

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING – April 22, 2017

President Father Parent called the 2017 MFGS Spring meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. About 36 members/guests were present.

President: Father Parent introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He noted that membership forms were available at the back table. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer.

He thanked the Board, librarians and all volunteers who contribute time and energy to the organization; he gave a special thank you to Sue Beaulieu who edits and publishes our newsletter, to the refreshment committee, to all who came out and to all new guests.

He referred to an article in the newsletter regarding the need to volunteer so that good organizations can continue to grow. Father noted that there is still a need for librarians and that training is available. We also need volunteers for projects, raffles and the Board of Directors. Sue Beaulieu agreed to chair the raffle committee with Sue Rowe. He reminded people to renew their memberships and to spread the word about MFGS; we have the biggest collection in the state for Franco American genealogy research.

Father reminded everyone about the Buy-a-Book/Dedicate-a-Book program and encouraged people to consider requesting donations to that program in lieu of other gifts one might receive for special occasions; he also asked people to think about listing MFGS in their wills.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of the October 15, 2016 fall meeting were distributed. Connie Hitchcock pointed out the highlights of that meeting and asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, Rita Melendy moved and Janet Dubois seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report. Lucille explained that when the insurance came due, she questioned the high premium and learned that a new insurance specializing in non-profits was available. She was able to reduce the premium by \$531 and obtain a refund from the former carrier. As of March 31, 2017, MFGS has \$9,659.45 in assets. An audience member thanked Lucille for checking into the insurance. The report was placed on file for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau reported that she sent a sympathy card to Galen Ouellette, and a thank you card to Richard Bonenfant for his donation of several books.

Librarian: Richard Bourget thanked people for all the donated books that have been received. He stated that our current need is for books from various states that contain family histories, birth – marriage – death records, etc. He explained the procedure to those in attendance: simply contact MFGS with their items, or if they want to make a monetary donation, MFGS will select an appropriate title. Richard also echoed Father Parent’s plea 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.

At this point, a member of the audience inquired about installing another railing on the stairs to the library for safety. Then more people could get to the room and perhaps even volunteer to help. Richard will speak to Fortin’s about this issue.

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 311 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. As of February, MFGS has earned \$104. through that program.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Obituary collection: The committee is up to Book # 222, compiling obituaries of Franco-Americans.
2. Sue Beaulieu and Sue Rowe continue to index the Father Labonte books, which consist of 82 volumes of family trees. While each volume has its own index, they are indexing the entire series by name and date. 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 of \$41.50 was Lucille Langelier .
2. Father Parent brought a SunSpots article to everyone’s attention: the Bates College Clean Sweep is on June 17. The organizers need volunteers to work 3 -4 weeks before the event to collect and sort the items that students have left behind. The volunteer hours are divided by the total dollar amount taken in during the sale

of these items and distributed to the non-profits that help. Please contact the organizers directly or MFGS for more information.

3. Fr. Parent attended the Maine Retired Employee Conference, is giving classes on genealogy , Les Filles du Roi, and a cooking class on French Canadian pies in the fall,

4. Our Fall General Meeting will be either October 14 or 21, 2017, depending on the availability of the speaker.

Meeting adjourned: Rita Melendy moved and Bob Chenard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The motion was carried.

Program: The formal program began after a brief intermission for refreshments. Dr. Dervilla McCann gave a wonderful presentation on Familial Hypercholesterolemia and the Founder Effect. FH is a treatable genetic disorder that seems to be prevalent among Franco Americans. Dr. Dervilla McCann, MD, is a Cardiovascular Disease (Cardiology) specialist at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hitchcock,
Recording Secretary