AGENDA
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, 29 April 2017
Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center | Sandusky, Ohio

Call to Order...........................................................Margaret Cheney, President
Pledge of Allegiance..................................................Assembly
Welcome ........................................................................Margaret Cheney
Adoption of the Agenda.................................................Margaret Cheney
Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting.............................James Mainger
Treasurer's Report.....................................................Robert Keener
Report of the President...............................................Margaret Cheney
OGS Year in Review 2016 ............................................Tom Neel, Library Director
Introductions.................................................................Margaret Cheney
OGS Officers ...............................................................Margaret Cheney
Committee Chairs.....................................................Russ Pollitt, VP of Administration
Committee Chairs....................................................Vacant, VP of Member Services
Committee Chairs......................................................Marleen Applegate, VP of Development
Committee Chairs......................................................James Mainger, Secretary
Committee Chairs.....................................................Robert Keener, Treasurer
Committee Chairs......................................................Margaret Cheney; President
OGS Trustees ..............................................................Margaret Cheney
OGS Staff ......................................................................Margaret Cheney
Recognition of OGS Chapters by Anniversary Year ...........Marleen Applegate
Awards and Fellows Presentation.................................Marleen Applegate
OGS Writing Contest......................................................Deb Root Shell
OGS President's Key Award...........................................Margaret Cheney
Nominations and Elections Report....................................Russ Pollitt
Installation of Trustees at Large.......................................Russ Pollitt
Reports & Announcements:
Adjournment ................................................................Margaret Cheney

Any photographs will be taken at the conclusion of this meeting.
MINUTES OF THE 2016 OGS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Ohio Genealogical Society was held 30 April 2016 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. President Margaret Lance Cheney called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. after which the assembly joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cheryl Abernathy moved for the adoption of the meeting agenda, Stacey Adger seconded. That motion carried. Robert Keener moved that the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting be accepted as presented. Kip Sperry seconded. The motion carried. Both agenda and 2015 minutes were available to the assembly in the meeting brochure.

Treasurer Robert Keener offered some remarks on his annual treasurer’s report. He noted the passing of two major supporters of OGS, Lolita Guthrie and Jean Barnes, who had left substantial legacies to the Society.

President Cheney noted that her president’s annual report and Tom Neel’s library director’s annual report were also in the meeting brochure for the membership to review.

President Cheney introduced the current officers of the Society: 1st Vice President Russ Pollitt (Administration); 2nd Vice-President Eric Johnson (Member Services); 3rd Vice-President Don Clark (Development); Secretary James Mainger; Treasurer Robert Keener; and Immediate Past President Sunda Peters. Each of the officers acknowledged the chairs of committees under their jurisdiction. President Cheney also presented the current trustees of the Society to the assembly. She noted the many years of service to the board of two retiring trustees, William Priest and Patricia Van Skaik. She also introduced the staff of OGS: Tom Neel, Sherri Dulin, and Linda Reed.

Eric Johnson as chair of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee read the revisions to the bylaws that his committee had proposed, the board of trustees had approved, and the membership had ratified via electronic ballot. The major change was the election of officers for three year terms.

Russ Pollitt, chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee reported on the results of the 2016 elections for officers and trustees. Out of 854 cast ballots, 798 were cast electronically and fifty-six by traditional paper ballots. He noted that since the use of electronic balloting the number of members voting in elections has increased substantially. The winners of the elections for officers were Margaret Cheney as President, Russ Pollitt as 1st Vice President, Sheryl Dayton as 2nd Vice President, Marleen Applegate as 3rd Vice President, James Mainger as Secretary, Robert Keener as Treasurer. For trustees the winners were Cheryl Abernathy, Donald Clark, Marilyn Gill, Mary Jamba, Eric Johnson. Sunda Peters installed the officers in their terms of office, and Russ Pollitt installed the trustees in their terms of office.
Fellows & Awards Committee Chair Marleen Applegate introduced her committee members. She recognized the eighteen chapters who had quinquennial anniversaries, then announced the winners of the chapter and book Awards. Outstanding Chapter Award went to Crawford County and Cheryl Brown Abernathy was awarded Outstanding Chapter Volunteer.

Jennifer Alford, the head of the OGS Writing Contest, recognized the contest judges and announced the winners of the five prizes. Overall contest winner was Jeremiah Edwards for “Dry Bones” which appeared in the OSG Quarterly.

