

# E-Newsletter - May 2009

SGGEE's convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are scheduled for Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25, 2009, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year we are partnering with FEEFHS to bring you a joint Convention. Further details may be found on SGGEE's website at [www.sggee.org](http://www.sggee.org) under the heading "Convention News," including the complete program detail. The registration forms and more detail can be found on the FEEFHS ([www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org)) website. You have the ability to pay using PayPal. As usual, a slate of excellent, knowledgeable speakers has been assembled by this year's convention organizers, Bill Tucholke and Dave Obee, with the help of many other volunteers. Attend if you can, expand your knowledge of genealogy, and find some time to utilize the Research Room and Library; both are unique and very popular features at our conventions.

In addition, Milwaukee is host to the ever popular GERMAN FEST during this week, so early reservations are a must. Hotel link: <http://www.radisson.com/milwaukee/north>.

By holding our convention in Milwaukee we hope to attract many members and others with an interest in German genealogy in Eastern Europe who have not been able to attend one of our past conventions. We are asking for your support in promoting this event by sharing this information with your friends and relatives who are not SGGEE members. If you would be willing to distribute flyers or sample programs to your local genealogy groups, Family History centers, Libraries or churches, (with their permission of course) you can print out the promotional materials we have posted on our website, at [www.sggee.org](http://www.sggee.org), for local distribution.

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## Opportunities 2009

### **Board of Directors**

At each Annual General Meeting, it is necessary to elect 3 new Board of Directors members. Here is a "recruitment" message and testimonial from one of our retiring Directors, Karl Kruger:

How would you like to help shape the new directions SGGEE will take in the coming years? Foreign membership continues to grow and our online resources remain the standard for genealogical tools available to not only to our members but some resources are even open to the general public. By volunteering to be on the Board of Directors, you will be in an ideal position to influence how SGGEE can extend its reach. The current Board has initiated

several exciting plans for SGGEE to greatly improve our web presence. You now have the opportunity to help manage these projects come to fruition.

Serving on the Board 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 have much to offer. New directors will be given access to secure SGGEE sites and be kept up to date on events, questions, and decisions. All directors will have opportunity to vote on organizational matters. Correspondence on all matters is by E-mail. Virtual conference meetings are now held online using Skype (we can help you set up Skype on your computer for free).

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](mailto:directors@sggee.org) or Carol Burns at [cabu@comcast.net](mailto:cabu@comcast.net). All members – please give this consideration regardless of your country of residence. We would love to have more participants from Europe on the Board to help us keep the interests of our German cousins in mind.

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## **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 – however we do reimburse expenses as required. Volunteers are called for the following committees:

### **SGGEE Journal Editor**

Do you have an eye for style? Do you have a creative side? Do you like to "cut and paste"? How about being fussy about English grammar? If "yes" is the answer, you may want to consider volunteering to be Editor of the SGGEE Journal, or assisting in the production process. After 4 years as an outstanding Journal Editor, Earl Schultz is stepping down at the end of the year to devote more time to writing and pursuing his family genealogy. You can be located anywhere to do the Editor's job and the Journal can be printed and mailed from another location. This is your chance to add your creativity to SGGEE's primary publication.

If you want more information regarding what is involved, contact [editor@sggee.org](mailto:editor@sggee.org). We intend to provide the new Editor with an Assistant Editor and graphics volunteer to make production and distribution easier.

The Journal is issued Quarterly.

### **Membership Committee - Volunteer Coordinator**

The duties of the new Volunteer Coordinator position are not complex but may require daily attention of a few minutes because of the possible email responses required and other volunteer affairs. The primary duties consist of matching member volunteer skills with Committee volunteer needs. Maintaining an accurate Excel spreadsheet of member skills (data from Member Applications or special request for a project) would also be helpful. This will further the work of SGGEE considerably as we have many tasks needing short volunteer commitments. Further information can be obtained by contacting [membership@sggee.org](mailto:membership@sggee.org) or [directors@sggee.org](mailto:directors@sggee.org).

### **From the Research Corner**

We are aware of the various skills of many SGGEE members, but also know that some members have limited time to offer toward some projects. Presently we are seeking some help with a long term project.

Volunteers are being sought for Indexing of the Rozyszcze birth, death or marriage records from microfilmed records. Some of the records are in German for which some knowledge of German is helpful.

Other records are in Russian Cyrillic for which the ability to transliterate Russian is necessary. Ability to use a spreadsheet program is required as well as easy access to a Family History Center. SGGEE will compensate for cost of film rental and any needed photocopying. It is best and easiest to digitally scan small portions of the microfilm, if your Family History Center has digital scanner/printer. Instructions and help to get started will be given. Please contact Dick Stein at [ra\\_stein@telus.net](mailto:ra_stein@telus.net) after June 4th, 2009, who will be pleased to get you started.

### **Translators – German to English, English to German**

There has been an active discussion by SGGEE administrators 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 print with total comprehension. If you are comfortable reading German and in writing English perhaps you might consider translating even short articles. SGGEE thanks all of the translators who have contributed to the research work in 2008/2009. We are always looking for translators in fluent in Polish, Russian, and German to English. Also English to German for our website. Email [contact@sggee.org](mailto:contact@sggee.org) if you can help.

\*\*\*\*\*See you at the Convention in Milwaukee on July 24 and July 25, 2009!\*\*\*\*\*