

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING – APRIL 21, 2018
Auburn Public Library

President Father Parent called the 2018 MFGS Spring meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. About 21 members were present for the meeting.

President: Father Parent introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He then led the opening prayer, the Our Father, in French and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Father thanked all directors, librarians, committee members and volunteers. He gave a special thank you to Sue Beaulieu and Lucille Langelier 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. 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. If MFGS does not find more people, the open hours may have to be reduced.
4. Father thanked Richard Bourget for all his hard work and dedication as a librarian and then as head librarian. Richard covered 3 shifts that are now open since he is retiring at the end of May. Father extended everyone's best wishes to Richard .
5. Bates College Clean Sweep – June 16th
Prior to the event date, help is needed to “clean” the dorms, collect the items, etc. As a non-profit, MFGS receives a percentage of the sale profits based on the number of volunteer hours the organization accumulates. Please sign up at the back table if you are able to help.
6. Buy-a-book/Dedicate-a-Book program
This is still going well and a list of books is available if you wish to make a donation.
7. MFGS needs volunteers to coordinate the annual fall raffle fundraiser. MFGS has low membership dues compared to surrounding states because of the success of these fundraisers. Your help is greatly appreciated.
8. In closing his remarks, Father reminded attendees “Don’t just be a member, be an active member.” He appealed to the members in attendance to spread the word about MFGS; it is a wonderful resource.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of the October 21, 2017 fall 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 passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lucille Langelier distributed a copy of her report.

1. Art Allard's project to research a direct tree line to French ancestors netted \$510.
2. As of March 31, 2018, MFGS has \$10,738.07 in assets.
The report was placed on file for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau reported that a thank-you note was sent to Norm Rioux for three books that he donated.

Librarian: In Richard Bourget's absence, Father reported:

1. The Board of Directors will nominate a replacement for Richard who is retiring at the end of May.
2. MFGS has received many donations and made some purchases.
3. Cataloging is ongoing.
4. One member of the audience expressed appreciation for the "New Book" label placed on new acquisitions. It helps researchers in their quests to find new information.

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

Face Book: No report

Research: Art Allard – no report

Ongoing Projects:

1. Obituary collection: Norm Cote reported that the committee, consisting of Gabe Couture, Roger and Pauline Dufresne and Monique Gagne, have recorded, indexed and digitalized 107,400 obituaries. This covers all of Maine and parts of New Hampshire. if you have any obituaries or funeral cards, please give them, or a good photocopy of them, to a committee member for inclusion.

They are now up to Obituary Book # 244. Each book has 150 pages and 3 obits/page.

Bob Pelletier noted that the newspaper supply is shrinking. Many obituaries are now online , legacy.com, because the cost of publishing the obituary in the newspaper is prohibitive.

As points of information, Father noted that our database is BMS2000 v.9 whereas in Quebec they are up to v.17; Bob Pelletier said that he has his own subscription from BMS2000.org, and that they charge 3¢ / hit.

2. Sue Rowe continues to index the Father Labonte books of family trees.
3. Sue Rowe and Sue Beaulieu continue to scan books of cemetery monuments
4. Lucille Langelier and Connie Hitchcock continue to work on creating an automated catalogue of the family books collection.

New Business:

1. Librarians needed – see President's opening remarks
2. Volunteers are needed for the Clean Sweep as mentioned in the opening remarks
3. Sue Beaulieu volunteered to chair the annual Fall raffle once again, but is perfectly willing to let someone else in on this event.
4. All officers and two Board member positions are up for re-election at the Fall meeting. Father Parent urged members to step up to volunteer for Board positions because we can have more Board members than just the two that are up for re-election. If interested, please give your names to Father Parent.

Announcements

1. The 50/50 winner of \$31.50 was Janet DuBois.
2. Notice of family reunion: Guindon/Yandeau family out in Temecula, CA, November 9 -12, 2018.
Contact information: Laverne Aitchison, calreunion2018@gmail.com
<http://www.guindon.myevent.com/>
3. Our Fall General Meeting October date is to be determined. as is the speaker. If you have any suggestions for programming, please forward them to the Board.
4. A member of the audience inquired about adding a stone to a cemetery plot. Father explained that the plot is the private property of the original buyer. Upon the owner's death, unless it is specifically given to someone , it automatically goes to the eldest heir in the family and that individual now has the rights to it. A person has to prove inheritance to be able to do anything.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by general consensus and all were invited to participate in refreshments while the guest speaker set up her presentation

Program: The formal program featured Professor Mary Rice DeFosse, Professor of French and Franco-American Studies at Bates College. She spoke about her research for her recently published book with James Myall entitled The Franco-Americans of Lewiston-Auburn.

Next general meeting – October, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hitchcock,
Recording Secretary