**SGGEE**

**Executive Committee Minutes**

August 2014 to August 2015

**August 16-18**

Following Ken Kufeldt’s draft motion of August 15 concerning reimbursement of Directors’ travel expenses to AGMs, there ensued discussion of various complexities involved in arriving at an equitable formula. It was generally agreed that further discussion would be necessary at the next Board meeting at the AGM in Calgary.

**August 18**

Sigrid Perry reminded Committee chairs to prepare short reports for the AGM. Rose Ingram kindly reminded us of who chaired each Committee.

**August 26**

Sigrid Perry distributed the Minutes of the August 21 and August 24 Board meetings at the Convention in Calgary. She also gave special recognition to Rose Ingram for her expertise and services to SGGEE.

**August 27**

Edie Adam informed the Directors of her intent to devise guidelines “for scouting out and negotiating with hotels to host the [annual] conference,” and that the Board was looking into holding the conference in eastern Canada.

**August 28**

Rose Ingram submitted copies of the hotel expenses for the August AGM. Due to accounting errors by the Hotel, SGGEE was given a refund of $838.50.

**August 29**

Edie Adam distributed a summary of the 2014 convention feedback survey, noting that the exit surveys would be sent to Bill Tucholke for the Convention Committee. Suggestions were made concerning coverage of culture and history of Germans in Russia, doing online research, reading German script, using the SGGEE website, and continuing to present a mix of sessions appealing to both the left and right brains!

**August 30**

Rose responded to Edie’s post, urging that more information on how to use online records be posted on the SGGEE website and in the Journal. She also suggested an update of the website’s section on film ordering, since the current version is too complicated.

**September 1**

Sigrid Perry distributed minutes of Board meetings at conventions and the minutes of the AGM meeting in Calgary, along with the embedded Committee reports and with Gary’s Databases report as an attachment. They are to be placed in the Directors’ section of the website upon approval. Rose Ingram proposed a few amendments to the AGM minutes and also noted that they should be posted in the Members area of the SGGEE website. They were duly posted by Karl Krueger on September 9.

Edie Adam distributed the latest (as of 9.1.2014) volunteer list, available at: <http://copy.com/qlC6oyhlcER0>.

**September 3**

Rose Ingram announced completion of the change of Directors form for filing with Ottawa. It will be sent to Elvin Meyers for signature and mailing to Ottawa. A copy of the form 4006 was attached. The New Directors’ terms began August 24, 2014. The Annual Report is to be filed September 9.

**September 5**

Rose Ingram confirmed that only the two new Directors need be listed on form 4006. A new form 4006 was attached. It can be mailed to Corporations Canada, 235 Queen St., Ottawa, Ontario, I1A 0H5, or faxed to 613-941-4803. The form can also be submitted as an attachment to email, to be sent to [corporationscanada@ic.gc.ca](mailto:corporationscanada@ic.gc.ca) . She had scanned and emailed the form already. She also attached an email with form 4003 attached to it for recording the Change of Registered Office, on which is given the Calgary address of Ken Kufeldt (13 Mount Robson Close, SE, Calgary AB T2Z 2B8. She also announced that a hard copy of the Annual Report will be filed and will cost $40. If SGGEE had a credit card, it could be sent by fax or email for $20.

**September 8**

Edie Adam distributed two links to Legacy F.T. Webinars used by Geoffrey Rasmussen in his Convention Legacy session. She reported that she had sent them to Karl Krueger, to be posted on the Convention page of the SGGEE website.

**September 9**

Karl Krueger reported that these two links had been posted, and issued the reminder that the Convention webpage must be redeveloped for next year.

Sigrid Perry distributed, for review, the Directors’ Minutes for the post-convention meeting in Seattle, Aug. 10, 2013, the pre-convention meeting in Calgary, Aug. 21, 2014, and the post-convention meeting, Aug. 24, 2014. Also the AGM minutes with Committee Reports and Gary Warner’s Databases report. They are to be posted in the Members only portion of the website. Later that day, Karl Krueger announced that the AGM minutes had been posted in the Members Only section, and in fact that all the minutes had been posted. Sigrid reported that all were opening properly, but also said that she thinks that the AGM minutes are not to be posted until 60 days before the next AGM. [No further comments on this matter were offered.]

Sigrid requested that Melonie and Edie be added to the Directors’ email list, and that Committee addresses be changed to reflect new Directors’ assignments.

Ken Kufeldt offered to rewrite the duties of the Treasurer because the existing statement does not reflect the realities of the job. He also suggested that the “Budget Guidelines” be eliminated because the budget is touched upon in the Treasurer Guidelines. Also, as part of his announced “ongoing effort “ to increase openness in the website, he urged that the duties of Committee members be made available to all members, not just the Directors, that names of Committee members be made public, and that members of each contact group should be listed after that group’s email address. He questioned the need for a Directors’ Only section at all, except perhaps for personal information about a Director.

Sigrid Perry said that Committee Guidelines are already in the Members’ section, and that new bylaws necessitated updating these guidelines. She asked all Committee Chairs to determine if their Guidelines are in accord with Industry Canada rules and our new bylaws. And since the Guidelines were already in the Members Only section of the website, and Rose had said that the AGM minutes could also be in the Members Only section, Sigrid suggested removing them from the Directors Only section. She asked if a motion was necessary for this. Ken thought it was not. That leaves the Executive Committee minutes and the Directors’ Meeting minutes for the Directors Only section of the website. Sigrid also agreed that the budgeting guidelines could well be included in the Treasurer’s guidelines. On September 24, Sigrid reported that Ken had done this.

