

SGGEE Electronic Newsletter

12 September 2005

SGGEE Executive 2005 - 06

President:	Carol Burns, San Francisco, CA
Past President:	Dick Stein, Calgary, AB
Vice President:	Earl Schultz, Calgary, AB
Treasurer:	Ken Schultz, Calgary, AB
Recording and Corresponding Sec:	Rose Ingram, Kamloops, BC
Other Directors:	Miles Ertman, Edmonton, AB
	Don Kronenberger, Marietta, GA
	Karl Krueger, Gaithersburg, MD
	Bill Remus, Honolulu, HI

The Annual General Meeting was held on August 20, 2005 at St. Paul, Minnesota. The following were elected as Directors for a two-year term: Carol Burns, Rose Ingram, Don Kronenberger, Bill Remus. Earl Schultz was elected Director for a one-year term. Executive positions were decided at a meeting of the new Board of Directors following the AGM.

The terms of Directors Ursula Bachman and Jan Textor ended with the AGM and we thank them for their contributions to the governance of our Society. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to John Marsch for his outstanding contributions and dedication to our Society over the past years as elected Director, President for two years, Chair of two Conferences, and lastly as Past President. John will continue as Chair of the Membership Committee.

Dick Stein
Past President

Journal Editor

Bill Fife, editor of the Journal since its inception seven years ago, has resigned as editor effective December 31, 2005. Thank you, Bill, for your dedication and talents in producing an outstanding Journal that we look forward to receiving every three months.

Now we have the task of finding a new editor of the Journal. We invite expressions of interest in the position of Editor, SGGEE Journal, or names of people you believe suitable for the position. Please contact the Board of Directors at directors@sggee.org

Bill offers the following comments about the job of Editor. "There is no special background or experience needed to edit and produce the Journal. I have no background or training in this field. The job consists mainly of collecting articles for the Journal and setting them up in an organized manner using a computer program to do so. The program presently being used to lay out the Journal is Microsoft Publisher, however, any similar program may be used. The finished Journal is then converted to a PDF file using Adobe Acrobat, which the society owns. This PDF file is then posted on the SGGEE website for downloading by members having Internet access. A copy is also sent to a local printer who prints about 140 copies for mailing to members not having internet access. The time required will vary with each issue - I usually work for about a month on each issue, equivalent to about two weeks full time. It is then sent to a couple of volunteers for proofreading after which corrections are made and the final copy converted to PDF. When the printed copies are received, they are placed in envelopes and mailed. Some of the jobs, such as stuffing the envelopes and mailing, can be shared with other people."

We are also interested in establishing an Editorial Board for the SGGEE Journal. The Editorial Board would be responsible for reviewing and deciding content for the Journal. The intent is to bring new ideas to the Journal to make it an even more superb publication. If you have an interest in helping by being a member of the Editorial Board please contact the Board of Directors at directors@sggee.org

2006 Convention

At its August 20, 2005 meeting, the SGGEE Board of Directors confirmed that the 2006 Convention will take place in Edmonton on August 11 – 13. This is the third convention to be held in Edmonton and we are excited about returning to this major center of Germans from Volhynia and Poland.

Miles Ertman is our convention committee chair and needs your assistance in two areas:

Local arrangements – We are looking for people living in the Edmonton area who are willing to be on the convention planning committee. The committee will plan the convention details and make all the necessary local arrangements. Can you help? Even if you do not wish to be on the convention planning committee, we invite suggestions for a local guest speaker, tours, special meals for a Friday evening dinner, or any other suggestions that you might have. Do you know of other genealogical groups who may want to cooperate with us? Please contact Miles.

Presentations - We are calling for presenters and/or workshop leaders for this convention. Do you have an area of research or an appropriate topic that would be of interest to the general membership? Sessions for beginning and more advanced genealogical researchers are planned as well as on the history and culture of Germans in Volhynia and Poland. Your suggestions of topics and presenters, and a banquet speaker will be most helpful. Please contact Miles.

Contact Miles Ertman at milesertman@shaw.ca or use convention@sggee.org Please enter Edmonton Convention in the Subject line of your email.

Membership Renewal

All memberships, except those who prepaid for a year or more in advance, expire December 31, 2005.

Membership fees remain the same for most members, i.e., \$30 US for those in the US and elsewhere and \$40 CAD for Canadians. The membership fee for European members who prefer to pay in Euros is now set at 30 Euros for one year or 55 Euros for two years. European members are encouraged to forward their payment in the form of cash in order to avoid excessive bank service charges.

Renewal forms are available for downloading on the SGGEE web site by clicking on *Membership* on the SGGEE web site home page and then on *Renewing Your Membership*. The form is not essential to renew your membership but it does serve as an instrument for you to advise us of any changes in your addresses, etc.

If you change your email address at any time, please advise membership@sggee.org of the change by email asap so that Electronic Newsletters and other information can be sent to you without hindrance.

John Marsch
Membership Committee
membership@sggee.org

From the Research Corner

A detailed Research Report will appear in the December 2005 Journal. At this time I would like to focus on indexing of Church Records in Russian Poland and Volhynia.

Official Permission from the Director General of the Polish State Archives to index microfilmed records was received in May of this year. This issue has taken a long time, and now we can move forward with the help from the people at the Genealogical Society of Utah in Salt Lake City. A requirement from these people at Salt Lake is that these indexes be made available to the public, and work is progressing to this end. This means that, once we have determined what further parish records need to be indexed, Salt Lake will supply to us FREE of charge copies of records either on film or CD. CD's will be great for volunteers who are home bound or have limited access to a FHC. Films and/or CDs will have to be returned when indexing is done – we have 2 years to complete work on one film.

We are looking for help, mostly over the winter months. Indexing now will require reading each record in order to extract more information, which will be more helpful than the current indices produced for the Original Parish Indices database.

Requirements:

1. Must have a spreadsheet program
2. Must have a good viewer on their computer if working on CD's
3. If working with films, must have time and patience to read and extract information each entry on the films, which must be done at your local LDS Family History Center.
4. Be able to understand the Polish, Russian or German records sufficiently to extract the information we need. Example – from a birth record we now would like child's name, father's name, mother's name, village of birth.
5. Complete instructions will be forwarded to the volunteers.

The indexing done so far has been minimal, and information was copied directly from the handwritten list of names shown at the end of the records. We have discovered in many instances that there are errors in these lists.

If you have any recommendations or a desire to work on specific parish records, please let us know. Contact us at databases@sggee.org.

Rose Ingram
Research Committee Chair.