

Advisory Board Minutes - October 2009

| | |
|--|---|
| LINKS TO MINUTES October 2009 Session | <p>October 2009 Session Opened</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Motion 2009/10-05 Appointment of USGenWeb Project Webmaster</p> <p>Motion 2009/10-06</p> <p>Motion 2009/10-06A</p> <p>Announcements: USGenWeb Site Issues</p> <p>Announcements: Election Committee</p> <p>Announcements: Grievance Committee</p> <p>Announcement: State Coordinators' Mail List</p> <p>Adjournment</p> |
| <hr/> | |
| SESSION OPEN | 1 October 2009 By the NC |
| <hr/> | |
| Agenda | |
| <hr/> | |
| Minutes | <p>6 October 2009 by the NC</p> <p>The September 2009 Minutes have been posted for review to the national website at: http://usgenweb.org/business/AB-09-2009.shtml. If there is no objection or corrections the minutes will stand approved October 09, 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>9 October 2009</p> <p>Having heard no objection, the September minutes are approved as currently posted and are available at http://usgenweb.org/business/AB-09-2009.shtml.</p> |
| <hr/> | |
| Motion 2009/10- | October 1, 2009 |

05 Appointment of USGenWeb Project Webmaster

Tina Vickery presented and Larry Flesher seconded the following motion:

I move to appoint by general consent Jeff Kemp to serve/continue as the USGenWeb Project web manager for the 2009-2010 session of the USGenWeb Project Advisory Board.

October 3, 2009

NC Sherri Bradley announced, "By requirement of general consent, having heard no objection, this motion has passed. Jeff Kemp is appointed as the USGenWeb Project Webmaster."

Motion 2009/10-06

October 16, 2009

Ann Allen Geoghegan moved and Jeff Kemp seconded the following motion:

Change the title from CC Guidelines to USGenWeb Project Website/Webmaster Guidelines, and change the following instances in the document of the word "county" as stated:

Under 'Query Page', change the first sentence to read: "Every county/local site must provide a query page or a hyperlink to an existing query page or board."

Under 'County resource page and lookups', change the first sentence to read: Every county/local site should provide some basic research information for their county.

Under 'The USGenWeb Project Logo', change the first sentence to read: "Each Project website (county/local, Special Project) site must display an official USGenWeb Project logo from the current list which can be found here: <http://usgenweb.org/volunteers/logos.shtml> on the main or index page of

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>the site."</p> <p>Under 'Link to State Page', change the title of this section to 'Link to State Site', and change the first sentence to read:"Every county/local and/or Special Project site must have a hyperlink to their State XXGenWeb Project site." Add the following, also, after the first sentence: "All Special Project sites must have a hyperlink to the parent project site - for national special projects, a link back to the National Special Project site, for state special project sites, a link back to the State XXGenWeb Project site."</p> <p>Under 'Site Evaluations', change the first sentence to read: 'As new project sites are put up on the web, they are checked by someone on the state evaluation committee for the required elements and to be sure your links work.'</p> <p>Discussion followed.</p> <p>October 19, 2009</p> <p>Ann Allen Geoghegan has withdrawn Motion 2009/10-06 and Jeff Kemp has withdrawn his second to the motion. This motion is declared closed.</p> |
| <p>Motion 2009/10-06A</p> | <p>October 19, 2009</p> <p>Presented by Ann Allen Geoghegan and seconded by Jeff Kemp, 'Amend the CC Guidelines' dated 19 October 2009, is numbered motion 2009/10-06A. The motion reads:</p> <p>"I move to amend the CC Guidelines as follows:</p> <p>Change the title from CC Guidelines to USGenWeb Project Website/Webmaster Guidelines, and change the following instances in the document of the word "county" as stated:</p> |

Under 'Query Page', change the first sentence to read: "Every county/local site must provide a query page or a hyperlink to an existing query page or board."

Under 'County resource page and lookups', change the first sentence to read: "Every county/local site should provide some basic research information for their county."

Under 'The USGenWeb Project Logo', change the first sentence to read: "Each Project website (county/local, Special Project) site must display an official USGenWeb Project logo from the current list which can be found here: <http://usgenweb.org/volunteers/logos.shtml> on the main or index page of the site. This logo may ONLY be linked to the official USGW Main site at <http://usgenweb.org>";.

