

Federation of Genealogical Societies  
"FGS Delegate Digest"

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Linking the Genealogical Community  
Volume 14, No. 6      June 2007  
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Do not reply to this message. This is a post-only mailing.  
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Deadlines for submission of materials for inclusion in upcoming issues of the  
FGS Delegate Digest are as follows:

**July 2007: 25 June. One time only deadline!!!**

**August 2007: 1 August**  
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IN THIS ISSUE:

New FGS Announcements  
FGS/ACPL Conference News  
FGS Announcements continued from May  
Bylaws Changes  
FGS Annual Meeting  
Calendar of Events  
Member Society Announcements

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

First, is a the reminder that **the July Delegate Digest has an early deadline—June 25**, so I can put it together before I leave on vacation on July 1. Hopefully, I will be able to check email on the ship, but if not, then I would like to get the July issue out before I leave.

The Calendar of Events column: Don't forget to send me your Society Activities: conferences, seminars, etc., especially any summer events. However, I need the following information: date of event, times, location, contact information for event, i.e. email, telephone, etc. Additional information that would be helpful would be content or subject of event.

Recently, I have been working on my father's World War II experiences. He died in 1959, so he never had a chance to tell me about it. I have been relying on surviving veterans' memoirs and oral histories to fill in the gaps. Has your society participated in WWII veteran oral history projects? If so, perhaps your society would like to share your experience with other societies in the Delegate Digest. If not, perhaps your society would consider volunteering to do so. These veterans are leaving us on a daily basis. If you know a WWII veteran or his/her family, encourage them to document the veteran's experiences and depositing or donating copies to the Library of Congress' Veteran's History Project, whose primary focus is first-hand accounts of our veterans of wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories. Go to <http://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html> for more information.

I recently visited the Fort Wayne Library's new building and the expanded genealogy department. It is a great place to research. When you are at the FGS conference in August, be sure to take advantage of this great resource. I know I will be there as often as I can during that week. Hope to see you there!

Have a great summer.

Diane VanSkiver Gagel, M. A.  
Editor  
Email: [Dianefgs@aol.com](mailto:Dianefgs@aol.com)

**Quote of the Month:**

*The lack of emotional security of our American young people is due, I believe, to their isolation from the larger family unit. No two people - no mere father and mother - as I have often said, are enough to provide emotional security for a child. He needs to feel himself one in a world of kinfolk, persons of variety in age and temperament, and yet allied to himself by an indissoluble bond which he cannot break if he could, for nature has welded him into it before he was born.*

Pearl S. Buck, Author

## **FGS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FGS YOUTH AWARD**

FGS has announced new award, the Youth Award, and is accepting nominations until 1 August 2007. It is intended to honor volunteers under 18 who have made a significant contribution to a genealogical society. A nominee can be either a member of that society or a descendant of a member. There are two categories: fourteen-and-under, and fifteen-to-eighteen. The nomination process is simple:

1. Provide a brief description of the youth's contribution to your society
2. Include the youth's name and contact information
3. Include the society and contact information for the responsible society representative (FGS Delegate, President, or other appropriate individual.)
4. Send the information to FGS by email at [fgs-office@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-office@fgs.org)

OR

Mail the information to FGS Awards Committee, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940

If you have no nominees, please encourage your society to change that! Young people may not know that genealogical societies may have something to offer them, and vice-versa. Primary or secondary schools or individual teachers often incorporate a genealogy unit into their curriculum, and scout troops offer a genealogy merit badge. Members of your society may know a teacher or scout leader to contact. Society members may have a child or grandchild with a demonstrated interest in the family history, and your society could develop a project specifically geared to school-age youngsters, like a cemetery project or interviews at a local nursing home. The latter is a good way to encourage an interest in genealogy as well as interaction between youth and seniors. It may result in a small publication of genealogical value, create interest and stories in the local media, and give youth a positive and enjoyable way to contribute to the work of your genealogical society

