

NGS Focus on Societies, May 21, 2021

Report by Anne Billeter

1. Finding Good Material for Society Newsletters by Deb Cyprych

First let me state that I was anticipating a class about NEWSLETTERS similar to our eNews. Instead, I'll preface this by saying there are 3 basic types of genealogy society publications:

- a. **Newsletters**, which are transitory, as their name suggests, often monthly.
- b. **Bulletins**, usually published less often, such as the *Rogue Digger*.
- c. **Journals**, which are scholarly, such as the *New England Historic Genealogical Register (NEHGR.)*

NOTE: The speaker referred to a chapter in the book *Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records*, edited by Kory L. Meyerink, which is NOT listed in her handout. JCGL owns the book (929.1 Pri) and the chapter is entitled "Genealogical Periodicals." I gleaned the 3 basic types of genealogical society publications from her 7 classes of genealogy periodicals and from my own observations.

This class was really about the category I've labeled "Bulletins", NOT newsletters.

My first clue was the adamant and declarative statement:

- A. "Your community needs to be the focus of your newsletter."
- B. The handout could be quite helpful for the *Rogue Digger* editor.
- C. The section of the handout entitled "Generating good content" also has some techniques that would be helpful for the eNews.

2. Volunteer Motivations: Getting and Keeping Your Volunteers by Judy Nimer Muhn

Some of my "takeaways":

- A. Value of volunteers: \$24.34-\$27.20/hour (varies regionally)
- B. Millenials are very volunteer oriented
- C. Membership Renewal Form: on back: volunteer recruitment & class suggestions
- D. 6 volunteer personality types: (see handout for details)
- E. Rewarding/recognizing volunteers: some (introverts) prefer private recognition
- F. Recruiting future leaders: Invite them to attend Board meetings and/or other meetings

3. Online Meetings: Helping Your Society Move into a Virtual World

- A. **Was about the Technology**, rather than the people
- B. **I stopped attending due to the subject and to constant transmission breakdowns**

4. Shout Out

A. The most interesting and useful part of the day for me, not only because of the featured societies, but also due to the freewheeling discussions that developed

B. St. Louis Genealogical Society

1. The largest local genealogical society: 1,836 members
2. SIGs open to public and free
3. "Ask Louis": don't do research; email and phone
4. City/County Biography project – on website
5. Working with churches and synagogues to digitize records
6. Classes are free
7. Lineage group: First Families of St. Louis
8. STLGS.org – 1600 page website, includes a robust members-only section
9. Social media vital: 3400 members Facebook
10. Weekly blog

C. Illinois State G S

1. "Good to know" videos about various local repositories (nitty gritty details like parking...)

D. Cobb County G S (GA)

1. Photography and Genealogy Interest Group
The Photography & Genealogy SIG focuses on using photography for genealogy. Current topics of interest include: using your camera's features, photo editing software, photo techniques for documents, people, and architectural structures, printing your digital photos, and tricks of the trade. It is coordinated by ...
2. "Let's Do Something" SIG
The Let's Do Something SIG focuses on applying methodology to your research. Do life events get in the way of your genealogy research? The goal is for us to meet once a month to spend a couple of hours working on our genealogy. We will each be working on our individual research, but will have other researchers there with whom to share great finds and commiserate when that great lead goes south. We can bounce ideas off each other or get suggestions for busting brick walls or encourage each when the going gets tough. It is coordinated by ...

E. Georgia G S – over 800 members

1. "Georgia Surnames" list [not found; must be on Members Only page]
2. Host the annual IGHR (Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research)
3. Place information in the state's Welcome Centers

F. Nebraska State GS

1. Has NO physical location
2. 195 members (1/2 out of state)
3. Library collection at Beatrice Public Library
4. Members can rent books for the cost of shipping (@\$4.00/book; maximum 3 at a time)
5. Microfilm rental collection at Scotts Bluff
6. Members only website
7. 93 countries – website info about each

8. List of researchers
9. Much more

G. Western Pennsylvania G S [Pittsburgh] – over 700 members

1. WPGS Library in the Pennsylvania Department on the Third Floor of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP), Main Branch, in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh.
2. Award a \$250 Scholarship to a member to attend any genealogy conference

H. Massachusetts Genealogical Council

1. Governor shut down Records access; they got it reversed
2. Pivoted their annual conference to virtual in 21 days (Apr 3, 2020)
(already had experience with virtual meetings, but not with a virtual conference)
3. Bringing younger people on the Board (had to research if the Treasurer could be under 21)
4. Working to be more inclusive

I. National Society Descendants of Early First Responders (lineage society)

Descendants of Early First Responders official website. Founded in March 2021, we are a new society honoring the heroes that served their community in law enforcement, fire rescue, and medical fields. Our members make a difference in the lives of today's first responders and their families.

1. July 4, 1776-July 4, 1914
2. Membership is one-time fee of \$225

J. SHOUT OUT DISCUSSIONS

1. about holding hybrid events: Several societies plan to, but none have yet
2. Have a Speakers Bureau, to make yourself visible (known) in your community