Under 'Link to State Page', change the title of this section to 'Link to State Site', and change the first sentence to read: "Every county/local and/or Special Project site must have a hyperlink to their State XXGenWeb Project site." Add the following, also, after the first sentence: "All Special Project sites must have a hyperlink to the parent project site - for national special projects, a link back to the National Special Project site, for state special project sites, a link back to the State XXGenWeb Project site."

Under 'Site Evaluations', change the first sentence to read: "As new project sites are put up on the web, they are checked by someone on the state evaluation committee for the required elements and to be sure your links work."

October 24, 2009

The motion to amend fails for lack a second. I will call for Vote on original motion presently.

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Sherri Bradley</p> <p>October 28, 2009</p> <p>Please vote on Motion 2009/10-06A. If you agree with the motion please signify by responding 'Agree', if you disagree with the motion, please signify by responding 'Disagree'. Voting will continue until Tuesday, 27 October 2009, 5:00 p.m. EDT, unless concluded sooner.</p> <p>Sherri Bradley</p> <p>October 28, 2009</p> <p>With 12 members voting, motion 2009/10-06A is declared failed.</p> <p>Those voting AGREE: Ann Alice Geoghegan, Dale Grimm, Jeff Kemp, Larry Flesher, Les Shockey</p> <p>Those voting DISAGREE: Alice Allen, Colleen Pustola, Cyndie Enfinger, Denise Wells, Gail Kilgore, Linda Lewis, Tina Vickery</p> <p>Those not voting: Joe Markovich, W. David Samuelson</p> <p>Those recusing themselves: None</p> |
|--|--|



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Announcements: USGenWeb Site Issues</p> | <p>October 15</p> <p>The National USGenWeb Project site and all sites hosted on theusgenweb.org domain, as well as a few other Project sites have been hit again by a hacker that has included some malware code at the end of the majority of the pages on each site. We are working with the hosting service right now to get the sites cleaned and the code removed. Please ask ALL Project Coordinators that have their sites hosted on theusgenweb.org or anyone that specifically gets notices that they're</p> |
|---|--|

sites are infected to not connect by ftp to the sites until at least the 16th as we work to try to ensure that we have the sites cleaned once again.

For folks that have only visited the USGenWeb National site or any of the other affected sites using their browser, the risk is very minor that your computer has been infected. If you've connected by ftp and downloaded files from any of the infected sites, I'd suggest running a full virus scan on your computer and I'd also recommend running at least a couple of spyware scans to add an additional level of confidence that your system is clean.

All sites that are hosted on theusgenweb.org server will have the passwords changed before you can log in again. I'll be starting on this immediately so that the downtime will be minimized as much as possible.

If anyone has any specific questions or problems, please let me know.

Sherri Bradley

October 19

The USGenWeb National site and sites hosted on theusgenweb.org have been checked and double checked and they are clean of the malware that was discovered a few days ago. The only file types that we found affected were ones that were .html, .htm or .shtml. The 'techies' at the hosting service ran a script to remove the code on all files that were affected. In checking through files, we've found no affected files still remaining.

The reports through some mail lists of files from the Archives and/or Tombstone Project have not been able to be confirmed. The Archives and TP Projects are not hosted on the same servers or at the same hosting service as the National site and/or theusgenweb.org. It is unlikely that a text file would be affected by the problems that were

discovered on the National site since most files in the Archives are text files, not .html, .htm and/or .shtml files. The servers that the Archives and TP Project are on have been checked and no problems found. At this point, unless a specific URL is provided, we can't reproduce the reported problem.

A few have asked what the hosting service is going to do about the recent infections, and their lack of security on the servers. The first infection was NOT caused by a lack of security on the servers. The hacker gained access to the National site by hacking into a computer that was connected to an unsecured network, creating a back door for him/herself and then using that backdoor to get in and do his/her dirty work. Once the backdoor was opened, they had access to all site folders, which allowed them to infect multiple sites. There was an auto-replicating file loaded, among other things, so as fast as we were removing infected files, more infected files were appearing. Files of many different type were affected.

