

The Kinseekers Genealogy Society of Lake County Minutes of the April 17, 2006, Member Meeting



President Lama called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center in Leesburg; the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States was recited.

Vice President Keenan said there were 23 members present.

President Lama then turned the meeting over to Steven Offutt, 2nd Vice President for Programs who discussed the Kinseekers Member Survey results.

VP Offutt distributed a hand-out titled “Survey for Kinseekers – 15 Surveys Returned.” He said he was somewhat disappointed in the number of responses; he had hoped for at least twenty. The handout contains the survey responses; Steven did an outstanding job of capsulation of the results and the reader is referred to his handout (attached for Society records).

The remainder of this report will address some of the comments and discussions that took place; emphasis is placed on the word “some.”

Kinseekers presently lacks effective communications to members on programs and activities. Some said they didn’t see an announcement of our program in the paper (I saw it in the Orlando Sentinel Lake Edition on Saturday, April 15). Others cited lack of current information on the web site; not many of our members said they go to it regularly for information. And finally some said that they did not receive an email announcement.

Members desire formal training in genealogy methodology and sources. This probably was the number one comment in terms of numbers of members expressing an opinion. One member said they have not gotten what they expected when they joined and as of now (many months later) we have not offered any training. If at all possible this training should be “hands-on” training. Another member expressed the view that if we were to offer such training it would likely increase membership.

Our SIGs were cited as possibly fulfilling this role – there was much support for the now discontinued All-States SIG led by Mary Ellen Milton, and also the “All Things Genealogical” SIG being led by Joan Holloway, that has replaced All-States. But the Computer-Genealogy SIG was cited as “being way above our heads.”

The “Genealogy After Hours” session at the Library was given extremely high marks. Need to do more like that.

A member cited previous experiences in a Jacksonville society where there were many SIG programs providing very good and on-going genealogy training. These were free to members; however, membership in that society was \$20 per year.

Mention was made of a need to have a list of persons providing genealogy professional services.

Another person suggested that we make a greater effort to get members from the Tavares and Mount Dora areas as they do not at present have genealogy societies. Another person thought we should do more to utilize the expertise of snowbird members.

There was some discussion of our relationship with the LDS' Family History Center; some of which indicated some difficulties in this communication process.

Ms. Brokaw discussed her manual "Methods and Solutions to Your Family History Research," which I believe she said either is or will be in the Leesburg Library. While there wasn't much discussion of this I wonder if this might serve as a focal point in our efforts and that perhaps we might undertake to highlight and expand upon her background efforts; i.e., develop a team to evaluate, build upon and modernize (all if appropriate) and then use as a product for our own members and also possibly for sale.

There was considerable discussion about meeting days and times; and that varying the time might result in increased membership. I do not recall arriving at a consensus view on this subject. But mention was made of a Saturday session.

There was also considerable discussion of our relocating to the new Library when it opens and the impact this might have on all of these issues. There will be training facilities and computer labs and other resources available.

Building our society on the capabilities of the new Library coupled with VP Offutt's movement to having outside speakers with credentials offers significant promise for Kinseekers (opinion).

President Lama mentioned that he had just purchased a computer and projector for another group he is involved with. The projector was a Sharp and cost \$950 and the computer a lap-top Dell costing \$750 after rebate. This has relevancy to Kinseekers as this had been recommended to Past President Holloway last year.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Tom J. Thiel, Recording Secretary, Thursday, April 20, 2006