

FINNISH GENEALOGY GROUP OF MINNESOTA: MEMBER MEETING

Zoom Meeting – 9 May 2026

9:00 a.m. Sign in and Chat.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 9:34 a.m. by Barb Wilson.
2. GUEST INTRODUCTIONS: None.
3. CHANGE REQUESTS TO AGENDA OR MINUTES:
4. CONSENT CALENDAR (AKA CONSENT AGENDA)
 - A. Member Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2026 were approved.
 - B. Financial report for the period ending April 30, 2026, was approved. Ending balance as of April 30, 2026, was \$4,704.68.
5. OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Treasurer Report (Jeanne Moe, Ed Ruitberg and Jane Daniels)
 - 1) April 2026 financials: Beginning balance on April 1 was \$4,973.37. In April 2026, Ending balance as of April 30, 2026 was \$4,704.68.
 - 2) Comparing this year now to last year at the same time, FGGMN has about \$500 less in the bank. The bank balance was \$5,240 last year and is \$4,704.68 this year. FGGMN is spending more money than it is receiving in dues.
 - 3) Ed Ruitberg will go to FGGMN's bank to sign the signature card this summer when he is visiting Minnesota. FGGMN still needs a local Associate Treasurer to accept checks.
 - B. Membership Report (Jan O'Leary)
 - 1) 51 paid family members and 1 honorary. 52 total.
 - 2) In the fall, members can start sending 2027 dues for \$25. If members want to give a donation when they pay their dues, they should specify the amount that is a donation. FGGMN's dues don't cover all its expenses but is not in severe financial trouble now.
 - C. Vice President Report: Updates (Daina Rosen and Linda Mell)
 - 1) FGG is not able to meet at the Danish American Center as originally planned for the hybrid September meeting because the date had already been booked. The Center has a lot of activities so it is not easy to schedule. As an alternative, Westminster Church downtown is more expensive at \$300 for a half-day meeting and \$6 parking per vehicle. Libraries such as Golden Valley and Oxboro Library are another alternative because Hennepin County libraries are free. Libraries open at 9:00 a.m., can be booked up to three months ahead of time, and allow people to bring in covered beverages. Both Daina and Barb Wilson recommend thinking about using a public library for hybrid meetings.
 - 2) Suggest ideas to Daina about presentation topics for the upcoming programming year, September 2026 – May 2027. A board meeting will be held on May 30 to choose topics for presentations.
 - 3) Let Daina know if you are interested in doing a presentation. FGGMN needs programs without outside speakers for the upcoming year to stay within budget.
 - D. Communications (Diane Pearson)

- 1) The system to pay dues online with a credit card is being set up. It would be good if some members can renew their membership early to test the system.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. This year's recipient of the Award will be announced in September. Please send nominees to Pat Zingheim at Pat@Schuster-Zingheim.com who is chair this year with the other most recent winners, Linda Mell and Diane Pearson, as committee members.
- B. Members voted and approved: The location for the September hybrid meeting will be a library.
- C. A board meeting will be held on May 30 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss presentations for the program year starting in September 2026 through May 2027. Please send ideas to Daina Rosen, Barb Wilson or any board member. Any member can attend board meetings. Let Diane Pearson know if you want to attend so she can send you the Zoom link. FGGMN may use this board meeting to test a hybrid meeting at a library.
- D. Officers for 2026/2027
 - 1) Because Ed Ruitberg is now Treasurer and he was a Board Member at Large, FGGMN needs a new Board Member at Large. Members interested in being a Board Member at Large who gives opinions and votes or the Associate Treasurer should let Barb Wilson know.
 - 2) Barb Wilson has been President for 4.5 years. FGGMN needs new blood in this role. Please let Barb know if you are interested in becoming President.
- E. Juhannus Celebration: June 27, 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Bryant Park in Bloomington (west of Lyndale Ave and 85th Avenue). A pasties truck has been secured. There will be live music, dancers and Finnish folk dancers. Bryant Park opened last October and has an all-ability playground, tennis courts and skateboarding. The new building has air conditioning. Estonians have been invited.
 - 1) Let Diane Pearson know if you will help at the Juhannus Celebration. Volunteers are needed to set up and run programs. The time commitment for volunteering is one hour, starting at 11:00 a.m. Setup at 12:00 p.m. involves, e.g., moving tables around, setting up flags and greeting people.
 - 2) Diane is in charge of putting FGGMN's gift basket together. Please let Diane know if you will donate research (it doesn't need to be as elaborate as Ed Ruitberg's research last year). Jan O'Leary can provide a little Finnish flag, napkins and some other small items. Joan Newman's friend can make cards such as Happy Birthday in a foreign language (Finnish). Jan O'Leary's daughter in Sweden is a designer and illustrator, and Jan does her daughter's printing in MN so Jan can contribute cards (e.g., Merry Christmas in Finnish), Diane can donate forever stamps purchased during a time when they were inexpensive.
- F. Members voted and approved that a free FGGMN membership for a year will be included in the basket for the silent auction at the Juhannus Celebration.

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next book club meeting is on Thursday, 5/21/26, at Ridgedale Library, 1:00-3:00 p.m., to discuss *New Finnish Grammar*, written by an Italian, Diego Marani, and winner of book

awards. If there is interest, Diane Pearson may make it a Zoom meeting as well. Please let Diane know if you are interested in attending by Zoom.

B. Ed Ruitberg has trip to Finland and Estonia in end of July for a family reunion.

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.

Presentation: Jim Johnson, a published poet and teacher, who specializes in writing and teaching about Finnish American family history, presented on writing family stories.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pat Zingheim, secretary, 9 May 2026.