That was not the case this time. The files that were hacked were only those that had .html, .htm or .shtml extensions. No elaborate file manipulation was involved. If you looked at the upload dates, the affected files all had the same date on them - the day that the issue was first recognized and reported. It was easy to tell what files were affected if you checked them carefully. The infections were the same type that were being reported all across the web, including Rootsweb/Ancestry. Malware was causing a fake notice of an update to Adobe that should be made - and not through the Adobe site. If you actually downloaded the file, it 'stole' your cookies, enabling them to have access to your info/passwords stored on your computer. Most anti-virus programs that I've heard were actually not allowing the page to open because they detected the Trojan. I know my Norton's refused to allow the page to open, and I know someone reported the same of AVG.

IX Webhosting's servers can't all be painted with the same bad name. Some accounts hosted at IX were not affected - I know that a couple of

my personal accounts had no problem at all. Likewise, not all of the reports were from IX's servers alone. As I mentioned, there were issues with Rootsweb and Ancestry's files also not behaving as expected. Several other hosting services also had problems with the same malware issues.

If you should continue to have any problems accessing pages on the National site or those that are hosted on theusgenweb.org domain, please let us know. Please provide the specific URL of the file that you received the warnings about from your anti-virus/anti-spyware software or that you experience warning you of a needed update to Adobe.

For those that host their sites on theusgenweb.org, new passwords are being set and you should receive yours in the next couple of days.

Additional Information:

This hacker attack is not confined to USGenWeb sites, nor to IXWebhosting, where the National site and theusgenweb.org domains are hosted. Nor does it affect all sites hosted at IXWebhosting. It's on at least two other hosting services that I found, just taking a quick peek.

October 21

In regards to the message that both National and sites hosted at theusgenweb.org were clear of infection, within 24 hours, the infection was back. The sites have once again been cleaned and no alarms are currently sounding as you visit the pages, as far as we can tell. We found a couple of files that appear to be how the pages were re-infected this time.

We've disabled ftp access to all accounts for the time being as we check through all folders on the account to make sure things are clean. We'll get new passwords out as soon as we can - please understand, we want to be sure that things stay clean!

If you continue to have problems, or get reports of any further problems, please let either us know.

Thanks,
Sherri Bradley

October 25

I wanted to give everyone an update on the sites that are hosted at theusgenweb.org or MTGenWeb, WIGenWeb, SDGenWeb - Hopefully I've not missed any.

Due to the latest infection, ftp access was removed from all websites hosted on the above domains late evening on the 21st of October. We chose to take this course so that we could determine where the infected files were coming from. With only a couple of us changing files, it has made it easy to see what other IP addresses have been gaining access to the server account.

By shutting down ftp access, it appears that we contained the infection, thank goodness. We want to be sure of that, though, so until we can make our way through everything one more time, no passwords will be issued. I realize that many of you are chomping at the bit to get back to working on your sites. We will get you back to them as soon as we can.

In the meantime, you should know that we're removing scripts and php from sites that don't use them. If you use php or any script that is loaded on the server, you'll need to let me know and it will be reinstalled for your site. This step is being taken because most of the infections are using either cgi scripts or php - and we want to curtail any opportunity for infection of our/your sites. Any sites that are not being used are also being deleted. Again, this is so that we don't give the hackers easy places to hide his/her files. If we delete a site and you decide you want to host your site on theusgenweb.org, let me know and we'll rebuild it.

We don't want to prevent anyone from hosting their site on this account, we just want to tighten things up.

Thanks for your patience as we continue to work through these issues. Again, I'd love to turn everyone loose to work on your sites, but need to be sure that we've got clean sites for our visitors and researchers, much less ourselves.

Sherri Bradley

**Announcements:
Election
Committee**

October 4

Election Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Election Committee is asking for volunteers to fill several positions that will be available on January 1, 2010. If you are interested, please contact any member of the EC

<http://usgenweb.org/usgwelections/2009-ec/2009current.htm>

Thanks,

Christina Palmer

christina_palmer@ymail.com

USGenWeb Election Committee

October 7

Election Committee 3rd Quarter Report

TO: National Coordinator and Advisory Board, USGenWeb

FROM: USGenWeb Elections Committee

SUBJECT: EC REPORT THIRD QUARTER 2009

DATE: October 7, 2009

Voting for the National Elections started on July 1, 2009. On 04 Jul 2009 it was discovered to the Amendment was left off the ballot. The National Elections were halted. The Registrar corrected the problem immediately.

