

May 13 Meeting Discussion Questions Please respond to the following questions (even if you are not planning to attend) prior to May 13. Your answers will be incorporated into our discussion.

# #1

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:13:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:19:32 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:25  
**IP Address:** 216.169.236.147

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We are holding monthly meetings now and having a program with each. We've even had 3-4 new people join us which is great. We have plans to set up a table at our county fair this year and tell people about what we do and what we have to offer.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

We try to pick topics that the members are interested in and then see who we can get to give a program on topics they want more information about. We are also looking at making use of some of the topics/speakers available through the TSGS. We partnered with the local library in October and hosted an all day program with hour long sessions on genealogy (3 for beginners and 3 for intermediate) and plan to do so again if we can work it out with Waco. It was quite successful and we also had our genealogy room open for people to come in and look at what we have available. Volunteers were there to help if needed.

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## #2

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 4:20:48 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 4:52:03 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:31:15  
**IP Address:** 76.193.71.249

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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Recently we did an orientation meeting. We had not done a new member orientation in a long while. But we dropped the "new", and made it simply "member orientation". We have so many that don't come to meetings or even visit the library. We began with a tour of the Dwyer center, where we showed them how to navigate the members only portion of the site etc. Gave them info on upcoming events and classes, fed them cake & coffee, then went next door to the Library and showed them how to find the treasures therein. The event was well received and comments were positive. There has been an uptick in library visits. We are adding as of May 1, Newspapers. com and Pro Quest's African American Heritage to our Library databases. Membership meetings are slightly larger but still well below what they should be for an org that has over 400 members.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Several speakers come to mind. Hanna Pankowski-holocaust survivor, a local archeologist who spoke on the oldest cemetery in SA. (city had paved over a good part of it). Favorite actor & Historian Joe Wiegand who brings Teddy Roosevelt to life when he visits. - who went out of his way to raise funds for us, because " I love your passion for history." We have had the gentleman who built the SA Vietnam Memorial, archivists, lineage society leaders, National Park Rangers. Those attending are usually very enthusiastic about our speakers but still we want to fill our Roosevelt Auditorium (seats 125 comfortably) Ideas are welcome!

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## #3

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 4:25:33 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 5:41:45 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:16:11  
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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Our most popular meetings cover DNA/Research topics given by nationally known speakers via Zoom. Because of requests we have had for in-person meetings, we are trying to have one in-person meeting per quarter, but they have not been well-attended. We also had a meeting with a historical focus (Crystal City Family Internment Camp during World War II), and that one seemed to garner less interest than the more genealogically oriented ones. We also publicize our meetings on ConferenceKeeper and that has attracted attendees from across the country.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Evaluation is based on registration and attendance.

Our best attended meeting was Dana Leeds' presentation of a case study on Using the Leeds Method to Identify a Man with Multiple Names. It is now on Legacy Family Tree Webinars, and is entitled "One Man, Multiple Names: A DNA-Based Case Study." Other popular and well-reviewed speakers/topics since we moved to Zoom were "What Can I Do With My Stuff? Organizing Genealogical Research for Donation," by Irene Walters, Clayton Library Houston; "Telling Your Family's Story with Google Earth," by Tamara Hallo, Miami GS President, "DNA and Endogamy: Making Sense when Matches Don't Make Sense," by Dr. Adina Newman (Boston), "Who's Little Joe? Case Study," by Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, "The Hicks Babies: Research Strategies for Adoptees," by Leah LaPerle Larkin, The DNA Geek, "DNA Painter: An Overview," by Jonny Perl (UK), "Best Strategies for Researching Irish Roots," Jane Halloran Ryan, Ireland XO, and "Filling in the Family Stories Using Social History," by Sue Kaufman, Clayton Library. Our webinars with Diahann Southard and L. Joshua Taylor, were also very well-received.

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## #4

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 7:49:57 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 7:53:33 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:35  
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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Our meeting attendance is still down below pre-COVID levels. Less than a third of our members even open the email we send them. We need something to rekindle interest.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Attendance. Not readily.

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## #5

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:26:45 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:48  
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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We have scheduled meeting topics, research trips, and cemetery workshop / field trip based on member requests and comments

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

In person attendance, desire to meet for lunch before, and / or stay after meetings to visit- these are indicative of interest. Also we have multiple members that travel more than 1/2 hour to attend, incl from out of county

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# #6

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:31:53 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:35:33 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:39  
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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Our monthly membership meetings are not very well attended. Our monthly education series has adequate attendance. Only a minority of members are attending meetings. Many members never attend any meetings.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

We do not have a formal method to evaluate interest.

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May 13 Meeting Discussion Questions Please respond to the following questions (even if you are not planning to attend) prior to May 13. Your answers will be incorporated into our discussion.

