Joline Fortier needs to resign as a library volunteer so there is a definite need for coverage on the first Saturday of the month. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.
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 3-volume set containing 117,000 records by Bob Chenard was bought for \$125.*
6. Father Parent informed the gathering that he would like to transition from the office of President to that of Head Librarian. The organization needs someone to step in and run for President. Please see Richard Gamache, Nominations Chair, to sign up for the October election.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of the October 20, 2018 spring meeting were distributed. Connie Hitchcock asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, she moved and Lucille Langelier seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer: Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report and noted that she has been treasurer for 12 years.

As of March 31, 2019, MFGS has \$8,111.21 in savings, \$753.00 in checking, and \$2,508.50 in our CD for a total of \$11,372.71 in assets.
The report was placed on file for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau had no report.

Librarian: Father reported:

1. The list of new books is in the Newsletter
2. We acquired a couple of boxes of used books from Quebec for about \$150 in Canadian funds.
3. Jane Whitmore from the Vermont Genealogy organization brings those books in on her visits thereby saving on postage. MFGS hopes to complete the Vermont collection by next year.

Web Master: Norm Cote noted that the site receives on average 125-150 hits per week. Father promoted the site by giving samples of its contents.

Face Book: Joline Fortier reported that as of April 1, MFGS had 521 likes and 597 followers. Joline noted that although she has to resign as a librarian, she will continue managing the Facebook page and helping with the raffle.

Research: Art Allard – no report

Ongoing Projects:

1. Obituary collection:
 - a. 242 volumes are completed and are being digitalize and indexed.
 - b. The committee of 5 is down to 4 [Gabe C, Norm C, Monique G and Bob P] with the resignation of Roger Dufresne.
 - c. MFGS needs volunteers to scan through provided newspapers and to clip the pertinent obituaries.
 - d. 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 2/3 done. The collection has a total of over 80 volumes and contains 200 family trees of Franco-Americans.
3. Sue Rowe and Sue Beaulieu have finished scanning records of cemetery monuments from the company records of Murphy Co. into a database.
4. Lucille Langelier continues to work on creating an automated catalogue of the family books collection.

Old Business:

New Business:

Announcements

1. The Maine Genealogy Fair is on Saturday June 29th from 9am to 4pm at the State Library in the Cultural Building in Augusta. MFGS is looking for at least two [2] volunteers to attend and monitor a display table for us. Volunteers do not need to stay for the entire time.
2. Father encouraged new visitors to join as members. Memberships provide unlimited visits and use of the Genealogy library. Non-members pay \$3/visit.
3. The 50/50 winner of \$47.50 was Michael Poulin.
4. Father did not see the upcoming June 9th Bates College Sweep advertised in the newspaper, and by the time he was able to check their website, the registration date had passed.
5. Sue Beaulieu noted that anyone interested in helping with the fall raffle contact either Sue Rowe or herself. This is an annual event.
6. The fall general meeting will be held in mid-October. The final date will be determined as the speaker and library room availability are confirmed.

Meeting adjourned: Connie Beliveau moved and Janet Dubois seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am. The motion was carried.

Program: The formal program featured our own Lucille Langelier who spoke about her trip to France on an Acadian history tour. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

Next general meeting – mid-October 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hitchcock,
Recording Secretary