

SGGEE
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

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MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
Radisson (Airport) Inn
CALGARY, AB., CANADA JULY 22, 2000

There were 60 members in attendance and 2 represented by proxy for a total of 62 voting members. In addition 17 non-members were in attendance.

President **Gary Warner** chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 3:40 PM with the Recording Secretary **Lawrence Penno** present.

Minutes of the First Annual Meeting were circulated on the web site. It was moved by **Vern Kembel** and seconded by **Irwin Feldcher** that the minutes as circulated be approved. The motion was approved unanimously and carried.

President **Gary Warner** asked for available Committee Reports to be read.

Treasurer's report.

Treasurer **Fritz Kiessling** advised that the Society bank balance stood at approximately \$14000.00 before Convention revenue and expenses were included. These items would be included and a final financial report posted if requested.

A discussion followed as to whether the membership fees should be reduced in light of the surplus reported or retain the present fee for another year and review this item with another year's operation available to make a final judgment.

The membership agreed unanimously to retain the fee level for an additional year.

Research and Membership.

John Marsch reported the membership role now contains 259 names including 34 non-renewals, 225 active members. 135 of these members are out of the USA including 1 from Hawaii, 1 from Australia, one from Denmark and the remainder from Canada.

John Marsch also reported that as part of the financial part of research \$1000.00 had been paid to **Al Muth** as partial reimbursement for expenses incurred in preparing his 60,000 name contribution to the database. In addition the financial report will indicate an additional \$1232.00 expenditure to cover several other submission expenses. Total expenditure to date is \$2267.00.

It was also stated that an initiative would begin in contacting approximately 480 former 'Wandering Volhynian' members to join our Society.

Library

Nelson Itterman read his report on the Library activity to date. He stated that while the book collection remained at 18, the binder collection of extractions has increased from 3 to 18.

Nelson also reminded the membership present that consideration should be given to continue the search for possible space for permanent storage in the near future. Possible available space, to be controlled by the Calgary branch was one consideration and possible available space with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society another. Further review is required.

Newsletter.

Bill Fife reviewed the present status of the Society Newsletter which, at present, constitutes a 32 page volume issued every three months. The back issues will be available on the web site for at least two years or until storage on the site becomes an issue and then will be archived for future access.

The Newsletter has evolved to include mail out copies as a booklet with pre-punching added to permit binder storage. This has received good response. Member downloading from the site is encouraged to maintain low postage expenditures.

Bill indicated that while a good stock of articles is at hand for the next series of newsletters additional material is required for future issues.

Publicity.

Lawrence Penno summarized the activities of the past year regarding Publicity.

Victor Gess was the first of the committee to be involved by ably representing the Society at the FEEFHS convention in early August, where he was a guest speaker, and was able to promote the Society through speaking, pamphlet distribution, and newsletter display. He and a number of our members were approached with questions about our organization. One discussion concerned a possible joint meeting with FEEFHS at some time in the future.

Activities were, for the most part, carried out in Saskatchewan with representation of the Society carried out by **John Marsch** and **Lawrence Penno**.

In addition to manning display tables of Society materials **John Marsch** was a guest speaker on the topic of St. Petersburg records at the SGS convention in Moose Jaw, SK in October.

In April of 2000 **John Marsch** and **Lawrence Penno** again represented the Society at the Family History Fair in Regina, SK and with a display table offered resulted in good interest and a few new members.

The same pair will be present at the SGS Conference to be held in Regina SK on Oct. 21, 22.

The committee was also able to help with advertisement in Edmonton area local newspapers and church bulletins.

Web Site.

Gary Warner reviewed the progress on the Society Web Site. He indicated that they are proceeding on a 'soundex' searchable database and also an 'alternative name' database.

More history book data will soon be compiled and added to the site.

Gary also reminded the membership of the 60,000 name addition to the database provided by **Al Muth** and the fact that it was presently being merged for matching names. This event may take some several weeks to complete.

At the completion of the reports **Victor Gess** moved that a letter of appreciation be issued to **Al Muth** on behalf of the Society as a whole for the contribution he has made in the past and continuing to do. The motion was seconded by Jerry Frank and was carried unanimously.

