

Minutes from Meeting April 8th 2001

Present:

Mike Durand, President;
John Durand, Vice-president
Susanne (Durand Foley) Krasovich, Acting Secretary
Roger and Carol Durand
Mary Kay (Durand Grant) Brusegard
Blanche (Durand) Hammer and Marvin Hammer
Marilyn Durand
Alice (Durand) Keppel

Absent:

Richard Durand
Joanne (Durand) Berres

Meeting opened with a greeting from Mike Durand, welcoming all who came.

Reading of previous meeting minutes

Minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2000 taken by Ellen Durand were read by Susanne Krasovich. Mike discussed the previously discussed issues regarding donations by officers and directors to the Foundation. Officers can donate an unlimited amount as long as there is no consideration from the Foundation. Minutes were accepted as read with the correction.

Treasurer's report

--Mike Durand read the treasurer's report. A typographical discrepancy was noted. The new membership amount should read \$1,110.00 not \$110.00 as shown.

--Mike explained that printing costs were down. This is due to now using a 70 lb paper instead of laser paper which was previously used. There was a problem experienced with streaking on the front cover photo of the Spring 2000 issue thus the change to a less expensive paper works just as well. Also, it's slightly lighter in weight than the laser paper

--Questions were raised about credit card fees in conjunction with the membership and web charges. Mike said that he felt we needed to keep offering a credit card payment option for membership on the web as this is the only way some people respond. --Balance in the checking account is \$3,225.06 with one check of \$78.39 outstanding leaving a total of \$3,146.67. --Roger wanted to know if next year's budget could be forecast at this time. He felt operating costs should be about the same. --Mike said he makes up 200 newsletters now. Membership stands at 171. If he can get membership up to 200, that would bring in \$3,000.00/yr.

--Roger made a motion to approve the 2000 year-end financial report as presented by Mike with the exception as noted above. Mary Brusegard seconded the motion.

Activities and Committee Reports

(Mike reviewed the goals that we set since starting our group, stating that we have met them all. He then asked everyone to talk about individual goals and whether or not they have been met.)

--Roger started by saying he has three roles: 1) member of the Foundation; 2) Board of Directors member; and 3) chairman of the research committee whose job it is to get more information on family members in three areas: family tree extensions; family stories (contemporary information), and ancient history. Some goals under this domain are a) to catalog and preserve the information in Aunt Bea's trunk, b) to transmit present knowledge through family stories and newsletters, c) to develop new knowledge including our French roots, early Quebec activity, early migration patterns and recent past. He would like to see the past on a chronological chart, so "we can see milestones from a family perspective".

--Blanche Hammer said she, as chairman of the records committee, does the updates on the database. She has received several letters with additions to the tree and responds to all the letters she gets. She welcomes any information on other additions.

--John, as Vice-President said he "does what Mike tells me to do". He also has three other roles: 1) Editor of the Newsletter; 2) Head of the Sustaining Fund drive; and 3) Chairman of the Family Stories committee. He feels this last position has changed since its inception. He said that his committee has never met. However, several people have sent in their stories and he has edited them and helped them put their stories in "readable" form. He himself has been a constant contributor. As a

result, he feels the Family Stories Committee has become one with the newsletter. He adds that he and his sister Ellen who is also a member of this committee, have two different philosophies on how Family Stories should be treated. One feels articles should be printed in the newsletter as they are submitted while the other feels they should be edited and "cleaned up" to a finished product.

A discussion followed John's presentation about the form of the Newsletter with the general consensus being that both types of stories should find their way into print. It was felt that if only "good" copy was printed, it might discourage some people from ever attempting to send in an article and that would be a great loss for all of us. Roger added he would like to see current events added as a feature. He feels this might get the younger generation interested in becoming active in the Foundation. At the end of the discussion and recommendations, Mike informed all that John would be taking over the Newsletter.

