

# Advisory Board Minutes – January 2018

**LINKS TO MINUTES**  
January 2018 Session

January 2018 Session Opened  
Rootsweb Update  
Advisory Board Order of Meeting  
Update from Ancestry/Rootsweb  
Adjournment

---

**SESSION OPEN**      **01 January 2018**

The December 2017 Advisory Board Meeting is now hereby adjourned, and the January 2018 Advisory Board Meeting is hereby convened.

Denise Wells  
National Coordinator 2014-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

---

**Rootsweb Update**      09 January 2018

Tim Stowell just posted this on the MNGenWeb Mail List.

Mike Peterson  
Northwest/Plains Region  
Country Coordinator Representative 2016-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

**Update: January 9, 2018**

We have spent the last few weeks reviewing the functionality on RootsWeb and have created a plan to bring many of your contributions back online over the next few months. As we stated before, our first priority is security, and ensuring that every part of RootsWeb meets our stringent security standards. Our next priority is getting you, the users of RootsWeb and its services, access to your content.

Right now, the best way for us to meet both goals is to begin bringing portions of RootsWeb back online in a read-only state. This means you will have access to content, but you will not be able to load new content in these sections. While this may not be ideal, it is the best way for us to protect RootsWeb users while also providing the ability to use the content you value. This is an interim step while we continue to evaluate the potential for bringing more of the RootsWeb services back online in a more complete manner.

Here's our current plan:

**Hosted Web Sites:** Soon we will begin bringing Hosted Web Sites back online. We will start with a few hundred and then add more over time, giving us a chance to scan the content.

**Family Trees/WorldConnect:** Family Trees or WorldConnect allows you to upload a GEDCOM file and publish it for others to see. It is currently being reviewed by our software engineers and security team and we plan on having a read-only, searchable version up in the next few weeks. The ability to upload new GEDCOM files will be available in the coming months.

**Mailing Lists:** Mailing Lists have been functioning as normal, but the archives have been unavailable. We plan to make the archives available to you once we have WorldConnect available to you in a readable version.

We will be making decisions about other functionality over time.

We appreciate your patience as we bring the different pieces of RootsWeb back online in a secure manner. You, our contributors and viewers, are what has made RootsWeb the vibrant free genealogy community it is.

The RootsWeb Team----- Original Message -----  
From: Timothy Stowell <tim...@gmail.com>  
To: MNGenWeb Mail List <MNGe...@googlegroups.com>  
Date: January 9, 2018 at 1:51 PM  
Subject: [MNGenWeb] Rootsweb update

---

**Advisory Board  
Order of Meeting**

**15 January 2018**

(Revises 20 December Order). Per Special Rules, Section II, the following is the current Advisory Board Order of Business. It will be updated and announced on Board at least monthly. It is flexible and may be adapted to cope with immediate business. Advise Presiding Officer of any items for future business:

- 1] Accepting Donations at State Level for Hosting.
- 2] Review of Bylaws for possible Amendments (WorldGenWeb, funding for servers, sponsors for Bylaw amendments, etc.).
- 3] Define search engines for USGW SEO.

Mike Peterson  
Northwest/Plains Region  
Country Coordinator Representative 2016-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

**16 January 2018**

(Revises 15 January Order). Per Special Rules, Section II, the following is the current Advisory Board Order of Business. It will be updated and announced on Board at least monthly. It is flexible and may be adapted to cope with immediate business. Advise Presiding Officer of any items for future business:

- 1] Get current with reviewing/approving and posting of Advisory Board minutes.
- 2] Accepting Donations at State Level for Hosting.
- 3] Review of Bylaws for possible Amendments (WorldGenWeb, funding for servers, sponsors for Bylaw amendments, etc.).
- 4] Define search engines for USGW SEO.
- 5] Review/approve January 2018 minutes.

Mike Peterson  
Northwest/Plains Region  
Country Coordinator Representative 2016-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

---

**Update from  
Ancestry/Rootsweb**

**24 January 2018**

Here is what is currently on their site, although I did not see this last night, it bears yesterday's date. **I have change the last sentence to bold red because that causes me quite a bit of concern.**

We have been in the process of improving the site throughout 2017, and as a result of an issue we recently became aware of, we have taken the site offline while we work to resolve it. We take the security of our contributors and our viewers seriously. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but protecting our users' personal information is our top priority.

**Update: January 23, 2018**

Great news on the progress of getting RootsWeb back online. Today, we are bringing WorldConnect, one of our most valued features, back online. As we make WorldConnect available, it will initially be in a read only state. You can now search for people and view information as you did in the past; but for now, we cannot accept new uploads or modifications to existing GEDCOM files. We expect to add this additional functionality in the coming weeks.

Also, here are answers to a few questions we've heard from the community:

**Why is this taking so long?** RootsWeb has many terabytes of data uploaded by users across its various features. The site also has hundreds of thousands of lines of code. We have been scanning the data using a variety of tools, and that takes time. We've also been examining the code and the underlying systems. Some code is being refurbished, and some will need to be more fully rewritten to add

the layers of security needed in this day and age. We know it may be frustrating, but we are committed to returning data to you in a safe manner.

**Have you found any other security problems?** We haven't found any other problems, but we want to thoroughly update systems to ensure the safety of your information.

**Is Ancestry going to start charging for RootsWeb?** Ancestry is not going to start charging for RootsWeb. When functionality returns to the site, you will still be able to view content for free.

**I've heard not everything is coming back online, is that true?** We will be returning WorldConnect and Mailing Lists back to their full functionality. Other features are still being evaluated. **In cases where we are unable to bring back previous functionality or content, we will explore ways for people who uploaded data to retrieve it if we don't feel we can put it back online safely.**

[Care to share your thoughts with us?](#)

Denise Wells  
National Coordinator 2014-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

---

## Adjournment

**01 February 2018**

The January 2018 meeting of the Advisory Board Meeting is now hereby adjourned. This note hereby convenes the February 2018 meeting of the Advisory Board.

Denise Wells  
National Coordinator 2014-2018  
The USGenWeb Project  
[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

---

The full text of all BOARD-L messages can be viewed in the threaded list archives for this list by subscribing members in their email.

All Advisory Board Minutes are located at <http://usgenweb.org/about/minutes.html>.

Please remember that minutes are a record of actions proposed and taken at the meeting, NOT all the detail about what was said by members or guests. If you have any questions or comments about the minutes, please write to [Doreen Harunaga-Ewing](#), Secretary.