

Advisory Board Minutes – March 2024

LINKS TO MINUTES

March 2024 Session

[2024 Jan Advisory Board Meeting Adjourned / 2024 Feb Advisory Board Meeting Convened](#)

[2023/24 Mar Order of Business](#)

[Feb 2023/24 Advisory Board Minutes](#)

[RW Migration: Poll and Action](#)

[Adjournment](#)

2024 Feb Advisory Board Meeting Adjourned / 2024 Mar Advisory Board Meeting Convened

01 March 2024

The February 2024 meeting of the Advisory Board is now adjourned and the March 2024 Advisory Board Meeting is now convened.

Linda K. Lewis

National Coordinator 2023-2024

2023/24 Mar Order of Business

02 March 2024

Per Article IV. of the Special Rules, the Order of Business is as follows:

Minutes

Announcements

Reports

- Rootswest Migration Project Update

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Grievance Committee Appointments

Adjournment

IV. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Order of Business will be renewed and announced to the assembly at the beginning of each month by the Presiding Officer. The Order of Business will be flexible and may be adapted to cope with immediate business.

Members will advise the Presiding Officer of suggested agenda items for future Orders of Business.

Linda K. Lewis
National Coordinator 2023-2024

**Feb 2023/24
Advisory Board
Minutes**

08 March 2024

Please review the 2023/24 February Advisory Board Minutes and advise if corrections or revisions are needed.

<https://www.usgenweb.org/about/pdfs-minutes/AB-2024-02.pdf>

These Minutes will stand as accepted as of March 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM if no corrections are heard.

Linda K. Lewis
National Coordinator 2023-2024

Looks good to me.

MaryAlice Schwanke
Southwest/South Central Region
County Coordinator Representative 2022-2024

The minutes look good to me

Nancy Janyszeski
Northeast/North Central Region
State Coordinator Representative 2022-2024

09 March 2024

Looks good, Linda. Thank you!

Mary Ann Lubinsky
Northeast/North Central Region
County Coordinator Representative 2022-2024

**RW Migration: Poll
and Action**

26 March 2024

For the record:

I sent a poll to all National Project lists to review a written request to Ancestry.com Legal to remove websites that contain our registered USPTO service marks on Mar 19, 2024. The response from members and states was overwhelmingly in favor of sending the proposed letter. **Thank you to every single member who participated in this poll for your support on this important issue!**

As a result of this poll, I sent the letter to Ancestry.com Legal by Certified Mail, Return Receipt, with Signature Required, on 3/26/2024. The redacted letter (pdf) and post office receipts (png) are attached.

Linda K. Lewis
National Coordinator 2023-2024
The USGenWeb® Project
Free Genealogy for over 25 Years!
www.usgenweb.org

-- Copy of Poll --

Important POLL from USGenWeb National Coordinator

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL STATE LISTS

USGenWeb Members,

We would like to send the attached letter to Ancestry.com Legal Dept. to request the removal of sites that carry our registered service marks, and we request your feedback by 3/25/2024. Your opinion and Project support MATTERS!

Our RW Migration project was successful! We moved over 150 websites from RootsWeb and have only 4 counties left to go! It was a huge effort and MANY members went above and beyond to make this a success. I am very proud of how our Project pulled together! **THANK YOU!**

USGenWeb members also donated ~\$1K to renew the registration of 2 service marks with USPTO during my first term as NC. Now RootsWeb is read-only and I believe we should try to leverage our legal standing and assert ownership of our registered service marks to request the removal of our old sites from RootsWeb, Ancestry.com, and any current or future backup sites or publications. I contend that the continued publication of the old abandoned static sites carrying our service marks is damaging to our brand. Long-abandoned sites with bad emails and broken links make it look like we are GONE - but **WE ARE STILL HERE!**

Should we send the attached letter to Ancestry.com (via registered snail mail)? . Please send feedback and suggested edits to the various Project lists, to me, or any AB member
by **3/25/2024**: <https://www.usgenweb.org/about/advisoryboard.html>

Every opinion matters!

Thank you for your support of our Project,

Linda K. Lewis
National Coordinator 2023-2024

Adjournment

01 April 2024

The March 2024 meeting of the Advisory Board is now adjourned and the April 2024 Advisory Board Meeting is now convened.

Linda K. Lewis
National Coordinator 2023-2024

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.