

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL MEETING – OCTOBER 15, 2016

President Father Parent called the 2016 MFGS Fall meeting to order at 10 a.m. About 27 members/guests were present. Father Parent led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer.

Proposed bylaws amendments: Connie Hitchcock introduced the proposed amendments to the MFGS bylaws. A copy of the proposed amendments [See Appendix A at the end of these minutes] was distributed to everyone in attendance and had been published in the fall newsletter that was emailed or snail mailed to all members. Connie moved and Bob Pelletier seconded that the amendments be adopted. Discussion ensued. The question was asked whether an option existed to extend an officer's term beyond the 2-term limit. It was noted that the existing language "or until their successors are elected" which is at the end of the sentence that changed the term limits, was not removed or changed. The motion to adopt the changes as proposed was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Directors: Richard Gamache, chair of the nominations committee, presented the proposed slate of officers and directors, all of whom would be elected for a two-year term:

President: Father Robert Parent;
Vice President: Arthur Allard;
Treasurer: Lucille Langelier;
Recording Secretary: Connie Hitchcock;
Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau;
Board of Directors: Richard Bourget and George Blouin.

Upon hearing no nominations from the floor, Rita Melendy moved and Joline Fortier seconded that the proposed slate be accepted. No discussion occurred. The motion passed unanimously.

President: Newly elected for another term, Fr. Parent welcomed everyone. He encouraged participation and volunteerism in MFGS, especially among the younger relatives and friends of current members. He thanked those who already volunteer, specifically Monique Gagne, Richard Bourget, Joline Fortier, Sue Rowe and Sue Beaulieu. He detailed the needs for help existing in the library and on the raffle committee, the areas where the above-named volunteers have given much of their time.

Father mentioned that our dues have not been raised in at least ten years; other societies' dues are at least \$50 / year. Our dues pay the rent while donations cover our other expenses. One such act of generosity was from Mrs. Jeanne Letourneau who requested that in lieu of flowers for her husband, Mr. Germain Letourneau, donations in his memory be made to MFGS. [see Treasurer's report]
Father reminded everyone about the Buy-a-Book program and encouraged everyone to be an active member of MFGS.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of the April 16, 2016 spring meeting were distributed. Connie Hitchcock moved and Bob Pelletier seconded to accept the minutes. Seeing no discussion or questions, Father Parent conducted the vote on the motion which was passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report. As of October 1, 2016, MFGS has \$9,080.95 in assets. This includes a part of \$1,055 received “in memory of Germain Letourneau” and part of the \$1,112 total for raffle tickets sold as of October 15. MFGS bought a book of records from the Vermont area in memory of Germain Letrouneau.

The report was placed on file for audit. [Bob Pelletier moved and Rita Melendy seconded to accept the report, but it was noted that according to Robert’s Rules, the treasurer’s report does not need a motion to accept; it is simply “placed on file for audit”.]

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau reported that she sent a sympathy card to Jeanne Letourneau, and a thank you card to Lucille Langelier for her donation of a book on Nova Scotia genealogy.

Librarian: Richard Bourget thanked people for ongoing cataloging and informed the membership that a number of new out-of-state books, notably New York and Vermont, have been added to the collection. A list of new donated books is available at the library.

Richard also noted that there is a great need for librarians to cover the Wednesday and Saturday hours. If anyone has one of these time slots open – once a month – and is willing to donate time, the current librarians will train volunteers who are interested.

Web Master: No report. Check the site for updates and closings.

Face Book: Joline Fortier encouraged everyone to view and “like” us. The site currently has 227 likes. Joline informed the members that the Amazon.Smile program is still active and explained how it works. If you shop Amazon, please use the Amazon.Smile site and select MFGS as the charity to which you want the percentage of the sales to go. There is no added cost to your purchase; whether you buy through regular Amazon or Amazon.Smile, your cost is the same.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Monique Gagné is working on volume 216 of obituaries covering Maine and parts of New Hampshire from the 1980’s to current date. Please send in obituaries or mortuary cards that pertain to Francos, whether as the deceased or as someone with a Franco name mentioned in the obituary. A few obituaries go back to the early 1900’s, but the early papers had obituaries placed anywhere in the paper where there was room, and some were only two lines. Reviewing these is labor intensive. These listings are indexed by last name.

2. Sue Beaulieu and Sue Rowe are indexing the Father Labonte books, which consist of 82 volumes of family trees. They are also scanning and organizing cemetery monument records.

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

Announcements

1. The 50/50 winner was Giselle Parent who generously donated her \$47 winnings back to MFGS.

2. Sue Beaulieu and Joline Fortier are compiling a list of raffle winners.

Tentative 2017 General Meeting dates:

April 8 or 22, 2017

October 14 or 21, 2017

Father Parent will check on the availability of the meeting room at APL and the availability of potential speakers.

Meeting adjourned: 10:55 a.m.

Program: The formal program began after a brief intermission for refreshments.

Leslie Choquette presented: *French Canadian Immigration to New England (19th – 20th Century)*

Professor Choquette provided an overview of the movements of the nearly one million French Canadians who settled in New England from the late 1800's to 1930. She is professor of History, French Studies and Director of the French Institute at Assumption College, Worcester, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hitchcock,
Recording Secretary

Appendix A:

Proposed Amendments to the MFGS bylaws to be voted on at the fall general meeting on October 15, 2016:

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS, Section 2 – Term of Office

1. Change term of office from one [1] to two [2] years; and
2. Change the number of consecutive terms that can be held by Officers from four [4] to two [2].
[----This keeps the total time in office at 4 years, but reduces the frequency of elections for officers.]

Amended text would read:

1. Officers **shall be elected for a two-year term** or until their successors are elected.
2. All officers shall hold office for no longer **than two [2]** consecutive terms. No waiting period is necessary for an officer to be elected to a different office.

Article III - OFFICERS, Section 4 – Functions of Officers:

4. The Treasurer shall:
under c) - Replace the word “the” with “each” –
Amended text would read:
c) *submit, at **each** Board of Directors meeting, a written report to be kept on file.*
5. The Recording Secretary shall:
c) - Replace the words “a resume” with “the minutes” and the second “the” with “each” -
Amended text would read:
c) *send **the minutes** of **each** Board meeting to all officers and directors.*

d) – Revise the sentence “submit, at the Board of Directors meeting, a written report to be kept on file.”
Amended text would read:
d) ***submit a hard copy of the minutes at each Board meeting, such copy to be kept on file.***