

SGGEE

E-Newsletter -

June 2008

SGGEE's convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are scheduled for 15-16 and 17 of August 2008 in Kelowna, British Columbia Canada. Further details may be found on SGGEE's website at www.sggee.org under the heading Convention News. As usual, a slate of knowledgeable speakers has been assembled by this year's convention organizer, Rose Ingram. Attend if you can, and hear what they have to tell you and find some time to utilize the Research Room and SGGEE's library, both are unique and very popular features at our conventions.

It is necessary at each AGM to elect 3 new Board of Director members. Immediately following is a "recruitment" message and testimonial from one of the retiring Directors, Otto Schienke

Opportunities 2008:

Every so often a window of opportunity opens to each one of us. This happened to me personally a year ago. A member of SGGEE extended an invitation to me to stand for nomination for a two year term as one of the directors of SGGEE. After mulling it over for a few days I confirmed the request with a "Yes" and was elected as a director at the next convention.

It is a light task and gives one an opportunity to offer favorable suggestions for the advancement of the organization. I know that many capable members exist with much to offer. In the beginning a bit of reading is necessary to familiarize oneself with the organizational structure of SGGEE. New directors will be given access to SGGEE E-mail sites and be kept up to date on events, questions, and decisions. New directors will have opportunity to vote on organizational matters. All correspondence on the matter is by E-letter.

There are openings for three (3) directors that need to be filled. Please submit your name for nomination to the Board of Directors directors@sggee.org or Karl Krueger dabookk54@yahoo.com

All members, please give this some consideration regardless of your country of residence. Director correspondence is by E-letter. It is not necessary to fly to Canada, Directors Meetings (about once a year) will be by conference call paid for by SGGEE.

Even though my two year term of directorship is coming to an end this year my desire to see an international make-up of our board of directors lives on. We are a global community of unique members.

Any questions regarding the responsibilities of a director E-mail to me at otto@schienke.com and I will personally answer your questions.

Committee Volunteers

Without the process of nominating and electing but equally important is the need for volunteers to serve on various committees. As with the Board of Directors, all volunteers serve on committees without pay except expense reimbursements as required.

Volunteers are called for the following committees:

Publicity Committee Chairperson

Carol Burns has indicated that she will be stepping down as the Chairperson after several years in that role. The Publicity Committee promotes SGGEE and its activities using every kind of media suitable to the occasion, for example SGGEE's convention particulars in newspapers and the publications of other genealogical societies. The time required in this position depends entirely on the objectives intended.

If you are willing to promote SGGEE and its activities, please contact Carol Burns at cabu@comcast.net or directors@sggee.org

Database Committee

There is a very real need for someone to assist the Chairperson of the Database Committee, Gary Warner, to maintain and prepare the databases found on SGGEE's website. The website and its databases might be called the heartbeat of SGGEE. As the databases become larger, particularly the Pedigree Database, it is becoming extremely burdensome for him to do everything himself. Gary has written;

For the sake of not making an already long guideline even longer, I have not listed specifics on how to maintain the databases. The volunteers that I would really like to see, in addition to those listed in the guidelines are as follows:

1. A committee who can look at all of the place names in the Master Pedigree Database and tell me how many of the names can be combined into a single method of naming, and what that place name is. For instance, for any given town in Poland, there seem to be multiple ways to describe the place. Sometimes the difference is only that one person uses the German name, while others use the Polish name- we need to agree as a society which name should be first (I tend to think that the Polish name should be first since it can then be found on a map, and the German name shown in parentheses- for instance, take a look at the part of the master location list for the place called Schroettersdorf- there are 11 variations that may or may not be the same place). I would like this to be reduced in number as much as possible to make the merges easier, and so that I do not need to create place names like Biala Gora, Leczyca, Lodz, Poland or or Biala Gora, Dombie, Kolo, Poland. This last location is, by the way, the second part of the location puzzle- the counties and districts that are the proper ones to use. We need this committee to become expert in the full description of places, and consistent in doing so. I do not have the time to try and figure out what is the correct place name, but want very much for us to have correct names.

2. A person or persons who can prepare gedcom files for inclusion in the Master Pedigree Database. This is an involved process of making corrections to submittals from members so that the file conforms as much as possible to a standard- the purpose again to make merges easier and more

complete. Except for some Family Tree Maker files, the process is not that difficult, but still involves the following:

a.) making the place names conform to a standard description (as in Item 1 above)

b.) changing all of the surnames so that they are at least the same Soundex code when they are the same name. As you know, vowels are removed in the Soundex coding and all that is left are the leading letter and some consonants. This works fine for names like Jaeger and Jager, but does not work at all for names like Czarnecki and Schwarz, which are the same name in two different languages. In this last case, I am changing the surname to Schwarz (=Czarnecki)- note that the German version is first, the complete opposite of the order of names in locations.

c.) changing all of the given names so that the first 6 letters conform to the most prevalent German name, where the name is in fact a German name. This is necessary to do the merges, or names like Artur and Arthur will not merge.

d.) checking to make sure that there are no instances of a person having more than one set of parents- again an easy check with Legacy, but sometimes it takes an email to the submitter to resolve the issue.

e.) moving all surnames that are obviously given names from the surname field to the given name field. This is almost exclusively a Family tree Maker problem, and takes the effort to look at each record and make the change manually.

Membership Committee Chairperson

After 11 years as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee, John Marsch wishes to step down and like Carol Burns of the Publicity Committee, devote more time to some writing and family history. The duties of the Membership Committee are not complex but require daily attention of a few minutes because of the possible email responses required and other membership affairs. The primary duties consist of accurately and promptly processing Membership and Renewal applications and controlling access to the Members Only pages of SGGEE's website. Further information can be obtained by contacting John Marsch at gpyjem@sasktel.net or directors@sggee.org

Translators - German print to English

There has been an active discussion by SGGEE administrators in the past few days regarding the translation of various articles, even books, into English from German. The range of material available is considerable both in subject and length, but unfortunately few SGGEE members are capable of reading German with total comprehension. If you are comfortable reading German and in writing English perhaps you might consider translating even short articles. Email contact@sggee.org if you can help.