

SGGEE
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

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MINUTES OF 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Calgary Alberta
Friday, August 6th, 2004.

There were approximately 72 members in attendance.

President John Marsch chaired the meeting and called it to order at 3:15 PM with Rose Ingram acting as Recording Secretary.

The Agenda as proposed was approved.

Dick Stein moved and Ted Belke seconded the adoption of the Minutes of 2003 Annual General Meeting as read. Carried.

Business arising from 2003 Minutes

1. The membership was informed that a further \$10,000 Cdn has been added to the \$5,000 Cdn presently invested in the ING Direct Investment fund.
2. A Letter of acknowledgement and thanks was received from Matt Warner for the "Letter of Recognition" and \$500 gift certificate given to him last year.
3. Further on the matter of Memorial Donations, Virginia Less moved that SGGEE establish a fund for Research in Zhitomir Archives, to be funded from gifts, donations and memorial donations specified for that purpose. Jan Butler seconded. Carried.

President John Marsch asked for Committee Reports from Committee Chairs.

Committee Reports:

Finance. Treasurer Ken Schultz reported that the total revenue to June 30, 2004 was \$15,70.14 Cdn and after expenses the Net Income was \$6,161.20 Cdn dollars. The June 30, 2004 Balance sheet and Income statement report are attached to the original minutes.

Website. Gary Warner reported on the usage of the SGGEE website, and it's security, reporting that Matt Warner keeps the server and website running. The Website report is attached to the original minutes.

Journal. Bill Fife reported that all the Journals are posted on the website and the majority of SGGEE members receive their Journals by downloading from the website. He also would like more short articles or stories. A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

Library. John Marsch read the library report for the absent Howard Krushel. Mention was made of new books and reference material and donations of books from members. Making books available to members via a lending program is in progress. A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

Research. Rose Ingram reported that there are approximately 250,000 names in each of the Master Pedigree Database and the Parish Records Index database. More data will be forthcoming from various parishes in Poland, Volhynia and Silesia. She also reported that SGEE will now be obtaining permission directly from the Polish archives to extract and index further records. A copy of notes are attached to original minutes.

Village/Regional Coordinator. Virginia Less reported that she continues to collect family stories and pictures. She also suggested a collection of obituaries may be helpful.

Listserve. Jerry Frank reported that there are about 385 subscribers to the Mailing List, an 8% increase since last year. A brief statistical comparison with other Germans from Russia lists for the first 6 months of 2004 indicate the participation level is the highest of all these lists, barring obituary notices and administration notices. A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

Convention. Earl Schultz reported 76 people registering for the convention. He thanked the members of the convention committee for their work and making things run smoothly. Ken Krell and Dick Stein were the winners of the early registration draws. Other door prizes were also drawn.

Membership. John Marsch reported that as of July 31, 2004 there are 371 paid up members, 3 Journal subscribers and 6 organizations with whom we exchange publications, and 5 honorary members for a total of 385, a net gain of 36 from last year. The renewal rate is at 85%. The Membership Roll is used for the mailing list and posted on the website on "Membership Database". A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments to By-laws

A copy of the proposed By-law modifications and changes which was previously forwarded to the membership in accordance with the by-laws, was read by John Marsch.

Item 1

It is proposed to extend the date of denial of annual membership entitlements from January 31 to February 28 in order to simplify the Membership Roll update procedure and to allow members a grace period for membership renewal without the loss of membership entitlements for an additional month.

Whereas Article 9 section 3 Dues, now reads;

3. A Member who fails to pay the current annual dues by the last day of January shall no longer be in good standing and all entitlements as set out in the Bylaws shall be suspended. Notice to members in arrears shall be given as noted in Article 1, section 2(g) during February and include advice on the date on which membership will lapse. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed on April 1st if the member's dues are not then paid.

Therefore be it resolved that:

Article 9 section 3 Dues is modified to read:

3. A member who fails to pay the current membership renewal dues by February 28 of the membership year shall no longer be in good standing and all the entitlements as set out in the

Bylaws shall be denied as of that date. Notice of impending denial of membership entitlements shall be given as noted in Article 1, section 2(g) during January.

It was motioned and seconded and carried to accept the by-law changes as stated.

Item 2

As there is difficulty and inconvenience in having two authorized signers for cheques in excess of \$200 when those Board members are located internationally and particularly when the Treasurer, the President or the Vice President may not reside in convenient proximity, it is proposed to delete Article 11, section 3. Additionally, if the intent in the present Bylaw requiring two signatures on cheques exceeding \$200, is to prevent unauthorized expenditures, it does not do so. Therefore a rewritten Article 11, section 3 is proposed.

Whereas Article 11, section 3 Execution of Instruments now reads;

3. Any draft, promissory note or bill of exchange shall be signed on behalf of the Society by two of the following: the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer. Any cheque shall be signed on behalf of the Society by the Treasurer alone for any amounts of \$200.00 or less and by the Treasurer and by either the President or the Vice President for amounts in excess of \$200.00. Other Directors may endorse for deposit only in the Society accounts any cheques or orders for money payable to the Society. Only the Treasurer may make banking arrangements on behalf of the Society.

Therefore be it resolved:

Article 11, section 3 Execution of Instruments is modified to read:

3. Any draft, promissory note or bill of exchange shall be signed on behalf of the Society by two of the following: the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer. The Board at it's first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, shall determine the banking authorizations for the Society for the next year. The Treasurer together with the President or the Vice President may make banking arrangements on behalf of the Society.

After discussion a motion to amend the proposal as follows, was made by Bill Fife and seconded by Ted Belke and carried.

Therefore be it resolved:

Article 11, section 3 Execution of Instruments is modified to read:

3. Any draft, promissory note or bill of exchange shall be signed on behalf of the Society by two of the following: the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer. Any cheque shall be signed on behalf of the Society by the Treasurer alone for any amounts of \$2,000.00 or less and by the Treasurer and by either the President or the Vice President for amounts in excess of \$2,000.00. The Board at it's first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, shall determine the banking authorizations for the Society for the next year. The Treasurer together with the President or the Vice President may make banking arrangements on behalf of the Society.

2005 Convention site.

It was proposed that the site for the 2005 convention be in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the month of September, in conjunction with FEEFHS. This was approved in principal by the assembly.

Website Program

John Marsch informed the membership that a new program called Oracle is being considered for use for faster and more efficient database searches. This program would cost approximately \$5,000 US dollars.

Auditors

President John Marsch called for the appointment of two auditors for the coming year. Fritz Kiessling and Bill Fife agreed to be auditors. Approved.

New Directors

John Marsch informed the members that there are 4 Directors who term was ending, those being Ken Schultz, Dick Stein, Howard Krushel and John Marsch.

Candidates submitted for the four positions are Ken Schultz and Dick Stein from Calgary, Alberta, Miles Ertman from Edmonton, Alberta and Karl Krueger from Silver Spring, Maryland. John Marsch called for Candidates from the floor. There being none it was approved that nominations cease and the four candidates were elected by acclamation. Carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Rose Ingram,
Acting Recording Secretary in absence of Ursula Bachman.