

The Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa met on Saturday, December 14, 2019, in the meeting room of the Remsen Public Library. The meeting was brought to order by Vice President Judy Stokesberry at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions were made by 11 members and guests. They were: Jim Schaap, Mary Riedemann, Judy Marienau, Germaine Konz, Joe Konz, Ric Hansen, Ethel Heidesch, Tom Hansen, Reed Plathe, Judy Stokesberry and Jean Nilles.

The minutes from the November meeting were read and approved as read. Mary Riedemann gave the treasurer's report. The regular account's opening balance was \$3,972.74; deposits totaled \$260; expenses, P.O. box rental \$40; making the ending balance \$4,092.74. In the donation account: beginning balance on November 2<sup>nd</sup> was \$1,308; deposits of \$580.00; expenses for tee shirts 483.64; bringing the ending balance to \$1,404.36.

In correspondence a letter from the Grand Duchy Family sent their regrets that they were unable to attend but conveyed their hope that we have a successful event.

Judy Marienau was introduced to the group. She was the writer of the Grant we received from Iowa Tourism. She explained what the money, \$5,000, can be used for. Such items as advertising on TV, radio, newspapers, brochures, mailings and most printed materials need to have their logo displayed. Travel, lodging, salaries (there are none), postage, software are among items which moneys cannot be used for. A record of expenses must be presented and paid for before we will receive the money. We will welcome donations to cover these costs for LUX FEST. Judy also agreed to look into a Gilchrist Grant for us, which may help with the sign. She received a check for the Grant writing process of \$500 which was the price agreed on.

Julie Phillips is the new Web Master for our website [nwialux.org](http://nwialux.org). Please check it out. It is still in the process of bringing new information on the site. Judy and Jean are the contact people if you have anything you would like to put on the site. If you have any ideas for improving or updating the site, please let us know. We want to thank Ric Hansen for starting up the site a few years ago.

The Luxembourg Ambassador to the United States, Gaston Stronck, has accepted our invitation to attend our celebration. A thanks to Kevin Wester for sending the invitation on our behalf. More to come on the protocol, how to address him, etc., will be known shortly.

The signage for the St. Donatus Site was discussed as well as how to mount the sign, cement and posts. Judy, Dennis and Jean have written several scenarios for the sign. They were sent home with the members to help decide what would be appropriate or if they have another wording, correction on these ideas. Tabled until next month.

Another guest was Jim Schaap of Alton. He explained that although he is not Luxembourg, he was very interested in our event and the Luxembourg Society. He has a talk show on the public radio station and also with KSOU Sioux Center. He wanted to help promote our event and we gladly accepted his offer. He had several ideas on how to use our Facebook site and improve it to promote our celebration.

Because of the Ambassador honoring us with his presence, we had been looking for a larger place for the dinner to be on Saturday evening for the Tri-State groups, our friends from Luxembourg and other

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special guests. Judy and Jean checked in with the Alton Reformed church. They agreed to let us use their large meeting area, seating adequate, at a cost of \$300. A verbal vote was taken and agreed to rent the building. It will be an RSVP through the website.

Update on the brochure, corrections and additions were noted to the members. We want to have it printed as soon as we can. The number of copies has not been determined. Please let us know the number you would like to send out to your family, distribute to local businesses, museums and schools.

Reed Plathe reported on what it would cost for an alcohol license for the day, plus insurance. It would close the other businesses to be able to sell. We decided to scrap any alcohol considerations.

On the parade Tom Hansen and Reed Plathe are looking for additional entries. On the website there will be forms for entries. One will be for family entries which will include their cost of \$50 to have a banner, flags and misc. to carry the banner. A second will be for entries other than families. We would like a special car for the Ambassador. Reed said he would see what he could find for him.

Joe and Germaine said they would see about Hospers people to show the church and cemetery as well as see what the museum there has to help with the self-guided tour on Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Remsen Public Library. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary, Jean Nilles