

MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES – FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – OCTOBER 21, 2023

Approximately 25 people were in attendance for the meeting and for the presentation by David Chittim, President of the Androscoggin Historical Society. [Not everyone signed in]

President Father Parent called the meeting to order at 10:00 am greeting the attendees which included both members and guests. He led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and said a short prayer to open the meeting. He reminded attendees to sign in, and then he gave the location of the MFGS library encouraging people to visit.

Recording Secretary: Connie Hitchcock

Connie Hitchcock moved and Jeanne Letourneau seconded to approve the minutes of the last general membership meeting held April 22, 2023. The motion was carried.

Treasurer: Ann Nadeau

Ann distributed copies of her report to the attendees.

The balances as of September 30, 2023 are:

Checking: \$ 821.44

Savings:\$ 1,850.74

CD # 1 \$ 2,570.30

CD # 2 \$ 2,619.38

There were no questions from attendees.

The report was placed on file for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau

Connie reported that since last April, she has sent one Get-Well card, one Sympathy card and seven Thank-You cards for donations of both cash and books.

Librarian: Fr. Parent

Father mentioned that MFGS had given a Gift Certificate for MFGS membership to the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society for their auction, and they sent us a Thank You note.

A. Acquisitions: a listing is in October newsletter.

1. Father reminded the attendees that we are still accepting mortuary cards for the collection.
2. Father found a series: Biographies of Immigrant Ancestors. These were written in French and translated into English. They are filed in the Drouin section.
3. Cataloging is ongoing. Jim Allard advised MFGS of two free programs that are on the Internet and use links. Father will investigate further to see if these are feasible for MFGS.

B. Father announced that MFGS has a number of genealogical resources for sale and can provide a list upon request. These include maps and assorted CD's and books.

C. MFGS still has a need for:

- a. librarians to help members with their research. Father explained the training process and noted that we are open only on Wednesdays because we don't have the staffing to more often.

open

- b. volunteers to work on indexing Fr. Labonté's books
- c. volunteers adept at Excel or Access to catalog books

D. The source of the problem with the PRDH program on the old computer, which is the only one on which this program will run, has been found and we are hoping to be able to fix it.

Research Director: Arthur Allard sent in his request to remind members of the available research services such as:

A. Direct ancestral line for one person for up to 13 generations back to France in the 1600's for a flat fee: members - \$ 20; non-members - \$ 40.

Neatly formatted results can be a gift for a special someone.

Deadline for these requests is October 27, 2023 if ordered for Christmas. Two notices about this service have appeared in Sun Spots, a daily community column in the Sun Journal.

B. Research specific information [for example: a particular baptismal record or marriage record – generally pre-1940] for an hourly rate:
members - \$ 10/hour; non-members - \$20/hour.

Webmaster: Simeon Breault

A. Updates to information are on our website. Simeon noted that the "items available" list still needs some updating and will be working on that.

B. In answer to a member's query as to who replies to questions sent to info@mfggen.org, Father informed the group that Arthur Allard checks those incoming emails and disseminates them to the Board members best qualified to answer the particular question.

Nominations & Elections: Richard Gamache

Richard presented and moved the slate for the two openings on MFGS's Board of Directors: Simeon Breault and Jeanne Letourneau. Janet DuBois seconded the motion.

Richard asked for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, Richard conducted the vote and the motion was carried.

Technology & related topics:

Father announced that MFGS is in need of a tech person.

Facebook: Joline Fortier emailed her report Oct. 11, 2023

Likes: 725

Followers: 791

The url for the MFGS Face Book page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/MFGSlibrary?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Attached is a breakdown of MFGS Face Book audience - screen shots.

Old Business

A. Genealogy Research class: update

Based on response from the beginner class offered in May of 2023, Father will be offering another class in the spring of 2024, Beginner or Intermediate depending on the interest.

Father explained that the intermediate class would include, but not be limited to, census and notarial documents and other sources that can be used to flesh out information on the ancestors found in the original searches.

Details:

Conducted by Father Parent

Location: MFGS Library, 217 Turner St., Auburn, ME

Dates to be determined by interested members/availability

Location: MFGS Library, 217 Turner St., Auburn, ME

Free for members / \$30 for non-members

A sign-up sheet is on the back table if anyone interested.

Member Sue Beaulieu noted that she found last spring's course to be very well done and suggested that the other prior students be contacted to let them know of this follow-up course.

New Business

Dues for individuals will be increasing by \$5, from \$20 to \$25, effective with the new fiscal year, January 1, 2024,

Dues for each additional family member will remain at \$10/year.

See Spring Newsletter article.

Father explained the need for the increase and noted that other genealogical societies have dues ranging from \$60 - \$100.

He also asked for donations.

Good of the order:

1. Door Prizes: Ann Nadeau donated a beautiful flower arrangement won by: Gary Girouard.
2. The winner of the 50/50, Jeanne Letourneau, donated her winnings totaling \$ 27.00 back to MFGS.
3. The Auburn Public Library has a book sale every Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30.

Next General meeting: April____, 2024, 10 am - Exact date and Location TBA

Exploring the history and differences between French/Acadian/Cape Breton/Québécois Fiddle Music – Greg Boardman

Motion to adjourn:

Lucille Langelier moved and Jeanne Letourneau seconded to adjourn to the Presentation by David Chittim preceded by a short intermission for refreshments. David is President of the Androscoggin Historical Society. He is a retired engineer and land surveyor, and has been active with AHS for 11 years.

The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

At the end of David's excellent presentation on the history of AHS and the resources available for research, Connie Hitchcock presented him with a gift card from The Vault.

Respectfully submitted,

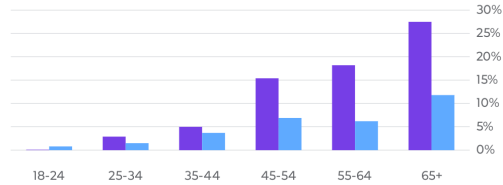
Connie Hitchcock, Recording Secretary
Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society



Age and gender ⁱ



69% Women 31% Men



Top countries ⁱ

United States	688	85%
Canada	98	12%
France	6	1%
Germany	2	0%
Ireland	2	0%
Australia	1	0%
Côte d'Ivoire	1	0%
Egypt	1	0%
Gibraltar	1	0%
Mexico	1	0%

Top cities ⁱ

Lewiston, ME	52	6%
Auburn, ME	37	5%
Quebec, QC, Canada	12	1%
Portland, ME	10	1%
Montreal, QC, Canada	9	1%
Westbrook, ME	7	1%
Augusta, ME	6	1%
Biddeford, ME	6	1%
Sabbattus, ME	6	1%
Lisbon, ME	5	1%



Last 28 days ▾

Sep 14 - Oct 11

Reach **Interactions** Net followers 3-second

Interactions

Interaction type



Media

based on interactions

Media type

● 82.2% Followers ● 17.8% Non-followers

