



Iowa Genealogical Society

Library & Research Center

628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA, 50309-1924
www.iowagenealogy.org
515-276-0287

Full Board Meeting

The hybrid meeting was called to order by President Joe Solem at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

The following board members were present:

Joe Solem	President
Lois Trinity	1st Vice President
Pam Washington	2nd Vice President
Kevin Spire	Treasurer
Jennifer Darling	Secretary
Florence Nicolou	Region 3
Judi Pohorsky	Region 4
Stephen Bartenhagen	Region 5
Jeanine Wichman	Region 6
Dennis Allen & Cris Nagle	Region 7
Karla Wright	Region 8
Mark Wheeler	Region 13
Lynda and Mary Cae Maden	Region 14
Sandra Bengsten	Region 16
Dennis Davies	Education/Technology

The following board members were absent:

Vacant	Region 1
Heather Wells	Region 2
Sue Terrill	Region 9
Saundra Clem Leininger	Region 10
Ron Gruber	Region 11
Regina Banks	Region 12
Vacant	Region 15

President Solem declared a quorum present, 15 of 20 members were present at the start of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2026 Full Board Meeting. Lois Trinity and Cris Nagla were appointed to review today's meeting minutes.

President Report

- The front sidewalk repair estimate is \$17,000. The construction company estimates \$1600 to fix the retaining wall.
- The estimate to repair/reside the west wall is two years old so will likely be higher than the original \$20,000. We now need to plan for this repair.
- The Minnesota and Wisconsin Genealogical Societies reached out to IGS and asked for a conference call to exchange information and discuss how can we help each other. It was a good call and information exchange. IGS is the largest society of the three. The groups plan to have another call this summer to keep the conversation going.
- Strat planning: not a lot happening at this time. There is a real estate agent keeping eyes open for opportunities in other locations. Getting the committee together to discuss how best to use the space we have as our library is growing! The storage agreement with the Italian American society is nearing an end so the garage space will be available to repurpose.
- Mark Wheeler joined the board as region rep 13 and also agreed to be the liaison to the executive committee.
- It was moved and seconded to appoint Mark Wheeler as the Regional Executive to the committee. Motion passed. Mark will be in touch with the rest of the region reps.
- Nancy Kirchner is chairing the nominating committee.

First Vice President Report

- Byron Strom is speaking this week at 1 pm Thursday. Coming up: Excel for Genealogists (a workshop), and an America 250 presentation by two DAR members.
- Jay Fonkert, a nationally-known speaker, will come to IGS July 11th for discovering immigration patterns to Midwest and tips on Iowa. \$35 fee for both sessions. Nationally known speaker. In person only event.
- Quaker Heritage class coming, DNA, Researching our revolutionary war ancestors, and Irish ancestors. There will be a beginning genealogy class in September.
- Fall conference is October 17th. The featured speaker is Kim Alborg. The event will be offered both in person and on Zoom. Several vendors will be present at IGS.

Second Vice President

- IGS membership is currently 1071.
- Two members donated funds to support the price of \$17.76 for new members who joined during a specific period of time. We gained 150 new members through this membership drive.
- The Show and Tell in March featured stories about 1776 ancestors.
- The annual jewelry sale is May 15-17.
- Archie Cook is presenting in November.
- It has been Pam's goal to focus on getting people into the building and library.
- The IGS logo has been redesigned to update the name of the organization and the image.

- There is an online store now available to purchase garments and other items with the IGS logo.
- IGS held watch parties at the conference center for people who registered for the PBS event.

Treasurer Report

Checking	\$28,000
Savings	\$74,892
PayPal	\$5,000
Other bank acct	\$4,000

- The mortgage interest is being recalculated at a new rate of 6.1%. The new payment is \$2800 per month. The executive committee agreed to continue paying the previous payment of \$3500 per month and apply the difference to the principal. This pays off the mortgage in 5 years. Kevin is working with the bank to set up this plan.
- An audit will be scheduled with 2 IGS members to review the 2025 tax year.

Other Updates

- Kevin is redesigning the IGS website to comply with the new version the provider is launching. Kevin worked on it for 68 hours so far and has a lot of work left to do.
- Joe and Dennis are working on a 2-minute video to formally announce the updated logo and the new items that have been done at the building.
- Mark Wheeler has volunteered to help Kevin with the website.

Region Rep reports can be viewed online at:

<https://iowagenealogy.us/igs2/home/board-of-directors/>

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:53 am. Motion passed

Submitted by Jennifer Darling
IGS Secretary