

Minutes of June 24, 2023, Business Meeting, In-Person Standing Family Reunion

Bear Creek Friends Meeting House, Earlham, IA

In attendance: Ruth Alliband, Deb and Gary Bierma, Brian and Liz Glick, Ray Bricker, Larry & Karen Hutzell, Nancy Johnsen, Merilee Johnson, Tim Johnson, John Osborn, Joyce Osborn, Naomi Osborn, Osa Osborn, Sally Russell, Jeff & Gayle Sheetz, Jennifer and Tony Sotelo, Ellis & Win Standing

Karen Hutzell reminded us that we needed a short business meeting. Here are my recollections of what we covered. I do not remember who motioned and seconded on the action items, but the votes were unanimous.

The first item of business was the question whether there would be another in-person reunion. This “stripped down” model is a new iteration of the Standing Family Reunion first envisioned by Amy Standing, Martha Standing Foster, Aunt Amy’s many willing minions at the time who lived locally (Wanda, Birdie, Win, and others too numerous to mention). Now, 153 years later we have officially closed the in-meeting-house kitchen and this time had HyVee fix our food for us. We also planned for just one afternoon of in-person gathering: sitting in the shade, visiting the organic farm, playing lawn games, using the trove of children’s play equipment and books from the Little Schoolhouse and whatever spontaneous sharing had been sent. (We viewed Jon Griffith’s 22-minute video about decisions his father John made while he was still in high school and the ensuing changes in his life. Jonathan called that video “The Enigma” and stitched it together with newspaper clippings and John’s high school class book as primary documents for his story.)

This reunion was so radically different from those that went before that I was saying to several cousins that I wondered if this might not be the last in-person Standing Family Reunion. But when I made that statement to this room full of 26 attendees, it fell like a stone. Especially the youngest members in the room looked perturbed. They spoke up and said that “in person” meant a lot to them and they really wanted to continue the tradition.

Then the subject of who would prepare the site for the reunion opened. I said that I had been admonished not to place the burden of preparing this reunion on the stand-by Earlham relatives, now in their ‘80s. I admitted I had not done a good enough job. Ellis spoke up to say that he couldn’t stop his spouse of X-number years from cleaning and dusting the meeting house. And I subsequently heard from these dear cousins that yes, they were very tired both before and after the event.

Younger attendees—specifically Gary and Deb Bierma and Liz and Brian Glick of Des Moines-- said that if the Meeting cousins could put together a list of what needed to be done in preparation, they would come over and work that list to prepare the building and grounds for the reunion. This seemed satisfactory to the group. We did not formally vote to carry the reunion forward, but no one seemed to think this was a tired old idea that should be put to rest. So it sounds like the consensus of those at the gathering is to have another in-person gathering in 2 years. In the past

it has been in either June or July (usually June). The poll for best date should probably occur after we find out if the Henderson reunion continues in 2024. Then our year would be 2025 and we would poll the group to find out any known scheduling conflicts. I can put out this poll. I can also collaborate with other family on the program ideas.

A question was raised about the completeness of the e-mail list. I subsequently shared the list of 106 names and noted in that email that a couple of emails are now failing. One relative wrote to say he wanted his name removed. I added some new Costa Rica Guindon emails.

The group at this business meeting voted to offer a \$100 honorarium to Jackie and Russ Leckband (members of the Meeting who have pitched in in many ways to make this and previous reunions happen) because calling them "Honorary Standings" didn't seem to be enough. Merilee Johnson proposed this, it was moved and seconded, and was approved.

Prior to the reunion, the reunion planning committee decided to follow tradition without a vote as the Treasurer would be absent for a couple of weeks on a trip to Europe with her family and wanted to be timely. Paulette had reported that following the 2021 in-person meeting the Reunion Treasury contained **\$2,576**. It was decided to send our usual \$500 to the Bear Creek Meeting for use of the building and grounds in continued support of our family's "hearth" on that lime rock Bear Creek Road.

Here is an accounting of the cost of our catered meal. We never want to run short, but those skeptical neighbors didn't show up, even though some of them wanted to once they read "catered lunch" on the roadside sign. Expenses and reimbursements as follow:

HyVee catering:	\$477.27
Collections from those in attendance	\$321.00
Uncovered meal expenses	\$156.00
Meeting House contribution	\$500.00
Leckband honorarium	\$100.00
Best estimate of current State of treasury following 6/24/2023 gathering	\$1,820.73

Treasurer's Mailing Address: Paulette Standing, 302 Cordoba Avenue, Cedar Falls, IA 50613-6316

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Alliband

Ruth.alliband@gmail.com, cell 651-592-7657 / land line 651-439-2498