

Results of Leadership Session

Question: 1. What things are societies doing that are effective and/or are working well?

Types of Events being held

Members helping Members Session (volunteers answering questions); Virtual genealogy "help Desk"
monthly reaching across state, now themed and using breakout rooms
Bringing Study Groups Online
Added a new DNA SIG and other SIG options were discussed
Active social engagement - Facebook, Websites
Regular and DNA monthly workshop or educational event
Get-together - less formal, interactive
Zoom meeting weekly to keep connected to local library
Chat group on topic discussion

Board activities and decisions

Some boards have director of technology board position
Some boards have Webmaster position
Some boards have Social Media position
Innovative spirit of the board to make changes
Get to know your Officers - bio & Questions
Offer of free resources

Ways events are being held

Seeking good speakers
Having Zoom or other virtual meetings to reach all members
GoToMeeting format has dramatically increased number of attendees
Forcing function to starting webinars
Use of virtual webinars and presentations

General Comments

Happy to be holding the society together
Hybrid after the Pandemic ends
Finding someone who knows about computer stuff
Surveying about presentations
Out of state members can participate

Results of Leadership Session**Question: 2. What things are societies doing poorly (or not doing at all)?****Member concerns**

Not enough support for members who are technology challenged (like idea of having a technology workshop in support of people who need help)
Outreach to members who may not attend meeting. Need to understand needs!
Not recruiting younger members
How do we know new members are inexperienced? Otherwise, they need to ask for help
Putting too much on same members
Mentoring (new board members, folks new to genealogy) virtual makes it harder
Don't need to be member to attend but it's not increasing our membership

Meeting Concerns

Unable to keep programs going that work best F@F (over the shoulder helping)
Some just won't do Zoom
Some societies have big challenges to offer virtual meetings
Haven't yet done virtual meetings
Meeting virtually is harder to get that feedback

Leadership concerns

Society board members do not reflect the diversity of the communities they serve
Need to improve at mentoring - some positions not filled
No new board members - no term limits
Following up with volunteer candidates
What volunteer opportunities are delineated and available
Setting expectations and boundaries lest leadership be swamped

General Society concerns

Need to learn social media
Take advantage of an internship model; resume material!
Society is too traditional in their fundraising and not looking for new opportunities. May need to reach out to business, maybe use a GoFundMe or Grants
Main issue is not getting guest contact information on virtual meeting
Need to reach out to community news media to advertise events.

Results of Leadership Session

Question: 3. What additional resources do societies need to be more successful?

Membership

Ideas needed for increasing membership

Need younger people as members

More members

Technology Abilities

Membership needs tech capability (ie computers, website)

Equipment such as microphones

Use of social media

Zoom classes

Board resources

Need board members with technical capability

No one person should know everything - board cross training

More board members that can dedicate time the better

Mentorship program where each board member helps new members

Future planning

How to divert customer needs to 3rd party resources

Survey's to get members input