

IAJGS Board Report from the Board of Director's meeting Philadelphia March 28 – 29, 2008

Major Areas of discussion/decisions

We began with approval of the minutes from the previous board meeting and a treasurer's report.

We introduced our newest member, Bill Israel, appointed to fill the vacancy left by Martha Lev-Zion's resignation. The resignation of Flo Elman from the board was announced.

1. Cemetery Project: We discussed various ways of changing the project so that pictures can be included and how to change it into a database format. Several members of the board took on the responsibility of working with our cemetery project coordinator to pursue these changes and enhance the project.
2. Membership Report: We discussed the large number of members who do not send their fees to the treasurer on a timely basis and that too many do not send it until after the "deadline" as stated in the bylaws. The treasurer ends up spending too much time sending out reminders and follow-ups. More importantly, not getting the fees in a timely manner causes problems with our operational funding. The current language in the bylaws states that "Membership fees are payable to the Association each year on the first day of January. A member that has not paid its required membership fees by the first day of May next following shall cease to be in good standing until such fees have been paid." It was agreed that a by-laws amendment proposal to change the due date for fees would be presented at the next annual meeting. This proposal would set the "deadline" date at March 1.
3. Chicago2008 conference: We spent considerable time discussing various aspects of the Chicago conference. We determined that there would be a President's reception. A budget was approved. Board members will arrive early in Chicago to assist with stuffing bags, checking registration materials, and other pre-conference matters.
4. Conference Managers: We agreed that we would review the current contract with the conference managers to determine possible changes for a second year. The board will determine whether to retain them for Philadelphia 2009 after the Chicago conference.
5. Film Lending library: We reviewed our agreement with the JCLLA regarding borrowing films and agreed that the agreement needed to be updated.
6. Drawing for free hotel room: We held a drawing for the free hotel room given by the Marriott hotel for the Chicago conference. The winner was Barbara Freedman from Vancouver, BC. We called to tell her the news and she was very pleased.
7. Los Angeles conference: It was announced that we should expect to receive a bid from the JGS Los Angeles to host the 2010 annual conference.

8. Board Attendance Policy: We discussed ways in which any board member from a non-North American location might be able to participate in board meetings without actually attending in person. We will continue to pursue finding a good way of implementing this.

We discussed the importance of personally attending board meetings and the number of meetings that we need to hold. For quite a number of years the board has met four times per year: once at the beginning of the annual conference, once at the conclusion of the conference, and two times in between conferences (fall and spring). The consensus was that this is appropriate.

The board then adopted the following policy regarding attending board meetings: "All board members must attend a minimum of two of the four meetings per year: one meeting at the annual conference and one other board meeting not at the conference. An attempt will be made for all board members who cannot be physically present to participate electronically. If any board member participates electronically, they will pay for the costs at the same rate as those who pay for transportation costs."

9. Conference Bid Submission Form: The board had a very lengthy, detailed, and productive working session concerning the current conference bid submission form on our website that is used by JGSs who want to host a conference. We went through the entire document, highlighting areas that needed to be changed for clarity, detail, and required documentation. As soon as the changes are approved by the board, it will be posted to the website.

10. Philadelphia 2009: We had a very good meeting with a number of representatives of the JGS of Greater Philadelphia and began organizing the division of responsibilities for this co-hosted conference.

11. The Board will hold meetings at the Chicago conference and we decided that the fall board meeting will be held in Salt Lake City in November of 2008.

Anne Feder Lee, President, June 2008