

Minutes for September 30, 2015 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at Monmouth County Library, Manalapan, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:15 PM. In attendance were Section President Deb Schiff, Vice President/President Elect Carolyn Dorsey, Secretary Ken Kaufman, and Member at-Large Paul Martinez.

Also in attendance were E. Kim Adams, Tom Ankner, Bruce Bardarik, Janet Birckhead, Patricia Collins, Colleen Goode, Sarah Hull, Anne Lonergan, Nancy Madacsi, Jessica Myers, Fred Pachman, Elsalyn Palmisano, Mary Ellen Rogan, and Gary Saretzky.

Introductions were made.

Minutes

Minutes from July 27, 2015 were reviewed. A change was required to correct a mistake on a committee assignment. Elsalyn motioned and Fred seconded that the minutes with the change be accepted. The motion passed with all but one in favor. The exception was an abstention.

Committee Reports

Sarah provided an update on "The Chronicle" newsletter. The fall issue will cover Archives Month, and is due out during the first week of October. The deadline for the next issue is December 28th.

Carolyn listed the program proposals in the works. Topics include digital collections, starting and managing local history collections, writing for library exhibits, municipal records in public libraries, LYRASIS mass digitization collaborative, copyright, fundamentals of preservation, and the author's panel. Kim recommended Fernanda Perrone for helping with the exhibits program. Janet suggested a program on map storage and cataloging. Fred raised awareness of co-sponsor opportunities.

The Awards Committee report was postponed until the next meeting.

Ken said the latest changes to the bylaws have been posted on the Section's webpage.

Jessica called for more volunteers for the Nominating Committee, while outlining the work and process of the committee. Janet asked about the number of meetings, and Jessica replied that all communication was done through e-mail last time.

Deb put out a call for filling the new Web Presence Coordinator position.

Old Business

The latest with the NJLA 125 Task Force and Archives & History Committee were reviewed. Fred mentioned that no one from our Section is currently on the 125 Task Force and should be.

Our representation on the Archives & History Committee includes Elsalyn, Fred, Deb, and Carolyn. Elsalyn reported on James Keehbler's visit to the NJLA archives in the Trenton office, and how he found important materials in need of professional archival attention. This will be a focus for the committee going forward.

Deb and Sarah are working on language in the bylaws regarding the duties of the Section Archivist and Archives Committee. Fred sees this as an opportunity to set good example within NJLA. Elsalyn mentioned that there are significant materials already housed at the Monmouth County Archives, and Gary, as the archivist there, volunteered to serve. Deb put out a call for more volunteers. Once language has been formulated, Deb will hold a vote on it at a future meeting.

New Business

Paul announced that the Archives and Special Collections Special Interest Group, which was under the VALE umbrella, met and decided to detach from VALE and become a committee of the NJLA College and University Section/ACRL-NJ. The group will be working on creating relationships and cooperating with H&P going forward. Several people at the meeting gave Paul input on how this goal could be achieved. Actions were considered for increasing Section awareness with this group.

Announcements

Gary will be presenting the Roger McDonough Award to Ronald L. Becker on October 3rd at Monmouth County Library during Archives and History Day.

Bruce is submitting a mini grant for rebinding some local history books and preservation needs of multiple resources at Paterson Free Public Library. The newspaper digitization project at fultonhistory.com continues.

Anne is working on a finding aid for small collections at the Sprague Library Archives at Montclair State University.

Carolyn discussed an exhibit on the history of Morristown, which is running from now until the end of the year at The Morristown and Morris Township Library.

Tom announced that Newark Public Library will be celebrating the city's 350th anniversary with a year-long exhibit starting on January 18, 2016. Fred added that the New Jersey Caucus of MARAC will be meeting there in November.

The Stephen Crane Home in Asbury Park, NJ has been officially added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ken reported that the Somerset County Heritage & Cultural Commission will be conducting the annual "Weekend Journey through the Past", which is an opportunity for people to visit 30 of

the county's significant historical sites on the weekend of October 10th. He also mentioned a grass roots effort on preventing the demolition of the Doris Duke Mansion at change.org.

Sarah announced that the Plainfield Public Library is receiving a grant from Union County for an oral history project on the Plainfield Uprising of 1967. Additionally, the library will be holding two virtual genealogy fairs, using an internet simulcast to access live lectures. The first is on United States research at familysearch.org on October 13th through the 15th, and the second is with the National Archives on October 21st and 22nd.

Jessica reviewed her work at the Bloomfield Historical Society, as she is starting from scratch with the photograph collection. The Society is now opened twice a week.

Colleen mentioned that Ocean County Library is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The library also has made "The New Jersey Courier" digitally available for the years 1852 through 1922.

Nancy discussed a visiting exhibit, hosted by the Sparta Historical Society, of antique mechanical banks at the Van Kirk Homestead Museum. The collection is on loan from The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT. She also announced that the 5th Annual "Sussex County Heritage Weekend" will be held on October 10th and 11th.

Kim reported that Rutgers Special Collections will open its yearlong exhibit, "Rutgers through the Centuries: 250 Years of Treasures from the Archives" in early November. At New Brunswick Public Library, there are some exhibits and lectures as part of the "Latino Americans: 500 Years of History" initiative. Coming in February 2016, there will be a program on slavery in the northern United States.

Janet said Long Branch Free Public Library plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary with one program per month. Long Branch history itself is featured in one of the episodes of NJTV's "Drive by History" series.

Fred mentioned that the New Jersey Scout Museum has an exhibit commemorating the Order of the Arrow centennial.

Adjournment

Without objections, the meeting was adjourned 1:05 PM.

Archives Week

The meeting was preceded by the seminar, "Newspaper Photo Archives at Archival Repositories in New Jersey" (featuring our Gary Saretzky and Sarah Hull) and followed by the seminar, "Monmouth Land Holdings at the Turn of the 20th Century" from land title historian, Joe Grabas.

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, 24 Nov 2015.