



MASSACHUSETTS
GENEALOGICAL
COUNCIL

How the Pandemic Provided Tools For M:O.R.E. Program Options

Massachusetts Genealogical Council

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council is an umbrella organization with 20 member societies. Our mission is to provide innovative genealogy education and authoritative advocacy for genealogists.

Our educational programs were annual conferences that took up one weekend out of 52. Our board asked us for more.



Providing more content was not an easy task. Our member societies already have meetings scheduled for nearly every Saturday and some Sundays every month. We had to find a way to provide programs without opposing society meetings, and to supplement content without repeating.

Our answer was to use the fifth week of a month, the 29th, 30th, or 31st. We used Zoom as our meeting format, with a live chat handled by a moderator at the end of the presentation.

National Genealogical Society SLAM Conference May 2021

From our own mission statement we created an acronym, M:O.R.E., to stand for MGC: **O**pen **R**ecords & **E**ducation. We added an eye-catching social media graphic.

The Program Committee has to meet the challenge of finding presentations that a bit outside of the box but that still educate about genealogy issues. So far, we've discussed adoption, race, open records, and institutional records.

Feedback from our attendees has been very positive. Our member societies are eager to act as sponsors, bringing new content to their own members.

We think that the up-close and personal experiences that our audiences have with the presenters is a great experience to bring to genealogy society members. Hard-to-get national speakers can be brought in by using simple technology.



Our investment was low, a few pieces of software and a knowledgeable person to run it. The goodwill this has generated is high, both from individual attendees and our member societies. And, finally, our board is happy that we provide educational opportunities more than one weekend a year.

Up Close and Personal Experiences

