The general meeting of the Dallas Genealogy Society was opened by Todd DeDecker at 11:00AM. Todd wished us all a Happy New Year. We have nine guests present at this meeting.

Minutes of the November 3rd General Meeting are posted on the web site and the door as you entered the room. Asked for corrections or additions? With no discussion the minutes are approved.

Todd has checked with people taking attendance and we have a quorum.

The Treasurer, Travis Tynes read the report. The Financial Report for the calendar month of December 2018, the receipts were $2,604 with expenditures of $9,028. Leaving cash in the bank of $148,594. An amount of $7,500 was transferred to The Friends of the Dallas Public Library to fund the next 5 years of the Lloyd Bockstruck Scholarship.

To recap the activities at the December Awards banquet; DGS is partnered with the Friends of the Dallas Public Library to administer the scholarship funds, for the next five years. This scholarship is for the employees of the genealogy section, up to $1,500, to attend the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research or the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research. The library staff is excited for the opportunity to learn.

Other award recipients during the banquet were Ken Johnston for the Renee Jackson Smith. The award of Merit went to Gloria Goodwin. The Heritage Preservation Award went to The McGowen Funeral Home Team and the African American Special Interest Group. The volunteer of the Year went to Lisa Ross. The Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award went to Kevin L. Meyers. And the President's Special Service Award went to Tony Hanson.

Past president, Tony Hanson, reported on this year’s gift to the Dallas Public Library. The Dallas Genealogy Society purchased a very capable book scanner so the library can place for digital information on their servers. The Society has quite a bit of information that we can transfer to our website. This could not have been done without the member’s dues, seminar attendance and contributions to the society.

Todd DeDecker announces that it is time to form the nominating committee to present a slate of officers for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The DGS Nominating committee is composed of two members of the Board and three members-at-large to nominate a slate of officers to be elected at the May general meeting. At-large members are elected to the
Nominating Committee at the February general meeting. The Committee’s work is to nominate a member in good standing for each officer position and to report its nominations at the General Meeting in April.

Jim Thornhill, Vice President, gave the Dallas Genealogy Seminar update. The three awesome seminars this year begins on April 13th, Dr. Michael Lacopo will be speaking on methodology for successful research. Judy Russell will be here on August 3rd; she is the legal genealogist. Jen Baldwin will be here October 12th to talk about finding unique records. This year we are giving student discounts for the seminar. We need help to be our Hospitality Director. Also members can volunteer to help hospitality on the DGS website.

Todd announced our upcoming special interest meets or SIG groups. Calendar begins Jan 13th with Rootsmagic and Family Tree Maker meetings. Jan 16th is Jewish and the 17th is DNA. One January 19th is African American meeting. January 26th is Brown Bag. February is Technology on the 7th with MacGen on February 9th. SIG meetings are posted on the DGS website and the Dallas Public Library Calendar. The Lamora Hyder of Brown Bag spoke about what the group is doing for 2019. Taking a look at a fact and putting it into context with your research, the meeting has changed from January 26th to the 19th.

The general meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM. The featured program is Dr. Bernard N Meisner, Ph.D. on State and Territorial Censuses the underused Genealogical Tools.