



The President's Message

May 2016

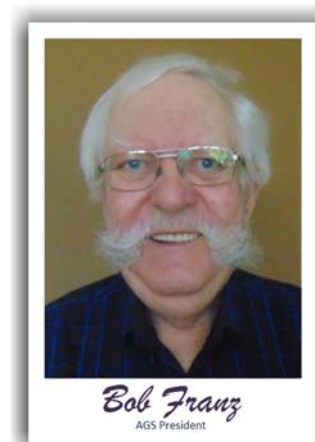
Call me Bob. Somehow that does not sound as great an opening as “Call me Ishmael” but the intent is the same. This opening message is about me, and about you. Whenever I have gotten a dear member form letter asking me to vote for some stranger I have never met and likely never will, I’ve wondered why they bothered sending it to me. Several months ago AGS members received such a letter, except they were not being asked to vote for me. They were told they didn’t have a choice.

By the time this is posted the AGM will be over and it is time to get down to business. So who is this guy Bob and why has he presumed to be my leader? As a child I wanted to be a brilliant lawyer or a famous artist, but instead I became a teacher. I found I enjoyed the classroom and students but I would never want to be an administrator. Ten years later I became a vice-principal and five years after that a principal. I found I enjoyed administration, but I would never want to leave the school. Next year I left the school to become Chief Deputy

Superintendent of Schools, a position I held until I retired eleven years ago. In other words, I have never held a job I’ve wanted, and now I am President of the Alberta Genealogy Society.

Why? First, I enjoy working with people, all people. I feed on their energy, their enthusiasm, their ideas.... I love order and routine – I love reading and writing bylaws and policies, putting my training as a technical writer and my experience working on and leading a plethora of boards to use. I am a problem-solver. I love challenge. Look at my art webpage. I took up art after retirement. You’ll find I will try to draw anything and everything. It is a challenge.

In the May issue of *Relatively Speaking* I refer to the AGS Strategic Plan for 2015-2017 as the foundation for my goals as President over the next two years. In upcoming “Let’s Talk” posts I plan on addressing those strategies and how we will implement them. That is where you come in. I want to hear from you. This is a great organization with great people, but



everyone can be greater, and every organization can be better. In my next message I hope to address Strategy 9, “to maintain a strong and healthy provincial organization.” But first, I want to hear from you. Is “Let’s Talk” a viable way today to reach out to those interested in genealogy, members and non-members alike?

This is Bob. I want to know what is on your mind.

Robert "Bob" Franz

AGS President