

SGGEE
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

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MINUTES OF FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton, Alberta
August 9th, 2003

There were approximately 85 members and approximately 20 non-members in attendance.

President John Marsch chaired the meeting and called it to order at 3:00 PM, with Rose Ingram, Recording Secretary, present.

Bill Fife moved and Jerry Frank seconded the adoption of the Agenda as circulated. Carried.

Due to circumstances beyond control, copies of the Minutes of 2002 Annual General Meeting were not circulated. President John Marsch asked members to contact him for a copy for review .

President John Marsch asked for a reading of Committee Reports from Committee Chairs.

Committee Reports:

Finance. Irwin Feldcher reported that the financial records had been reviewed by the Finance Committee which includes himself and Edwin Koeppen of Australia. The total revenue to June 30, 2003 was \$17,618.40 Cdn or approximately \$11,627.00 US dollars, and after expenses the Net income was \$7,705.15 Cdn or approximately \$5,085.00 US dollars. Grand total in the Bank is \$38,529.02 Cdn or approximately \$25,429.00 US dollars. June 30, 2003 Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow statements are attached to the original minutes.

Irwin Feldcher also stated that no credit card will be accepted for Membership Fees. He checked into the costs and procedures and discovered the costs to be enormous, and was also advised the Society's Bank not to do it. Irwin Feldcher advised that he will commence looking into filing an application on behalf of the Society in order to obtain Charitable Organization status with the Federal Government of Canada. He stated it may take about one year to complete.

Website: Gary Warner reported that updates on various pages and databases on the website are done regularly. The goal is to have more databases posted for the members use. Gary Warner also brought to our attention the Web pages in the German language, thanks to work three volunteers. He also explained the backup systems in place for the Website thanks to the work of co-webmaster Matt Warner. Gary Warner also mentioned a Soundex search will be available in the near future to search some databases.

Journal: Bill Fife thanked members for supplying material for the Journal. He would like to receive more short stories, and more Articles. He is looking to add space fillers with such items as Obituaries and possibly Research interests of members.

Library: Howard Krushel stated that book donations are welcome. Would like to fill in with more information for member's reading. He also stated that a listing of Library materials and new purchases will be listed on the SGEE website soon. A lending policy will be established soon together with books available for loan out to members.

Research: Rose Ingram repeated some points from her Research Report in the June 2003 Journal. She added to this a short explanation of the PRI database, and advised that 1862 birth, marriage and death indexes for Lodz are on the PRI database with more to come in the future, and listed other parishes from which new data has been posted. She stated that the translations of 1826-1842 Zhitomir church records have been added to the Pedigree Database. Extractions from Podolia and Kiev parishes are underway.

Village/Regional Coordinator: Virginia Less asked members to submit stories, pictures, village information of member's ancestors. Plot maps of villages would be of great interest to other members too.

Listserve: (Not a Committee Report) Jerry Frank, Moderator of the Ger-Poland-Volhynia Listserve on the SGEE website reported the number of subscribers on the mailing list is approximately 360, with subscribers from around the world. Jerry Frank also reported that we are the second highest in user activity for all mailing lists serving Germans who lived in Pre WWI Russian controlled territory, the first being the Volga German Listserve. He stated content has been excellent. A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

Membership: John Marsh reported current membership as of August 1st, 2003 at 349, with 3 Honorary membership. This is a net gain of 31 members increase. He indicated 259 members are using computers and 90 members do not. The renewal rate is in the 80-85% range. John Marsch believes a concerted publicity campaign must be initiated in both US and Canada to make more people aware of our existence and hopeful an increase in membership. A copy of this report is attached to the original minutes.

Convention: John Marsch reported that the 2002 convention in Regina, combined with 4 other Genealogical Societies, took advantage of Grants available for such events. Thus SGEE realized a profit of over \$3100.

NEW BUSINESS

Reserve Fund

Discussion ensued regarding the setting aside Reserve funds from the Capital fund using the example of SGEE having a 'bad year' with low membership renewals. Jerry Frank moved that we "Set aside approximately \$15,000 CDN funds for an Operating Reserve Fund and invest said funds", seconded by Paul Work. Carried.

Memorial Donations

The matter of creating a policy for Memorial Donations of money was discussed, whether to specifically tag the donation or let the Board of Directors decide. It was decided to leave this matter in the hands of the Board of Directors.

Letter of Recognition

Victor Gess motioned for a "Letter of Recognition for all his technical work on the SGEE Website, a Plaque and a thank you gift be given to Matt Warner, co-webmaster of the SGEE website". Seconded by Eldon Butler. Carried.

Auditors

President John Marsch called for the appointment of two auditors from the membership for the coming year. Fritz Kiessling and Victor Gess agreed to be the auditors and it was moved and seconded and carried.

New Directors

John Marsch informed the members there are four Directors whose 2 year term was ending and one Director's position for a one year term to be filled due to a resignation. Five candidates names were submitted by the Nominating Committee, being Dick Stein, Ursula Bachmann, Jan Textor, Carol Burns and Earl Schultz. John Marsch called for Candidates from the floor. There being none, Janet Butler moved and Reuben Nehring seconded that nominations cease. Motion carried. The five candidates were elected by acclamation and Dick Stein was selected to complete the one year term.

The New Board consists of

John Marsch – 1 year

Howard Krushel – 1 year

Irwin Feldcher – 1 year

Dick Stein – 1 year

Ursula Bachmann – 2 years

Jan Textor – 2 years

Carol Burns – 2 years

Earl Schultz – 2 years.

There being no further business, Paul Work motioned and Lawrence Penno seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Adjourned at 5.30 PM.

Rose Ingram, Recording Secretary.