

WHITESIDE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

April 16, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

The meeting took place on April 16, 2025, via zoom. The meeting was attended by Chip Whitesides, Barbara Olson, Richard Soard, Arliss Whiteside, Bill G Whiteside, , Dan Boucher, Linda Balfour, , Freddie Ann Green, Kim Leon, Tim Whitsitt and Linda Bowker. Meeting Summary with AI Companion Created

Meeting Summary with AI Companion
Chip Whitesides' Zoom Meeting

Quick recap

The group discussed the new AI-powered transcription feature in Zoom, the recent newsletter distribution, and the new WFA website, including its structure, usage statistics, and file organization. They also discussed the transition from the old website to the new one, the importance of restricting access to files containing information about living individuals, and recent developments in DNA research and genealogy tools. Lastly, they addressed administrative matters such as updating the old website, tracking membership renewals, and communication challenges with Jim, including the need for board authorization for signatory access and the potential of transferring funds to a bank account.

Next steps

- Richard: Contact Jim to obtain bank account information, financial status, and update the board
- Richard: Work on becoming a signatory on all WFA accounts currently under Jim's sole signature
- Chip: Follow up with Vanguard regarding account authorization signatures Documents were sent this week to Vanguard
- Barbara: Create an up-to-date email list of all members
- Tim & Chip: Develop protocol for submitting research revisions and additional information to the website
- Barbara: Publish comprehensive newsletter by end of May including meeting summary, website updates with screenshots, and research submission protocol
- Daniel: Contact Darrel about the new TNG update and explore implementation possibilities
- Daniel: Upload Gedcoms to TNG over next 3 months
- Chip: Set up TNG on the secondary website hosting site
- Chip: Continue uploading remaining Bill R's files to the website.
- William: Create a Genopro diagram for families 4500/4700 to investigate possible connections
- Chip: Create and set up generic email system for board communications. Possibly :info@WFA.net
- Linda Whiteside Bowker: Write article about family reunion experience and mysterious grandfather for newsletter
- Linda: Send cemetery pictures of Lake Lure Whiteside family cemetery to Barbara for newsletter
- Daniel: Update Facebook group cover photo with Japanese tree image by next Tuesday
- Chip/Richard: Verify latest Research Project List information is on new website
- William: Send Barbara the memo regarding newsletter content and board member listing guidelines
- Chip: Add note on website's front page about refreshing browser for login issues and click refresh.

- Chip & Daniel: Share meeting recording and transcript on website
- Barbara: Add Judy Shield to mailing list for future meetings

Summary

Zoom Transcription and WFA Website Update

The group discusses the new AI-powered transcription feature in Zoom, which will automatically generate a transcript of the meeting. Daniel explains how to save and share the transcript, and Barbara is informed that this will save her time on writing meeting notes. The group also discusses the recent newsletter distribution, with some members not receiving it. Barbara agrees to send out email notifications and attach PDF copies of future newsletters. Chip begins a presentation on the new WFA website, showing a PowerPoint guide for new users that includes login troubleshooting tips and an explanation of the site's structure, which relies heavily on OneDrive for file storage.

Website Usage Statistics and Dashboard

Chip presents statistics on website usage, showing an increase in views and logins over the past year. He displays country distribution of users and individual login counts. William and others discuss the accessibility of this data, with Chip clarifying that only administrators can view it. Chip then demonstrates the website's dashboard, including Jetpack statistics and activity logs. He shows membership numbers, noting an increase in life members. Chip concludes by offering a tour of the website and asking for suggestions to improve it. The transition to the new platform is almost complete. The old site may be deleted in November when the renewal of URL is due.

OneDrive File Organization and Corrections

Chip demonstrates the organization of files in OneDrive, including Bill R's files and family-numbered files. He shows how to search and access combined PDF files for each family number, making it easier to search across multiple documents. The group discusses the process for submitting corrections or additions to the existing files, with William clarifying that certain baseline research (Don Whitesides, Bill AR, and Foster Clay's work) should not be changed directly. Tim suggests creating a protocol for submitting revisions, which he offers to draft with Chip. The group also discusses the potential of using AI to translate old English documents, which could advance their knowledge of the Whiteside family history.

Website Transition and Content Updates

The group discusses the transition from the old website to the new one. Chip confirms that most content has been transferred, except for some of Bill AR's files which are still in progress. The plan is to keep the old site running until November when a subscription expires. William suggests emphasizing the new website in the next newsletter, with Barbara agreeing to include screenshots. William also highlights Tim McClellan's research on family 1,000 and Whiteside involvement in the Revolutionary War, available on the old tyron.com website, recommending it for its thorough and well-cited content.

Mitochondrial DNA Tree Discussion

William presents a mitochondrial DNA tree to the group. He explains that there are three main points to discuss regarding DNA, following up on Chip's earlier comments. The group has been discussing the Whiteside family cemetery at Lake Lure, which was not damaged by recent flooding according to Judy Shield's report. They also touch on the importance of restricting access to files containing information about living individuals, in line with their organization's bylaws.

DNA Research and Genealogy Updates

William provides an update on recent developments in DNA research and genealogy tools. He discusses

the new mitochondrial DNA tree being developed by FTDNA, which traces maternal lineages back to ancient times. William also mentions improvements in ethnicity estimates from MyHeritage, including more detailed breakdowns of origins. He highlights new filtering options for DNA matches on MyHeritage that allow users to focus on specific branches of their family tree. Additionally, William notes the new full-text search capability on FamilySearch, which provides more comprehensive document information. He encourages female members of the Whiteside group to have their mitochondrial DNA analyzed. The group also discusses the recent bankruptcy of 23andMe and the uncertain future of user data from that platform.

Administrative Matters and Website Updates

The board discusses several administrative matters. Dan agrees to upload Gedcom files to The Next Generation (TNG) genealogy software over the next 3 months, while Chip will set up TNG on their secondary website. Barbara reports on the newsletter, aiming to produce two full issues and two shorter ones per year, and is seeking content contributions. Dan mentions creating a spreadsheet linking family numbers to states for research purposes. Richard updates on the research project list, which remains unchanged since October. The board also discusses updating the old website, potentially redirecting it to the new one, and Chip explains his new approach to tracking membership renewals by join date.

Vanguard Issues and Financial Management

The team discussed ongoing issues with Vanguard, including difficulties in communication and the need for board authorization for signatory access. They considered moving their financial assets to a broker or a bank, such as Citibank, to potentially improve management and control. The idea of transferring funds to a bank account was proposed, but the location and details of the current bank account were not clear. The team agreed to seek explicit details from Jim. Current financial status is not available.

Addressing Communication and Financial Challenges

The board discusses communication challenges with Jim, who is mentally exhausted and unable to participate effectively. They agree to add Richard as a signatory on all accounts Jim currently manages alone. The board decides to list directors' names in future newsletters and provide a generic email address on the website for member contact.. Richard agrees to reach out to Jim for updates on the financial situation.

Next meeting: Wednesday October 15, 202, at 10:00 a.m. EST on zoom, Chip to provide the zoom link.