

The Board of Directors wishes to keep in touch with the membership and will be sending out a Newsletter with updated items of interest. This will not replace the Journal which is issued on a quarterly basis. We anticipate sending an e-mail Newsletter at least once between the Journals.

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#### 1. SGGEE Logo Contest

The Board of Directors would like you to design a logo. This is an opportunity for our members to express their artistic ability to create a Logo that will become our identity. The sight of it will immediately bring to mind our Society. It will be used on letterheads, envelopes, flyers, promotional material, and eventually may be used on T-shirts, jackets, coffee mugs, pens, key holders, license plate frames, and countless other places. At conventions a copy of the logo can be hung from the podium. It will also be used on large banners that will be hung at conventions. It is important that we carefully design a logo that will incorporate what our Society is all about.

We need your help to design a logo which identifies SGGEE, and its German heritage in Poland and Volhynia. Please enter the contest. The winner of the design will have their membership in SGGEE extended two years and be recognized in the Journal. Of course, we would like to have the logo in place in the next few months. However, the design is very important and we will take all the necessary time needed to explore all possibilities. If you intend to take part please indicate your interest so that we can follow up with any necessary information. The board reserves the right to reject any or all designs and to make minor alterations to the design chosen as the winner.

The closing date for receipt of entries will be March 1st, 2003. Please mail your submission to P.O. Box 905, Stn "M", Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2J3, Canada. If you wish to enter the contest and/or submit your entry electronically, please notify us at [sggee@shaw.ca](mailto:sggee@shaw.ca) or the aforesaid address in Calgary, as soon as possible.

Victor Gess  
Publicity Chairman

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## 2. SGGEE Website [www.sggee.org](http://www.sggee.org)

We would remind you to check the News Page for any website changes and updated information on the Convention.

Journal Downloads. Any members that were still having problems downloading the unusually large September Journal, please contact us at [contact@sggee.org](mailto:contact@sggee.org) and we can e-mail the Journal file to you or offer other assistance. We recognize the limitations, especially if you are using a dial-up connection, and the download will take a while to start because your computer needs to get ready for the large download and during that time it may appear that nothing is going on. Please be patient with any download.

Gary Warner  
Website Chairman

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to translate the contents of about 8 or 9 public pages of the SGGEE web site from English to German. Fluency in German is the essential prerequisite.

The objective is to make the web site more "user friendly" to all members and potential members who would rather use German than English. SGGEE is gradually enrolling more members from Germany to the benefit of all of us because of their genealogical knowledge and research assistance. It is hoped by using German on the web site, their numbers will increase at the same time helping those who are already enrolled.

If you can be of assistance please e-mail SGGEE at [contact@sggee.org](mailto:contact@sggee.org) with "Website Volunteers" in the subject line.

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## 3. Ger-Poland-Volhynia Mailing List

Well, our mailing list has been in operation for almost a year now and by all reports, has been a great success. As of today, we have 299 subscribers. I think that is great since our only advertising for it is through the SGGEE website and some initial announcements scattered around the Internet at the time that we started up. We have subscribers from around the world including Germany, Brazil, New Zealand and Poland though most of course are from North America. Not all addresses can be identified as to country so full statistics are not possible.

What are you missing if you have not subscribed? Here are a few things that have happened over the past year:

- Connections with long lost cousins in Germany. In one case at least this led to new family information collected by the European side of the family.
- Many villages have been located, in spite of corrupted spellings.

- People have found missing links in their search.
- Many have gained a clearer understanding of geography and history in the area which helps them to understand their ancestry.

Of course we can't guarantee that subscribing will automatically result in success for you but you will learn by reading the questions and responses of others.

We seem to have very good success with staying on topic and not having to deal with irrelevant material. For those of you that are already subscribers, I would encourage you to participate even more. You don't have to have a question. You can post info about something you found in a book or on the web that may be helpful to other researchers. And no question is ever stupid.

Feel free to jump in. We were all newbies at one time and therefore understand what it is like to be starting out.

To subscribe click "Proceed to the Subscription Page" at <http://www.sggee.org/listserv.html>

Jerry Frank - List Administrator

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#### 4. Village/Regional Webpages

Calling all Researchers of Volhynia and Poland German ancestors: Do you have information on the village(s) and the regions of your ancestors in areas where they once lived? SGGEE is interested in collecting whatever information you may have in order to compile webpages on the SGGEE website with information on as many villages (or a region) as known. Descriptions of the village itself, map location, former and current names if still existing, surnames of residents (with dates of residence), a plat map of where their homes were if available, old and new photos taken in the village (identify persons if in picture), list of sources you have found, and so on.

Also If you have a personal website your address will be important as SGGEE can link directly to your site for researchers to obtain further information on your particular families.

PLEASE - share with others what information you may have. New researchers will become enthused about knowing more about their ancestral background.

Contact: Virginia Less [gvless@aol.com](mailto:gvless@aol.com) indicating your interest in this new project of SGGEE (Postal mail: 503 Ridgewood, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5016)

Virginia Less  
Chairman Village/Regional Coordinators Committee

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#### 5. Membership Renewal

Avoid the year end rush and confusion and renew now. Simply send your check or money order to SGGEE, Box 905, Stn "M", Calgary, AB T2P 2J3, Canada, with a notation "membership renewal". If you wish to avoid the yearly hassle you may renew for several years, 2 to 5 years is acceptable. Canada \$40.00 USA and elsewhere \$30 in US funds.

John Marsch  
Membership Committee Chairman

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In order to simplify this Newsletter we have chosen to send it in 'plain text' e-mail. We welcome all comments and suggestions, at [sggee@shaw.ca](mailto:sggee@shaw.ca)

Rose Ingram  
Corresponding Secretary

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