Results of Progamming Sessions
Question: 1. What issus are limiting the ability of societies to attract quality presenters/presentations?

Basic Issues for Consideration
Money (multiple references)
1. We like the idea of pooling resources for speakers with several societies.
2. During COVID, more $$ available, but still speakers have higher rates
3. Are their rates within budget?
Geography: Urban versus rural; can make a huge difference

Speaker Consideration
Dreadful presentations
Who is available?
More sort/search dimensions on TxSGS speakers bureau
Consider home societies for potential speakers
Have a support group for new speakers to practice and get feedback.
Use and encouraging new/beginning speakers to foster, coach, and mentor their growth and experience. Follow-up with feedback on their performance.
Pre-covid limited to speakers in the area of the society. The virtual environment opened up a lot of new possibilities.

Other Considerations
Society program director may have limited experience dealing with speakers and the process.
Expectations of the members may differ from speaker options.
Better define program chair role

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Question: 2. What steps can societies take to improve the quality of the presentations made at meetings

Setting Expectations ahead of time
Set expectations with speaker and communicate
Set time limits
Set up practice session
Have someone available for tech advice
Prerecord presentation
Give guidelines and expectations about the length, the handout, Q&A period, and Powerpoint presentation. Encourage them watch other meetings as an example of what the society expects.
Society needs to enforce speaker's copyright rights and general etiquette by the audience.

When selecting speakers
Speakers need to be competent with a PowerPoint type tool, it's style and how it moves from screen to screen.
Program director needs to preview a speaker's presentation manner, and style (speaks too fast) before engaging.
Program director needs to understand what members want in subject matter: genealogical, history, technology. Need to solicit feedback from the members.

Other Concepts for consideration
Apply for grants to pay for presenters
Form relationship with speakers from other organization
How to gear programming for people with at least a passing interest or wouldn't otherwise attend a "Genealogy Society Meeting" but would watch a 20 minute video at their leisure
We need a critique process for speakers and other activities.
Be careful about using author's trying to sell their books as speakers.

TXSGS
Society could be formal in setting up an incubator program and market to new speakers.
Society could offer programs with opportunity for short 10-15 minute presentations for new speakers as part of a development program.

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Question: 3. What steps can presenters (or the TXSGS) take to help societies improve the quality of the presentations made at their meetings?

Be careful using beginner, intermediate or advanced classifications when dealing with speakers.

Have a clear conversation between speaker and program chair about the nature of the speaker's topic and the expectations.

Presenter's could use short videos on their website to give an example of their speaking style.

Agreed it's a good idea for TxSGS to hold a meeting for program chairs and update speakers list.

Presenter needs to be sure to respond to emails.

TxSGS sponsor a workshop for preparing speakers for presentations

Make sure and have good technological equipment and plan ahead, vet presenters, fundraise to pay for presenters, use social media to promote events,

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Question: 4. If other key obervations or conclusions emerged during this discussion please describe them below

Talked about fundraising to fund speakers bureau
Could work harder to bring in People of Color both as partners and resources; chicken/egg conversation - which comes first
Could work harder on any demographic
As societies to participate in speaker share