

The Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa met on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at the Alton Library's meeting room. The February meetings had been cancelled due to the weather. Judy Stokesberry brought the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with eight members present. They were Ric Hansen, Judy Stokesberry, Mary Riedemann, Rich Riedemann, Ethel Heidesch, Tom Hansen, Joe Konz and Jean Nilles.

The minutes from the January meeting were read and approved as read. Mary Riedemann gave the treasurer's report. Opening balance was \$3,775.98, dues paid \$20.00, ending balance was \$3,795.98. We were saddened to hear of the death of President Dennis Wolf's wife, Margaret.

Ric Hansen presented ideas on the mural from Amber Hansen, who has agreed to help with the design and painting. A building one block east of the main street stop signs, has been designated as the canvas.

Ric will contact the art teachers in the area schools to inform their students that artists are needed to help this summer. Those schools are St. Mary's at Remsen, MMCRU at Remsen, Gehlen and Le Mars Community at Le Mars, MOC at Orange City and Spalding at Alton.

Judy and Jean are planning to attend a meeting in Le Mars on April 5th with department staff from the Iowa Arts Council and State Historical Society in regards to grant money available. We could use funds for the mural and the sign proposed for the St. Donatus site, as well as brochures, flags, etc.

Joe Konz will contact Father Dan on the Oktoberfest music for the Mass on Sunday, June 7th, 2020. Mary Riedemann will gather names, addresses and phone numbers of the area hotels and motels for the brochure.

Judy checked on insurance for the event. Without horses, cost will be much lower. Not sure about sheep. We also discussed getting a sign to note that the St. Donatus site could be an historical site. We may need to contact our representatives for help. This will also have to be passed by the board from St. Mary's Alton parish as they own this property.

Ideas for the celebration were discussed. A registration table, name tags for people to sign in at. Possibly a place for family photos of those attending. A marker board that they can write the ancestral name on was also suggested.

Rose Homan, Omaha, was not able to attend but sent suggestions we will discuss later. She plans a power point program but also had ideas as to some type of collection of past photos of farms, barns, machinery with names of the family, perhaps in a booklet form. May be used for a fund-raiser.

Rick Roder mentioned he has the names, obituaries and locations of the cemetery to be compiled on a computer which will be helpful to find the stones. We discussed the self-guided tour. People from each town will need to be recruited to help with this project. A location for the travelers to get the information from that town, possibly their museum or church.

The meeting was adjourned. Following the meeting we toured the Alton museum which is connected to the library. There are lovely displays, a miniature of the town in its early history, school graduation pictures, and many more interesting memorabilia. Melody De Witt was our tour guide.

Secretary, Jean Nilles