



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS
Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter

January 2022

Dear APG member,

The Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (GPAC-APG) would like to extend an invitation to you to renew your membership with our growing chapter.

To renew your membership online for 2022, use this link: <https://gpa-apg.weebly.com/membership.html>.

Membership dues are \$21 per year (when paying online via PayPal). Membership, as written in the bylaws, runs January 1st to December 31st each year. Dues are payable on January 1st each year. GPAC-APG offers a discount of a \$1 when paying by check. Checks can be mailed to Beth Budzilowicz, treasurer, at P.O. Box 152, Kimbertown, PA 19442-0152. Current National APG membership is a prerequisite for joining or renewing. For new members joining in 2021 after October 1st, dues will be prorated to one-half of annual dues payable in 2022.

The past year has been challenging for everyone, with the complexities involved with genealogical research during the COVID pandemic, coupled with significant changes in APG Leadership at the National Level. While we all have continued to function remotely as independent researchers, we have all experienced the significant challenges in continuing to maintain and expand our research capabilities and client base, in the midst of a very dynamic business climate.

In 2021, we were able to continue to meet virtually, utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform, meeting together on an ongoing basis.

- We held (6) chapter meetings with an average membership attendance rate of 42%.
- We provided (4) Virtual Zoom Video Presentations:
 - 3 March - **"Irish Citizenship"** by Beth Budzilowicz and Joe Hunter
 - 24 April - **Genealogy Business Questions** – We collaborated with a Member Submitted Questions Panel: Dean Henry, Sandra Hewlett, Michael Ramage, Frank Southcott, and Scott Wilds.
 - 30 June - **Presbyterian Historical Society** - Virtual tour with Charlene Peacock
 - 17 November – **The Pennsylvania State Archives** – Virtual tour with archivist Aaron McWilliams.
- Despite the pandemic preventing us from meeting in person, we have increased our membership by 34% since December of 2019 - with an increase in membership by 22.7% in 2020 and another increase in membership by 15% in 2021. We have a total of 39 members at the end of 2021 (up from 29 members on the 31 December 2019). We continue to grow!
- We initiated a joint venture with NJ-APG chapter to benefit all members of both organizations. In 2022, we plan to further develop that opportunity by:
 - Encouraging our local chapter members to join each other's chapter, to facilitate new research opportunities and collaboration between professionals.
 - Consider offering one (or several) of our chapter members to speak at one of their chapter meetings in exchange for their chapter offering one (or several) of their members to speak at one of our local chapter meetings.



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- Both chapters sponsoring a joint social “meet and greet” or networking type of an event once we can again meet in person.
- Schedule joint conference calls or Zoom meeting with both local chapter boards to facilitate further collaboration and to discuss business opportunities.

In addition, we will again offer scheduled Zoom presentations during our regularly scheduled meetings. The Speakers and topics will be announced in the coming weeks.

Finally, we intend to be active as a chapter, promoting the professional needs and opinions of our local chapter members, at the National Level, to ensure we maximize the benefits of your membership.

We will support the growth and prosperity of each and every local chapter member as Professional Genealogists in 2022.

We hope you see the value in what our chapter has to offer, and that you will join us for what will certainly be an exciting 2022!

The 2022 meeting schedule is as follows, and has been changed to 7PM on Wednesday’s for as long as we continue to meet virtually via Zoom:

- Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 10:00AM
- Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2022, 7:00PM
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7:00PM
- Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 7:00PM
- Saturday, Sep. 17, 2022, 10:00AM
- Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, 7:00PM

Thanks again, and we look forward to your participation in 2022!

Joseph F Hunter

Sincerely,
Joe Hunter
Vice President & Membership Coordinator, GPAC-APG
www.gpa-apg.org

2022 Chapter Officers: President: Sydney F. Cruice Dixon , Vice President: Joe Hunter,
Secretary: Bill Kershner, Treasurer: Beth Budzilowicz, Program Coordinator: Joseph Roby,
Membership Coordinator: Joe Hunter, Chapter Liaison: Joseph Roby