## #7

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:58:47 AM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:09:43 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:10:56  
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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We are struggling. Several of our members don't like video presentations.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

We have enjoyed having the District Attorney and County Clerk giving programs about their offices. We have not tried to measure the level of interest.

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# #8

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:23:30 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:30:28 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:58  
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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Month meetings on schedule with a topical program

Browsing table at each mtg for in-person attendees offering program handouts, gen'y research aiding handouts and gen'y centric organizational promotion hadouts. Offer light snacks and drinks during each mtg.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Seem to be getting the same turnout for each meeting regardless of the program offered.

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May 13 Meeting Discussion Questions Please respond to the following questions (even if you are not planning to attend) prior to May 13. Your answers will be incorporated into our discussion.

## #9

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:16:25 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 12:12:28 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:56:03  
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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We have been slightly successful with online meetings and have had at least one person volunteer when asked. We created a online volunteer form but only 1 non member completed and they did not respond to our emails after submitting.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

We do a yearly survey to learn what topics and speakers our members are interested in learning more about. The most attended was DNA with Sara Cochran and Bill Buckner on Dual Courthouses.

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# #10

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 10:56:10 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 11:04:00 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:50  
**IP Address:** 162.236.57.251

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

The Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society has been successful in holding monthly meetings. We are involving members by committee appointments and assigned duties during meetings such as welcoming members and guests. The society is in the process of setting up an office and library at the Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum to offer assistance to researchers.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

The society maintains a sign-in list and tracks the number of attendees and also notes audience reaction to the program and speaker and uses that information in scheduling future programs.

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# #11

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 12:29:54 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:45  
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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Yes... but still all virtual. Trying to make some of them hybrid, but getting resistance and lack of extra volunteers to work the tech that hybrid needs.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

attendance, suggestions from the board and attendees over time

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## #12

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 12:23:02 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 12:30:30 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:27  
**IP Address:** 72.182.148.33

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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We have a core group of members who attend and participate in meetings, but we have lost some members in the past few years due to COVID, death, health problems, moving away. Our meetings are hybrid, with ZOOM option for those unable to attend in person, which has helped some to stay in touch.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

some programs that have been well received: genealogy road trips, DAR speaker, bring your brick wall problem for ideas from the group, help with new features on Ancestry.com

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# #13

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 1:26:31 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 1:28:16 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:45  
**IP Address:** 135.84.158.76

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

All speakers have been local, and I don't think this is necessarily effective.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

My own presentation on DNA generated the most interest.

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## #14

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 3:18:23 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 3:27:42 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:19  
**IP Address:** 174.170.133.175

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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We have program meetings monthly where the broad topics were selected by the annual member survey. The Program Committee then seeks speakers whose presentations fall into those categories. We also look at speakers from other Societies and conferences that have good reviews/feedback.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

We have an annual program survey to help the Program Committee select topics of greatest interest. We evaluate the speakers' presentations with a feedback form after the meeting with ratings and comments.

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## #15

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 5:26:49 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 5:30:05 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:15  
**IP Address:** 104.219.22.21

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### Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We are meeting in person and ZOOM. We have many members present programs.

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### Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Our attendance is declining which would indicate our programs may not be energizing the membership.

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# #16

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 5:36:49 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 5:38:27 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:38  
**IP Address:** 162.239.221.196

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

At the West Houston Area Genealogical Society we have been conducting hybrid meetings since Covid. It has been effective in growing our society.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Not sure about that.

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# #17

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 10:09:35 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 10:22:59 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:13:23  
**IP Address:** 174.67.52.43

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

Recent training and hands-on practice event for gravesite care and cleaning was a big success. Door prizes were provided by a product vendor. And community ties were built with caretakers at the local cemetery. Under four hour time frame was perfect - 1.5 hours for classroom training followed by trip to the cemetery.

Attendance for DNA SIG has dwindled this year, but upcoming workshop to give hands on experience with members helping each other in a small classroom setting is getting quite a bit of interest.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

High interest level. Lynn Palermo gave two programs on writing stories and publishing with interesting personal examples. Even a program focused on particular software (RootsMagic) was well received and members who did not think they would learn very much...did.

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# #18

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, May 12, 2023 11:03:04 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, May 12, 2023 11:05:10 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:05  
**IP Address:** 52.144.111.114

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## Q1

Is your society being successful at holding meetings and/or events that are energizing your members and getting them involved in your activities? Please share some details: What are you doing? Why do you think what you are doing is being effective?

We are trying with a DNA series, but I don't know how successful it has actually been. There are more members attending and we have attracted a few new members. However, we need more members to join as our membership is getting older.

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## Q2

How do you evaluate the level of interest for speakers and topics at your meetings? Can you identify the speakers and/or topics that have generated the most interest?

Mainly by the number of attendees.

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