President Margaret Cheney bestowed Presidential Key Awards to Candy Tucker, Dana Palmer, Eric Johnson, and Stacey Adger.

Kenny Burck reported on the 2016 Chapter Management Seminar for 20 August at the OGS Library in Bellville, Ohio. Margaret Cheney announced that Dr. Deborah Abbott will be the presenter for the OGS Fall Seminar on October 1 at the Quality Inn in Bellville. Library Directory Tom Neel commented on his report, 2015 Year In Review which was in the meeting brochure. Tom Neel announced that the 2016 Librarians Seminar will take place on October 14. Stacey Adger and Marleen Applegate reported on the 2017 Conference to be held at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio, 27–30 April 2017. The title of the Conference will be “Genealogy Gone Wild” with a theme based on the 1960s. The keynote speaker will be Joshua Taylor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

James Mainger
Secretary
Ohio Genealogical Society
Treasurer’s Annual Report for 2016

BUDGET PERFORMANCE
Total revenue from operations (operating revenue, building fund donations, and life membership) for the year ending 31 December 2016 was $665,205 vs. expenses (exclusive of depreciation) of $506,617 for an operating surplus of $158,588.

TOTAL NET ASSETS
Total Net Assets as of 31 December 2016 were $2,4554,678 vs. Total Net Assets as of December 31, 2015 of $2,236,301.

INVESTMENT STATUS
The OGS Fidelity Account, primarily representing our Endowment Fund, was valued at $519,812 as of 31 December 2016 vs. $488,863 as of 31 December 2015.

I’m pleased to report that, thanks to the generosity of our many donors, we have been able to completely pay off the remaining $230,000 of our loan from the Federal Department of Agriculture. This removes an annual obligation of $36,000 in payments on the loan as well as the need to have a special annual audit.

As a final comment, the successful financial results of the past year were, in great part, the result of individuals remembering us in their wills. Obviously, this is a source of revenue that we cannot rely upon. In order to remain a thriving organization, we will, in the future, have to create increasing value for our members. Our new agreement with Findmypast is a significant step in this direction.

Bob Keener
Treasurer
Ohio Genealogical Society
President's Report

YOU DID IT!!! Who would have thought that within seven short years, the Society would be able to pay off the thirty-year USDA loan of $600,000. Your contributions have made this a reality. Congratulations to everyone!

A partnership has been formed with Findmypast.com. We are now able to offer our members free access to their basic databases. We can also offer a significant discount if you should opt to go for the full databases. For any member that takes advantage of this discount, OGS gets a 40% rebate on the full membership. We are looking forward to working with them on many more projects.

Many chapters are still fighting the battle to stay alive. The Knox County chapter has two people that show up for meetings. We all must help our local chapters stay alive and functioning. If you belong to a chapter/society that is struggling please contact me. We are here to help.

OGS has added a series of webinars from Lisa Alzo and Thomas MacEntee on our member’s-only side of the website. These are instructional webinars and well worth watching.

A few of us recently held our first Google+ Hangout session and it went well. Watch our Facebook page for an announcement for the next event. Anyone can join in.

The Lineage Society judges recently updated the rules and guidelines for joining a lineage society. We hope we have made them clearer to understand which will make it easier for you to prepare your applications.

Stay with us my friends. There are great things ahead for the Ohio Genealogical Society and we want you to be a part of all of it! You are all fabulous, supportive, and generous. You are all appreciated beyond words.

Margaret Lance Cheney
President
Ohio Genealogical Society
OGS 2016 – The Year in Review

In 2016, the Ohio Genealogical Society was blessed with estate bequests from two past trustees, Jean Barnes ($139,428.10) and Lolita Guthrie ($85,000.00). Their thoughtfulness in remembering our institution has been topped this year with special donations from many of our members and friends. This has allowed us to be in a position to pay off the remainder of our $600,000 building construction loan and the nearly $101,000 in interest that it has generated over the years. Besides removing our $2,916 mortgage payment each month and increased insurance and auditing costs required by USDA-Rural Development, our regular donors will be able to earmark their gifts to new projects—our digitization effort, our research library, our educational programs, and our journals and other publications—rather than a past capital obligation. It is absolutely fantastic that we were able to pay off a thirty-year mortgage in just seven years. This is a testament to the fantastic group of people that make up OGS. I see many other organizations declining with such a project, even with substantial monetary help. But our group continues to just get better!

