

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006 MINUTES

Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Genealogists held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA on Tuesday, 27 June 2006, at 6.00pm. 80 Members were recorded as being present.

In the absence of the President of the Society, Vice President Professor Peter Spufford took the Chair. It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from the following Trustees; Mr Chris Broomfield, Mr Colin Allen, Mr Nicholas Newington-Irving and Mr Roy Stockdill.

1. The Chairman reported that the Minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting had been circulated in the Genealogists' Magazine and had been published on the website. He pointed out that the Trustees had already approved the Minutes but they were provided for information at the meeting and comments invited. None were made; a minor typographical error had been reported previously.
2. The Chairman invited Mrs Penny Ryan (representing the auditors, Kingston Smith), to present the Auditor's Report for the year 2005. Mrs Ryan drew attention to the Auditors' Report, on pages 20 and 21 of the Annual Report, which had been circulated, to the Members. She stated that the audit had been carried out satisfactorily and that the Accounts represented a true and fair view of the Society of Genealogists financial affairs.
3. Mr William Michael Wood, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the Annual Report of the Trustees. He highlighted the progress made on the Business Plan regarding the Society Catalogue going on-line, the Education programmes and effective voice in the community. He also thanked the Volunteers and Trustees for this success. Special thanks were given to Outreach Volunteers. Sorrow was expressed at the deaths of Volunteers and Members during the year. Mention was made of the development taking place around the Society with slides shown of the plans.

Mr Geoffrey Stone, the Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts to the meeting. He reported that the Society had made a slight surplus thanks mainly to the generous donations and legacies received. The Society had continued to reduce its operating costs where possible which had also helped. There was no proposal to increase subscriptions for the third year running.

The Chairman invited questions on the Report or the Accounts and Report of the Board of Trustees.

Professor Spufford raised the point that thanks had not been paid to the staff of the Society, in particular the three Senior Members of staff who greatly assist in the work of the Society. Thanks were given.

Mr Michael Bunting asked if the Society had raised the question of building access with the council regarding the new development. Mr Michael Wood confirmed questions had been asked and that no works traffic would use the road especially due to the 'cellars' stretching underneath. Mr Bunting also asked if there would be double yellow lines once the development was completed. Mr Wood did not know if this would happen or not.

Mr Julian Duffas asked if genealogy items being available on-line was having an effect on attendance at the Society premises. Mr Michael Wood stated that attendance was still good at the Society but endorsed the need to continue with promotion of the Society by all means possible. Mrs Susan Gibbons the Librarian stated that a new page on the Society web-site with the surnames held in the Special Collections should help attract attendance to the Library.

Ms June Bennett stated that she has been researching since 1985 and is not on the internet and would like to know what the Society could do to improve access for those relying on visits to the Library. Height of shelves was a problem and areas where not all conducive to research. She also asked if in the light of the Family Record Centre announcing its intention to move if

the Society had considered moving its own premises to the vacant building. Mrs Gibbons stated she would look at the practical issues of reaching material in the Library. Mr Wood stated that more would be known on the future of the Family Record Centre after meetings being held this week and that the Society was not yet in a position to make an informed opinion on the implications for the Society. It was acknowledged it would be a terrific site for the Society but square footage rental of space in London is astronomical and at present the Society's biggest asset is owning its own building. Mrs Bennett asked if the developers had not wanted to buy the Society premises. The Chairman said initially talks had been held but the Society would not give up its Asset to change to a rental scenario.

There being no further questions the Chairman invited a Member of the Society to propose the resolution to approve the Annual Report; this was proposed by Mr Richard Ratcliffe and seconded by Mr Neville Turner and unanimously approved on a show of hands.

The Chairman also invited a Member of the Society to propose the resolution to approve the Annual Accounts; this was proposed by Mr James Willerton and seconded by Mr Colin Chapman and unanimously approved on a show of hands.

4. Mr Geoffrey Stone, Honorary Treasurer, proposed the resolution to reappoint the Auditors and authorising the Board of Trustees to fix their remuneration. The resolution was seconded by Mr Richard Moore and unanimously approved on a show of hands.
5. The Chairman announced that being the first Annual General Meeting held since the new Articles of Association were approved by the Board of Trustees in July 2005, John Hanson, FSG, Frank Hardy, FSG, Nicholas Newington-Irving, FSG, and Geoffrey Stone retire having served their full term. Roy Stockdill, and William Michael Wood retire by rotation and being eligible offers themselves for re-election (due to the new Articles their final term will now only be for two years as their first term was the four years allowed under the previous articles). Ian Waller and Michael Williamson retire by rotation and being eligible offer themselves for re-election for their second three-year term.
Sharon Hintze was not standing for re-election and Mr John Egan, Mr Michael Jackson and Dr David Wright had resigned since the last meeting.
Colin Allen, FSG, Norman Meadows and Diane Waters offer themselves for election.
The Chairman announced that there being more vacancies than nominees there was no requirement for a vote and welcomed the new Trustees. Thanks were given to the outgoing Trustees for their services to the Society.
6. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr William Michael Wood, announced the awards of Certificates of Appreciation to Jean Boothby, Sean Brady, Elaine Eldridge, Frank Hardy, Sharon Hintze, David Horwill, Fanina Lucas, Sue Lumas, Dick Mynott, Anita Nicholls, Val Palmar and Michael Snook. Those present received their certificates from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
7. The Chairman invited Mrs June Perrin, Secretary of the Fellows to announce the results of the elections for Fellowship of the Society. Mrs Perrin announced that Dr Stephen Taylor had been elected to join the Fellows. Congratulations were given and Dr Stephen Taylor on receipt of his certificate thanked the Society for all their support of AGRA since its commencement.
8. The Chairman announced that the Prince Michael of Kent Award was being made for only the third time in its history. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees made the award to The Genealogical Society of Utah for their outstanding contribution in opening up records to Genealogists for over sixty years. The award was received by Elder Gerald N Lund who represented the Genealogical Society of Utah, he expressed thanks.
9. Before the closure of the meeting the Chairman thanked President Jeff Kirk of the Hyde Park Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for making the building available, and members of the LDS Public Affairs Department for providing the refreshments for the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 7.12pm.