### **FGS/ACPL 2007 Conference News**

Do you know a young person who is interested in genealogy and history? Are you interested in finding ways to attract young people to researching their family histories? If so, you will want to attend the Youth Fair that will take place during the FGS/ACPL 2007 Conference on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by the Generations Network, the fair will be held from 10 am to 3 pm at the Allen County Public Library's Main Library at 900 Library Plaza. The day will be filled with events and activities related to history and genealogy. Military re-enactors from the 44<sup>th</sup> Indiana Civil War Historical Association will be on hand as will members of Historic Fort Wayne. Pioneer music will be performed by Settlers, Inc. and bagpipe music will be supplied by the Fort Wayne Scottish Pipes and Drums. There will be opportunities for kids to have their photographs taken in

period costumes from the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. Wool spinning demonstrations and scrapbooking activities will also be available. The Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana, the Allen County 4-H, the Shippshewana Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution, the Girl Scouts of Limberlost Council and the Boy Scouts of the Anthony Wayne Area Council will all have representatives on hand to answer questions and to describe their organizations' services to youth. To top it all off, all Youth Fair events are open to the public and free! If you have the opportunity to sample some of the day's activities, please stop by the fair and enjoy. For further questions, email [Genealogy@ACPL.info](mailto:Genealogy@ACPL.info) or phone (260) 421-1225.

Elaine M. Kuhn, Publicity Chair

## **FGS ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued from Last Month)**

### **FGS SOCIETY HALL NOTICE**

Delegates, please make sure your society information is correct in the FGS Society Hall. The following link will take you directly to the page needed:

<<<http://www.familyhistory.com/societyhall/main.asp>>>.

If your society has changed the delegate, please contact the FGS office at FGS.org.

### **ATTENTION FGS DELEGATES: BYLAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AUGUST**

The annual meeting of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will take place on Wednesday evening August 15, in Ft. Wayne at 7:00 PM.

These bylaw amendments will be voted upon at that time, so your attendance is important and essential in order to assure a broad spectrum of member comments.

The FGS board recommends the passage of these bylaw amendments:

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#### Article V. Section 5.03 line 7:

The position title "Office Manager" be changed to "Office Administrator".

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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#### Article VII. Section 7.01

After the paragraph: "The Annual Meeting of the Federation shall be held at a place and on a date as determined by the Board and announced in the FORUM at least three months in advance of the meeting";

Add the sentence: "Quorum shall be 15 delegates"

Rationale: An annual meeting quorum statement needs to be in the bylaws.

Note: This Annual Meeting will conduct business of the Federation as necessary, such as voting upon proposed bylaw amendments.

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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Article X. Section 10.02 Line I

Change the name of "Public Relations Committee" to "Marketing Committee".

Rationale: The name change better reflects the true work of the committee.

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

Article X. Section 10.01. Line B

Change the name of "Public Relations Committee" to "Marketing Committee".

Rationale: The name change better reflects the true work of the committee.  
(If this name change is approved, the bylaws will renumber and alphabetically re-arrange Marketing Committee items as necessary.)

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

Note: The following bylaw amendments are proposed in order to relieve the workload on the FGS office staff when election preparations and the annual conference preparations are going on at the same time. The integrity of the elections is not jeopardized, while affording the office staff workload flexibility by removing certain fixed dates in the election timeline. The fixed dates which we propose be removed have to do with preparing and mailing out the ballots.

The bylaws committee recommended these amendments:

Article XI. Section 11.01. D.

Now reads:

D. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates by 1 August.  
Ballots shall be mailed to all qualified Member Societies by 1 September."

Proposed amendment:

Delete the sentence: "Ballots shall be mailed to all qualified Member Societies by 1 September."

Rationale: This removes the 1 September deadline for mailing out ballots, allowing a more flexible date to accommodate office workload demands.

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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Article XI. Section 11.02. A.

Now reads:

A. "All delegates in good standing (representatives of those Member Societies whose dues are paid by 1 August) may vote in the Federation's elections."

Proposed amendment:

Delete this sentence in its entirety. It is redundant and obvious: both points are stated elsewhere in these bylaws.

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Insert the sentence:

A. "Member Societies shall have thirty days from the postmarked date on the ballot to vote."

Rationale: This designates the voting period.

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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Article XI. Section 11.02. B.