New Business.

Amendments to By-Laws.

Fritz Kiessling moved that the proposed amendments to the By-Laws as stated herein be accepted. **Fritz** reviewed the proposed amendments to the bylaws which had been circulated to the membership. The proposed amendments have been submitted as per Article 12 Section 3 of the By-Laws.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

A. Whereas the current Bylaw reads:

Article 1

2. © to receive for the current year, one copy of each issue of any newsletter published by the Society however; if the Member indicates on their annual renewal form that they have access to the internet, such access to the Society's web page shall remove any obligation of the Society to mail a copy of any Society publications or other materials to that Member.

Be it resolved that the paragraph is modified to read:

Article 1

2. © to receive for the current year, one copy of each issue of any newsletter published by the Society. The newsletter will be available to Members via the Society web-site. Access to the Society's web page shall normally remove any obligation of the Society to mail any Society publications or other material to that Member. However, Members can explicitly advise the Society that newsletters or other material be sent to the Member via regular mail.

B – Whereas the current Bylaw reads:

Article 2

Section 2. The first Directors of the Society shall be the seven applicants. Their term of office shall end at the first Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Be it resolved that the paragraph is modified to read:

Article 2

Section 2. The term of office for each Director elected shall be two years. Terms of office shall be staggered, to four Directors each year, to provide continuity.

C – Whereas the current Bylaw reads:

Article 2

Section 3. At the first Annual General Meeting of the Society eight Directors shall be elected, four to serve a two year term and four to serve a one year term. At each subsequent Annual General Meeting, elections shall be held to fill the positions of the retiring Directors. The term of office for each Director elected after the first annual meeting shall be two years.

Be it resolved that the paragraph is modified to read:

Article 2

Section 3. At each Annual General Meeting, elections shall be held to fill the positions of the four retiring Directors.

D – Whereas the current Bylaw reads:

Article 6

Section 7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys collected and arrange all payments due to or from the Society; properly account for the funds of the Society and keep such books as may be directed and prepare financial reports. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to file the Annual Return with Revenue Canada each year, if required.

Be it resolved that the paragraph is modified to read:

Article 6

Section 7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys collected and arrange all payments due to or from the Society; properly account for the funds of the Society and keep such books as may be directed and prepare financial reports. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to file the Annual Return with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency each year, if required.

E -- Whereas the current Bylaw reads:

Article 12 By-Laws and Standing Rules

Section 4

The Board may establish, amend and repeal standing rules for the conduct of all business of the Society not specifically provided for in these By-Laws. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the standing rules so established and such records shall be open for inspection by any Member of the Society.

Be it resolved that the article and paragraph are modified to read:

Article 12 By-Laws and Operating Guidelines

Section 4.

The Board may establish, amend and repeal Operating Guidelines for the conduct of all business of the Society not specifically provided for in these By-Laws. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the Operating Guidelines so established and such records shall be open for inspection by any Member of the Society.

The motion to accept the By-Law revisions as stated and moved by Fritz Kiessling was seconded by Bill Fife and carried by unanimous vote.

Auditors

Gary Warner stated that in accordance with the by-laws we needed to appoint a minimum of two members as Auditors of the Society's books for the next year. **Mylo Forsyth** and **Eldon Butler** agreed to be the auditors. It was moved, seconded and carried that they be the auditors of the Society's books for the next year.

Directors

Gary Warner stated that volunteers were required to stand for election to the Board for a period of 2 years replacing the terms of four retiring members.

In addition a volunteer is required to replace the remaining year of one existing two year member. Nominations were called for two year terms:

Irwin Feldcher, Nelson Itterman, Howard Krushell and **Jan Butler** agreed to let their names stand.

Nominations were called for one year terms:

Bob Keck offered to let his name stand for a one year term

It was moved by **Karl Lenz** and seconded by **Jerry Frank** that nominations cease and the motion was carried.

The new Directors were elected by acclamation.

The Board of Directors for the year 2000-2001 are:

Gary Warner	John Marsch	Bill Fife	Nelson Itterman
Irwin Feldcher	Jan Butler	Howard Krushel	Bob Keck

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Lawrence Penno
Recording Secretary