I was amazed at the first issue of Ohio Genealogy News for 2017. The quality put forth by our two editors cannot be beat, and many members have told me that they read our OGS Quarterly from cover to cover and wonder how we continue to get such well-written and well-documented genealogical content. We have a great group of members who always submit the finest material for our use.

In 2016 we also saw expansion of our offerings in the OGS Digital Library, accessible by members through our website. We continue to scan library materials, our chapters have contributed heavily allowing us permission to provide their unique copyrighted works, and our members have donated many of their own compilations. We are nearing the two thousand database mark, and we have over sixty thousand volumes in the Samuel D. Isaly Library now, so the work of digitization is never ending. The FamilySearch team, who had been in our library for over a year, completed their work in 2016. In time, the Ohio obituaries, Florida obituaries, Bible records, Richland County tax records, and Cuyahoga County probate case file index will have a presence on the FamilySearch site with links to our organization for copy service.

We have a changing environment in genealogy—actually it is a problem with all groups that have a social aspect. Membership is dropping somewhat, and, more importantly, those members are avoiding any step into a leadership role. We stick to our computer screen instead of supporting our OGS chapters and their libraries with our physical presence. Our grade card as a nonprofit organization is not just rating our output; it is the people—the organization itself. To offer a product on the website, it takes a library to house the resource, it takes a volunteer to transcribe or index or scan, and it takes an expert to interpret it. It’s lovely to get that 1880 county history on a website, but that is old news. What are we doing as genealogists today to meet the OGS mission: “acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of genealogical and historical information” to meet the educational needs of our members and the general public?
The Richland County Foundation has provided some capacity building training to many of our staff members and trustees through their Osborne-Meese Academy in 2016, and the Foundation has graciously provided us with a grant to begin a strategic plan to examine our organizational structure, our operations, our vision, and to develop an outline to achieve our goals for 2017 and beyond. We have been in a building mode for ten to fifteen years now. This is the time to think about ourselves and dedicate our efforts to expanding society operations to create a genealogical society for the people here in Ohio and Ohioans beyond!

Thomas Stephen Neel
Library Director
Ohio Genealogical Society
Fellows & Awards Report

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES
25 Years: Logan, Pickaway
30 Years: Ashtabula, Henry, Jefferson, Medina, Miami, Paulding, Preble
35 Years: Perry, Wyandot
40 Years: Auglaize, Cuyahoga West, Defiance, Morrow, Scioto
45 Years: Licking, Mahoning, Portage

CHAPTER AWARDS
Outstanding OGS Chapter: Richland County
Outstanding OGS Chapter Officer: John McCarthy, Clermont County
Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer: Stacey Adger, Mahoning County
Frances Dana Gage Award: Lorain County Chapter, OGS
Thomas A. Edison Award: Lorain County Chapter, OGS

BOOK AWARDS
Henry Howe Award
Marking the Miles Along the National Road Through Ohio by Cyndie L. Gerken
The Henry Howe Book Award is presented for an Ohio state, county, or local history.

William H. & Benjamin Harrison Award
Samuel Griffin of CT & PA Revolutionary War Patriot by Brian Fox
The William H. & Benjamin Harrison Book Award is presented for an Ohio-related family history.

Lida Flint Harshman Award
Independence Township Cemeteries by Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society
The Lida Flint Harshman Book Award is presented for a book published by an OGS chapter or special interest group of OGS.

Governor Thomas Worthington Award
Adam Poe Evangelist & Faithful Servant by Melissa A. Strangeland
The Governor Thomas Worthington Book Award is presented for an Ohio biography or collective biography.

Marleen Applegate
Fellows & Awards Chair
Ohio Genealogical Society
2017 Writing Contest Winners

1ST PLACE
Jane Dempsey Gramlich, "Second Look: The Ohio Family of Bessie Potter Vonnoh."

2ND PLACE
Donna Croy Wright, "The Croy Boys: Seven Sons Serving in the Civil War."

Deb Root Shell
2017 Writing Contest Chair
Ohio Genealogical Society

OGS Board of Trustees Election Report

The results of the 2016 Ohio Genealogical Society Election are as follows:

Total Ballots—625
625 electronic ballots received
40 paper ballots received

Trustees (3 year terms beginning 29 April 2017 and will expire at the end of OGS Conference 2020)
Dr. Deborah Abbott—570
Karen Cydrus—329
Linda Eckert—520
Laurie Hermance-Moore—456
Dot Martin—430
Paul Morehouse—469
Gayle Wilson—390

Russ Pollitt
Nominations & Elections Chair
Ohio Genealogical Society