

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007 MINUTES

Minutes of the 96th 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, 26 June 2007, at 6.00pm. 82 Members were recorded as being present.

President of the Society, Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG, took the Chair.

1. The Chairman reported that the Minutes of the 95th 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.
2. The Chairman invited the Members to note the Auditors report on page 24 of the Annual Report. He highlighted that the Auditors were satisfied that the Society's Accounts gave a true and fair view of the financial position. With no comments from the Members, the Auditor's report was taken as read.
3. Mr William Michael Wood, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the Annual Report of the Trustees. He highlighted the invaluable support from legacies, which help the Society to continue its work. He also thanked the Volunteers and Trustees for the continuing success of the Society. Special thanks were given to Outreach Volunteers. Mention was made of the development taking place around the Society with slides shown of the current position.

Mr Geoffrey Stone, the Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts to the meeting. He reported that the Society had made a 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. He warned that the Society must not become complacent, as regular income is still not covering expenditure. He also highlighted the modest increase to be made to subscriptions of £2 (only £1.50 to Members on Direct Debit payment), which fell below the RPI over the relevant number of years since the last increase.

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

Sharon Hintze asked how much had been received for the Right to Light Compensation, Mr Geoffrey Stone, Honorary Treasurer reported this at £78,500 but stated that the original survey should be deducted which reduced this to £71,000.

Paul Blake asked if the deficit would have been significant without legacy income, Mr Geoffrey Stone, Honorary Treasurer confirmed this as he had previously mentioned in his report.

Peter Christian asked if Subscriptions should be going up more in line with inflation, Mr Stone responded by highlighting how many Members the Society had lost when it had previously increased subscriptions and that, with more data available on the internet, subscriptions need to be kept at an optimum in order to retain Members.

Mrs Jeanne Bunting asked if the Membership figures mentioned included the figures for the May Show, William Michael Wood stated that they did not.

Ann Ramon asked if the Society had made a profit at the new Family History Show, William Michael Wood confirmed we had and that the amount would appear in the 2007 accounts.

Julian Duffas urged the Trustees to look at more sophisticated subscription structuring including for example Life Membership. Mr Stone reported that Life Membership had been looked at but because of longer life expectancy the fee would have to be very high or the Society's future income would greatly reduced. He also reported that other fee structures were being looked at seriously. Richard Moore endorsed the position regarding life membership as an organisation he was a Member of has had to ask for voluntary contributions from its life members. Michael Johnson Wood also highlighted that anyone who was a Member for over 50 years receives free Membership anyway.

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 Stephen Chastelle and seconded by Mr John Hanson and approved with no objections 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 Frank Hardy and seconded by Dr Colin Chapman and approved with no objections on a show of hands.

4. Sharon Hintze proposed the resolution to reappoint the Auditors and authorising the Board of Trustees to fix their remuneration. The resolution was seconded by Mr Peter Axford and unanimously approved on a show of hands.
5. The Chairman announced that during the year Mr Christopher Broomfield had finished his term of office, thanks were expressed in his absence in the hope that they would be passed on.

Mr Peter Bailey and Mrs Kathy Elam retired by rotation, and being eligible, offered themselves for re-election for their second three-year term.

Mr John Hanson, FSG, Mr Timothy Powys-Lybbe and Mr Geoffrey Stone offered themselves for election. Mr Stone had been allowed to stand last year as ex-officio treasurer with the permission of the Charity Commission.

The Chairman announced that there being more vacancies than nominees there was no requirement for a vote and welcomed the new Trustees.

Mr Paul Blake asked for confirmation that anyone who commenced as a co-opted Board Member was not classed as starting their term until they were officially elected at the Annual General Meeting. Mr William Michael Wood confirmed this was the case.

6. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr William Michael Wood, announced the awards of Certificates of Appreciation to Norma Ashworth, Peter Axford, Cherry Cheshire, Judy Rood, David Squire and Monnica Stevens. 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 Mr Christopher Broomfield, Mr Robert Michael Bunting, Mr Duncan Wilson Harrington, Mr Mark David Herber and Mr David Mervyn Horwill had been elected to join the Fellows. Congratulations were given and the President awarded certificates to those present.
8. The Chairman announced that the Prince Michael of Kent Award was being made for the fourth time in its history. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees made the award to The Trustees of FreeBMD for their outstanding contribution in enabling free online access to the Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes. The award was received by Mr Graham Hart on behalf of FreeBMD.
9. The Chairman asked for any other competent business or comments. Mr Peter Christian asked if any thoughts or plans had been made for the Society's Centenary in 2011. Mr William Michael Wood said a working party had been formed and conclusions should be reached by early 2008. Mr Richard Moore said one idea being worked on was to write the History of the Society and asked if anyone with information would contact Nicholas Newington Irving.
10. 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 Sharon Hintze and her team of volunteers for providing the refreshments and setting up the room for the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 7.02pm.