

Saturday, November 13, 2021, the Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa met for their regular monthly meeting at the Remsen Public Library meeting room.

President Judy Stokesberry brought the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Welcomed new members Megan Fretham and her husband. Members present: Germaine and Joe Konz, Mary Riedemann, Tom Hansen, Ethel Heidesch, Judy Bowman, Judy Stokesberry and Jean Nilles.

Other new members are Dan Wiltgen, and Jim and Julie Delperdang. Welcome!

Minutes were read and approved as read. Treasurer Mary Riedemann gave her report. Opening balance in the donation account was \$3,283.82; deposits totaled \$13.00 bringing the ending balance as of November 13th to \$3,296.82.

In the regular account opening balance was \$2,158.30; deposits totaled \$100 in dues bringing the ending balance \$2,258.30. A bill for paper and supplies was presented by Ethel Heidesch. A motion to pay the bill was made by Jean Nilles, seconded by Joe Konz. Motion carried.

The Robert Arens collection of families from the first settlers and their genealogy will be located at the Alton Public Library.

They will be available for reference. Thanks to Cheryl Hoekstra for agreeing to accepting them.

After an email read by the secretary from Sandy Hammes of the LaCrosse Luxembourg Society, we realized a lot of work is involved with having a Sister City. Someone will have to check in to the area towns to see if they will go through the process which will be time-consuming. They had two attorneys in their group that worked on this. Tabled.

Asked if anyone would like to take care of getting programs for upcoming meetings. May have a sign-up sheet if you would like to present a family tree or trip, etc. Notify any officers.

We will table having a douser searching over gravesites at St. Mary's cemetery until we have more information. A future program.

Ethel sent an email to Bonnie Theisen, St. Donatus, Iowa to see when they will have a special event. We are considering a trip, possibly for 3 days, to that destination with stops on the way.

A possible connection with the Plymouth County Historical Museum combining their bus trip with us. Tabled.

Jean received an email from Rene Daubenfeld, Surre, Lux. He and Julie Jochum are translating articles written in German into English from the Luxembourg

Gazette, editor Nicholas Gonner. He sent a story he thought would be of interest to us. In September 1888 several men from the Dubuque area traveled to northwest Iowa and Minnesota, as well as Omaha and up to Sioux Falls. They visited friends and places of interest. He offered to send more as they translate and said we could use them as we wish. We will place them on our website nwialux.org for your reading pleasure. As he completes these articles, he plans to put them into book form. Many thanks for sharing!

Volunteers were needed for Ethnic Fair at the Plymouth Co. Historical Museum on Sunday. Joe and Germaine offered their help to serve treipen, head cheese, german potato salad and speculoos cookies. Judy, Ethel and Jean also offered to help.

It was decided to decorate a tree during the Festival of Trees at the Plymouth County Fair Grounds during their event. Judy, Tom and Jean will be decorating 10 a.m. November 29 Century Hall. Anyone can help. Joe is purchasing lights for the tree.

Report on Oktoberfest. Nice crowd. People asked about a family tree display but had none this year.

Discussion on By-Laws and Board Members was tabled.

Reminder of dues for 2022. \$20 per family.

Next meeting will be December 11th. Bring cookies. Location will be given in an e-mail prior to meeting.

Judy will present a program on January 17th, Remsen Library at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary, Jean Nilles