Now reads:

B. "Voting shall be by secret ballot. Ballots shall be returned in envelopes provided by the Federation postmarked by 1 October. To ensure...."

Proposed amendment:

Delete the phrase: "postmarked by 1 October."

Rationale: Remove the deadline for returning ballots in order to give a more flexible voting period to relieve the workload demands on FGS office staff during this time of year.

New paragraph would read:

B. "Voting shall be by secret ballot. Ballots shall be returned in envelopes provided by the Federation. To ensure...."

Note: The changes would create the following election timeline:

Nominations received by 1 June (no change).

Slate of candidates ready by 1 August (no change).

Election period is thirty days from postmarked date on mailed ballot. (Anytime after 1 August and likely before November).

Elected candidates take office 1 January (no change).

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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Article XIII. Section 13.02. B.

This entire section now reads:

A. "Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted to the Member Societies for ratification by mail or at the Annual Meeting."

B. "Written notification, a copy of the proposed amendments, and a mail ballot shall be sent to Member Societies at least thirty days before the voting period begins."

C. "The Member Societies shall have thirty days from the postmarked date of the notice to vote."

D. "All ballots must be postmarked within the thirty-day period to be counted."

Proposed amendment:

Delete part B. in its entirety.

Rationale: Part B lends confusion to the voting period. Deleting this section will not jeopardize the integrity of the bylaw amendment process.

(Part A states how proposed amendments shall be presented to the membership; Parts C states the voting period.)

*The board recommends approval of this change.*

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## **FGS ANNUAL MEETING**

The FGS Annual Meeting will take place in the FGS conference center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on Wednesday, August 15, at 7 PM. This meeting is listed in the conference program as the "Forum for Society Leaders & Officers, Committee Chairs & Delegates."

This is your chance to meet the FGS officers and committee chairs, most notably President Wendy Bebout Elliott CG, and Vice-President of Membership Jana Sloan Broglin, CG. This is the delegates' opportunity to let us know what we're doing right, where we could improve, what you like about us, and what you'd like to see FGS do in the future. Suggestions made by FGS delegates in past open forums have been put into practice, and the FGS board is always interested in the members' concerns and comments.

There is also an important item of business to conduct: voting upon the proposed bylaw amendments to FGS bylaws. These amendments have been published in the Delegates' Digest and in the *FORUM*. We will also review the amendments at the meeting, consider debate, and vote upon the items. If approved, the amendments will take effect immediately, offering significant and immediate help to the FGS office staff.

We welcome all interested persons to the FGS open forum, and we look forward to seeing you in Ft. Wayne!

Bobbi King, FGS Director and Parliamentarian

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

June 30, North Carolina, Raleigh

Second Annual **North Carolina Genealogical Society** Speaker's Forum will be held at the Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Carya Drive, Raleigh from 9:00 to 3:00. Speakers are members of NCGS and will cover various topics of interest to genealogists. Check [www.ncgenealogy.org](http://www.ncgenealogy.org) for more information and registration form.

July 20, 21, Michigan, Lansing

The **Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society** (MMGS) of Lansing, Michigan, is hosting an evening with Colleen Fitzpatrick, Forensic Genealogist and noted genealogy author. This is a celebration of MMGS's 40th anniversary on July 20.

More information can be found at [www.rootsweb.com/~mimmgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimmgs/)

Colleen Fitzpatrick will be the keynote speaker for the Abram's Foundation Genealogy Seminar on July 20 and 21. More information is available at [http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447\\_18625\\_18627-137799--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447_18625_18627-137799--,00.html) Information online for Ms. Fitzpatrick and her work: can be found at <http://www.forensicgenealogy.info/>

August 15-18, Indiana, Fort Wayne

FGS/ACPL Annual Conference. Grand Wayne Center. [See FGS announcement above.]