A message was broadcast project-wide immediately. The election was restarted. Also on July 4, 2009 it was discovered that the Amendment stated Pass, Fail, or No Opinion. The Registrar corrected the problem on July 4th. There were 22 votes reset, and the election continued through July 31st.

August 03, 2009 Christina Palmer welcomed Tina Vickery back. Tina was unsubmitted due running for an office in the National Election.

August 03, 2009 Christina Kurimski our chair married & is now Christina Palmer. Congratulations!

The National Election results were announced on 03 Aug 2009 at 5:37 PM

The Eligible Voters overall 1516
of voting members: 407 (26.847%)

National Coordinator: One Year Term Ending 31 August 2010

Sherri Bradley: 267 (66.750%)

Don Kelly: 133 (33.250%)

The EC declares Sherri Bradley the winner.

National Representative (RAL): Two year term ending 31 August 2011

Daryl Lytton: 90 (22.785%)

Tina Vickery: 304 (76.962%)

The EC declares Tina Vickery the winner.

Special Projects: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Cyndie Enfinger: 107 (100%)

The EC declares Cyndie Enfinger the winner.

NENC CC: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Joe Markovich: 118 (100.000%)

The EC declares Joe Markovich the winner.

NENC SC: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Dale Grimms: 12 (100.000%):

The EC declares Dale Grimms the winner.

NWPL CC: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Colleen Pustola: 54 (61.364%)

Darilee Bednar: 34(38.636%)

The EC declares Colleen Pustola the winner.

NWPL SC: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Gail Kilgore: 9 (100.000%)

The EC declares Gail Kilgore the winner.

SEMA CC: Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Jeff Kemp: 102 (68.000 %)

Laverne Tornow: 48 (32.000%)

The EC declares Jeff Kemp the winner.

SWSC CC: One Year Term Ending 31 August 2010

Charles Barnum: 36 (36.364%)

W. David Samuelson: 83 (83.838%)

The EC declares W. David Samuelson the winner.

SWSC CC (2 Year): Two Year Term Ending 31 August 2011

Linda Lewis: 107 (100.000%)

The EC declares Linda Lewis the winner.

Amendment To the Bylaws:

For: 226 (55.528%)

Against: 155 (38.0384 %)

The EC declares the amendment has failed.

August 18, 2009 Jo Branch temp volunteer left from the EC.

Sherri Bradley was subbed on Sep. 1, 2009 as the new National Coordinator.
Welcome Sherri!

Membership-2012
Unregistered members-519
Email updates-17
Removed-52 names on the removed list however some of them still have projects
Deaths-2

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hatton, Secretary/Publicist
USGenWeb Election Committee

**Announcements:
State
Coordinators' Mail
List**

October 15

State Coordinators' List

The Advisory Board, after discussion amongst themselves have agreed that a discrepancy in how the State Coordinator's mail list has been handled compared to how the BOARD and USGENWEB-ALL (CHAT) mail lists are handled should be corrected.

As of today, the State Coordinator's list will be opened to any interested USGenWeb Project Coordinator to subscribe in to moderated status. You will also need to send me an email giving your name and USGenWeb Project affiliation before the subscription will be approved. Subscription requests from email addresses that I cannot identify as belonging to a USGenWeb Project Coordinator will not be approved.

You can find links to all USGenWeb Project mail lists that are hosted at Rootsweb at <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/USGenWeb/>.

Sherri Bradley

| | |
|--|--|
| | National Coordinator USGenWeb Project |
| Announcement: Grievance Committee | <p>October 21, 2009</p> <p>The Grievance Committee chair solicits the project for volunteer mediators and arbitrators so that we might address grievances brought before the committee.</p> <p>If you have a desire to be a voluntary mediator or arbitrator you are advised to read the grievance procedures: http://usgenweb.org/volunteers/standard-rules.shtml#section5</p> <p>Send an email to the Grievance Chair with your desire to be a mediator and/or arbitrator. In the body of your email, please state your qualifications for the position and if you have had training to be either a mediator or arbitrator.</p> <p>Diane Siniard Grievance Committee Chair garebel@roadrunner.com</p> |
| Adjournment | Sherri Bradley adjourned the October meeting on November 1, 2009. |

The full text of all BOARD-L messages can be viewed in the **threaded list archives** for this list, located at <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/BOARD/>

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 **Greta Thompson**, Secretary.