--Susanne said that despite the distance that she travels come to the meetings, she feels she has handled the duties of secretary fairly well. There was a discussion as to having both a Correspondence Secretary and a Recording Secretary for the minutes of the meeting, however, no decision was made. The majority of those present felt the officers of the Board should have e-mail and have access to a computer. Susanne who doesn't have her own computer dissented saying she doesn't feel this should be a prerequisite. However, she added she should be getting a computer in the near future.

--Susanne feels that in the position of treasurer she has not been able to do the job, citing distance as one factor and practicality as another. Since all monies for membership and donations have been going to Mike in Burnsville, and since the bank is in Apple Valley, and since she lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, it has been impossible for her to do the job. Mike and she both feel the job should be held by someone who lives in the immediate Burnsville area and has a background in accounting.

--Mary Brusegard relinquished membership duties to Marilyn Durand. Marilyn acknowledged she had taken over as Membership Chair--maintaining old memberships and getting new members. As stated above, membership stands at 171. Mike informed us we lost one membership to date. 67 memberships are up for renewal this year. Marvin asked if we could ask for a two year membership right away. He feels this would cut down on costs and save time. Marilyn said that this is already being done as well as putting the expiration date of each subscriber on the address label of the newsletter. She sees her goals as trying to get members to sign up for longer periods of time for both new members initially and for renewals.

--Richard Durand was absent so could not present.

--Mike finished by stating that most of the chairmen have fulfilled their mission statements and that all have contributed in some way--some more than others as their capabilities and personal time allow. He said he was proud of the work that had been done and proud to be associated with everyone present. He still finds it difficult to believe that the idea he had envisioned only a few years ago has grown, through combined efforts of all those who have joined, to become the reality of the Foundation. Mike then demonstrated his computerized database.

Roger read the mission statement of the Foundation and noted that all the have been implemented. They were as follows: 1) to publish a Newsletter, 2) to maintain, update, and extend the Family Tree, and 3) to do research and disseminate genealogy information.

New business

Those present noted three new goals they would like to see put in action. They are to: 1) preserve, upgrade and update the Website; 2) to seek active involvement of all age groups; and 3) to promote Cross-cultural exchange. All felt active involvement of all age groups is important for the continuation of the Foundation. Roger suggested having Durand host families all over the world. Susanne suggested perhaps we could have a chat room on the web.

Susanne said she would aid like to officially resign as treasurer.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to accept her resignation.

VOTE: Susanne's resignation was accepted.

It is noted that the position of treasurer is now vacant.

MOTION: Roger made a motion fill treasurer's vacancy within two months. Susanne seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion was passed by all present.

Awards:

Outstanding Citizen Award went to Derek Brusegard for his work with the Website. Outstanding Parent Award went to Mary and Dan Brusegard for their efforts in child rearing.

Best Family Story Award went to Mary Ann Durand Balding, Ronald Balding, and Anita Oakey for their article Benoni Durand and His Son Gerard

President's Award 2000 went to John Durand for all his efforts and hard work towards the Foundations efforts.

Best Writer Award also went to John Durand for his numerous original articles contributed to the newsletter in the past year.

Amerindian Award 2000 went to Carol Durand.

Ambassador of the Year 2000 Awards went to Sussanne Krasovich, Roger and Carol Durand, Marvin and Blanche Hammer, Claude and Helen Durand, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Durand and Jack and Velma Picket.

May Kay Brusegard volunteered to have the next meeting at her house.

Mike reminded all that there would be elections coming up at the next meeting. These would be Board positions currently held by Richard Durand, Susanne Krasovich, and a third seat currently vacant. He said of the nine Board positions, three positions would open up each year. A discussion followed on how to conduct the elections for the October meeting. No decision was made.

John asked about eliminating the Vice-president's position. Both Roger and Mike thought it was a very important job and should not be eliminated. It was decided to keep the position.

Meeting was adjourned at 3.05 p.m.