August 18, Illinois, LaGrange

### **Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois**

“Walk & Talk within the Steps of Cyril and Methodius’ Slavic Old World”

On Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 4 pm, a power point program will be presented by College of DuPage Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Czech-American Archaeological Field School, Dr. John P. Staeck. He will update the attendees on his research on the early medieval fortresses and places that Cyril and Methodius may have walked on in Great Moravia around 800 A.D. Dr. Staeck covers the origins of the Czech people, culture, and state from 4000 BC to the post-Soviet Block era. Travel vicariously to archaeological excavations at a 30 acre hill fort with Neolithic, Bronze Age, Celtic, Medieval, and Early Modern components. Also, learn about the village RMIZ, located in a beautiful timber reserve in the eastern Czech Republic (Moravia), just 3 hours east of Prague.

A recent view of the project (which is very different today) can be found through the link at [www.cod.edu/people/faculty/staeck](http://www.cod.edu/people/faculty/staeck). New Dr. Staeck photos are imbedded in the field school web page: <http://www.cod.edu/people/faculty/staeck/New%20Czech%20field%20school.htm>

All meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, Ashland and Elm Street, LaGrange, IL, located 2 blocks west of LaGrange Road (US45) and 3 blocks north of 47th Street. This event is free for visitors and guests. CSAGSI has over 1000 members in the Chicago area. For additional information contact: Marge Sladek Stueckemann ([mdstueck@aol.com](mailto:mdstueck@aol.com)) <http://www.CSAGSI.org>

September 13-16, Tennessee, Nashville

**Gulley Family in America Reunion** will be held in Nashville, TN, September 13th through September 16, 2007. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Downtown Convention Center, one block from the Archives and Library. We also have 3 rooms beginning Sunday, Sept 9 in case anyone wants to come early and do research. The rate for the rooms is \$98.95 per night. The hotel telephone number is 615-242-4311. For more information, contact June Gulley at [juneg@bscn.com](mailto:juneg@bscn.com).

September 22, Washington, Colville

**The Northeast Washington Genealogical Society** in Colville, WA, will have a seminar September 22, 2007 at the Colville Library. Our main speaker will be Donna Potter Phillips who will speak on "Military Records: an Overview of What, Why, Where and When, from Colonial Times to the Present." Six local society members will give supporting talks. The program will run from 9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with lunch provided on site. The price is \$20.00 for members and \$22.00 for non-members if paid before Sept. 15. At the door cost is \$25.00.

### **SOCIETY NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Ohio Genealogical Society Announces Call for Papers for the 2008 Annual Conference “Navigating the Past: Charting A Course for Your Family Tree” in Cincinnati.**

The Ohio Genealogical Society is accepting proposals for its annual conference, 14-16 April 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel/Conference Center in Cincinnati. Sessions will be one-hour long, which includes a ten-minute question and answer period. Topics suitable for two-hour workshops will also be considered. Deadline for proposals is 30 June 2007.

Possible lecture topics include beginning genealogy, records, methodology, technology, migration, immigration, military, preservation, writing and publishing. Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana resources are of interest, along with ethnic topics for, but not limited to, German, Irish, English, African American and Jewish research.

Proposals should include the following information:

- Title of presentation and brief but concise outline
- Short summary of presentation for program brochure [50 word maximum]
- Audience level - beginner, intermediate, advanced, all
- Audio-visual requirements for each lecture
- Speaker's full name, postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers
- Brief speaker biography
- Resume of speakers recent lecture experience

Speakers will receive an honorarium, hotel accommodations and per diem based on the number of presentations, plus travel expenses and conference registration. Any number of proposals may be submitted. Mail two copies of each proposal, or send electronically to the following:

Jean Nathan  
OGS 2008 Program Chair  
7813 Gail Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45236-2331  
513-793-2106  
[gnealogist@cinci.rr.com](mailto:gnealogist@cinci.rr.com)

### **Southern California Genealogical Society**

The Southern California Genealogical Society announces a new service to help families connect with their cousins from around the world. "The Surname Wall, complete with index cards and Post-It notes, has been a tradition at Jamborees of the past," said Paula Hinkel, society president. This new digital format will expand the service far beyond the walls of the Convention Center. The Society invites genealogist to write their surnames on our Virtual Surname Wall. We all talk about how our brick walls get in our way. This is one Wall that could help for a change. There is no charge for this service and is open to the public. Submissions will be included in a free-access online database available on the SCGS website this summer. Complete details are listed under "Breaking News" at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com).