



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

Finding ancestors since 1971

July 2023 President's Letter



July is our looking-ahead month!

Now that we've elected our officers for the coming year, it's time to look into the future and see what we can do more of (or less of) to better serve you and our region. In the past, planning has been kind of a board thing, perhaps with a few guests.

This year we'd like to open it up to **all WAGS members** and have you join us in envisioning what's down the road for us in 2023/24. Remember, ***the things that WAGS has and the things we're doing now were once someone's dreams and suggestions!***

So, what are your dreams and suggestions for WAGS? We'll start by asking

What do you like most about WAGS?

What's the best help we've given you?

How are we unique in Wenatchee and our region?

Then we'll broaden it a little bit and ask,

What are you excited about in genealogy?

If your hometown genealogical society anywhere in the country had the one thing you totally needed, what would that be?

And finally,

How can we make our website, library, meetings/programs, field trips, anything else, serve you better?

Come and give us your opinions, dreams and suggestions!

We're inviting you to our **July Meeting (Hybrid), "The Future of WAGS"**

Monday, July 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom AND in-person at Douglas PUD Auditorium

1151 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee

Topic: The Future of WAGS

Time: Jul 10, 2023 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354875478?pwd=Z3c4VEY2YmJjOEc5eU1FMW5SdWJ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 843 5487 5478 Passcode: Future

Elections

WAGS has completed its fourth virtual election. At the June 12 meeting, we installed the officers below. I know the names are looking a little familiar, but we will be excited to find more volunteers who want to help us build on WAGS' firm foundation.



2023/4 WAGS Board:

President **Susan Rumble**

Corresponding Secretary **Patty Ostendorff**

Vice President **Diane Gundersen** Treasurer **Vacant**

Recording Secretary **Lisa Vollrath** Head Librarian **Vacant**

Members at-Large **Kristy McGregor**

Hazel Thornton Hank Lubean

Our next Board meeting via Zoom: Wednesday, **July 5** at 9:30 a.m.

Topic: WAGS **July Board Meeting**

Time: Jul 5, 2023 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

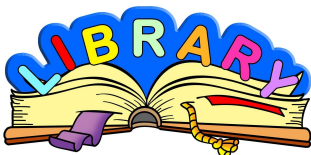
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316452009?pwd=WGE5UTJNWWhwVytwc0FYUXdFdnN5UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1645 2009 Passcode: Board

Finding a treasurer . . .

As you know, Shirley needs to step away from her Treasurer duties. WAGS has been very spoiled with great treasurers down through the years! It looks pretty certain that we'll have to hire a bookkeeper, and the board will be discussing just what this will look like. Does anyone have a **recommendation** for someone who has nonprofit accounting experience? Also, now that you see that we're really down to the wire, would any of our members like to **step forward to fill this vacancy**? We will keep you in the loop as we grapple with this new situation.



At the WAGS Library . . .

At our recent librarian meeting, we talked about "The Future of WAGS" as it pertains to the library. We got some good ideas about collaboration, and thought about organization and indexing projects we can do to make our holdings more accessible.

Here's our impressive **July 2023 bulletin board!** Mardi is displaying her *six years* of creating awesome bulletin boards for the WAGS Library. Come in and admire Mardi's creativity and skill.

News Flash: Even before Mardi made this comprehensive, six-year bulletin board, your WAGS Board chose her as our Outstanding Volunteer for WSGS (state society) recognition. The WSGS will make it official in September, but you heard it here first!



Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy . . . what could possibly go wrong?

Lots, actually. Blogger and lecturer Lisa Louise Cooke of Genealogy Gems has posted

“AI Chatbots & Genealogy: Shocking Results”

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/2023/06/22/ai-chatbots-genealogy/>

If you are thinking of getting on ChatGPT, Google's Bard, Microsoft Bing's Chat (Edge browser), or other AI applications out there, you really should read this article first. If you have time for nothing else, scroll down to her last section, “Shocking AI Chatbot Results” for a real eye-opener. Not only do we have to watch for the Chatbots' untruths, we know that they will be repeated all around the internet. We have enough trouble with that already. There's just no substitute for old-fashioned, fact-checking, original-source genealogy!

*(Thanks to **Barbara Congdon** for bringing this to my attention.)*

A ProTip . . .

If you have an old photograph that's not identified, that's from the early 1900s onward, consider finding an image of your ancestor's **high school yearbook**. Study it carefully, and you may find that your mystery photo is a classmate, and now you'll have the name!

*(Thanks to **Diane Gundersen** for this insight.)*



Have a great 4th of July celebration,
and hope to see you on the 10th--

Sincerely,

Susan Rumble,

WAGS President