Elvin Meyers reported that the Change of Directors form had been sent to Corporations Canada.

Sigrid Perry instructed Karl Krueger to post Matt Warner’s revisions of the [alias@sggee.org](mailto:alias@sggee.org) names and addresses in the About Us/Contacts section.

**September 11**

Rose Ingram relayed a note to Directors from Otto Schienke regarding the late Al Muth’s database of perhaps 60,000 records from Russian Poland. He said that Liesel Muth had gotten rid of them, which would be a tremendous loss if not found.

**September 13**

Ken Kufeldt expressed appreciation for the work done by Ted Belke as Membership Chairman.

Ken sent some suggested new procedures for handling mail to SGGEE and for banking procedures. This is necessary because the new Membership Chairperson, Renate Dilk, lives in Quebec, and it is unwise to be sending membership moneys by regular mail across the country.

Edie Adam raised the question of whether eastern members would attend the Convention in sufficient numbers, and whether and how polling should be done. Ken favored a poll. Edie suggested Toronto as the Convention site, because of the concentration of members around the Great Lakes.

Jack Bowman had asked for free membership in return for use of his Polish translation aids on the website. After some discussion, it was decided to grant him membership through the end of 2015. The issue of granting honorary memberships continues to be under discussion, and Mr. Bowman’s case will be brought up when other honorary memberships are approved by the Directors.

**September 14**

Ted Belke reported that the Membership Roll 2014-15 had been distributed.

**September 15**

Bill Tucholke informed the Directors of plans of the Convention Committee to hold the 2015 Annual Convention in eastern Canada. He is working on a survey of the SGGEE membership in the eastern regions to gauge interest in such a location. Discussion about the implementation of the survey pointed up the need to improve methods of entering data into the Excel Membership List in order to facilitate later analysis. Sigrid Perry suggested forming a subcommittee to do this.

Rose announced that Matt had the Alias Lists “looking good.”

**September 16**

Edie Adam reported to Directors that the Convention Committee sent a link to a survey to be sent to eastern members. The survey would be online, at [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). The results would be downloaded to Excel and analyzed.

Sigrid Perry announced her reception from Matt Warner of the revised Alias Lists and that she had created from these a new document which included the names of people attached to each email address. She suggested placing this in the Directors Only section. Karl Krueger reported on October 1 that this had been done. As for the Alias lists in the “About Us”/ “Contacts” section, she suggested removing the names since many people are more at ease writing to the committee than to specific people. Sigrid also asked for comments on Ken’s revision of the Treasurer’s guidelines and the decision to eliminate the separate budget category. She suggested that it be posted in the Members Only section. She and Ken suggested removing the guidelines from Directors Only since they are in Members Only already. She proposed that revisions to the guidelines be completed before the end of November.

**September 17**

Edie Adam sent a link to the completed survey as a test to see how it works.

Ken Kufeldt reported the reception of $838.50 from the Coast Plaza Hotel in Calgary. All receipts had been deposited except for one post-dated September 26. The reported deficit for the Annual Convention was $7,065.

**September 24**

Sigrid Perry questioned the need to put personal contact names in the public part of the website except for the Directors and the offices they hold. However, in the name of transparency, members should be given more access to how SGGEE operates. She suggested placing a link on <https://www.sggee.org/members/society_information.html> to a PDF document attached to her email, “SGGEE Committees 2014-2015,” containing names of all Committee members. Members could thus know and make contact with specific people. Also a PDF document could be more easily changed each year than changing the webpage itself. She also suggested that the document with the Alias email lists alone remain in Directors Only.

Sigrid also reported that since Ken had placed Budget information in the Treasurer Guidelines, he recommended deleting the Budget Committee Guidelines completely. She and Ken suggested placing the following statement before the Committee Guidelines section: “SGGEE endeavors to keep committee guidelines current. They are amended and updated from time to time to reflect changes in internal SGGEE organization, committee realignments, changes in our By Laws due to new legislation, changes in electronic communication, storage and processing technology, etc.” The Webmaster will be asked to replace the old guidelines “with revised ones in batches rather than as each one is completed.” A final suggestion was to remove the Committee Guidelines from the Directors Only section. She asked for comments.

**September 25 and 30**

Emails from Dick Benert, Ken Kufeldt, Edie Adam and Melonie Liening reflected general approval of these suggestions.

**September 30**

Sigrid Perry sent the above suggestions regarding the placement of a PDF document, “SGGEE Committees 2014-2015,” on the Members/Society\_Information page to Karl Krueger. This document could be linked to a new bullet, “SGGEE Committees and Contact lists” before the Operating Guidelines. She also asked Karl to place the statement, “SGGEE endeavors…” (see above, Sept. 24) before the revised Committee Guidelines, to make the necessary changes to the Budget information and the Treasurer Guidelines (as above, Sept. 24), and to remove the Committee Guidelines from the Directors Only section. She then asked Karl to place the master Alias List in the Directors Only section, along with the rationale for this move, but noting that it is a master list and will require constant revision as members join, change, or leave committees.

**October 1**

Karl Krueger changed the Word documents submitted to him to pdf files and posted the “alias” list in Directors Only and SGGEE Committees list to Members Only.

**October 2**

Sigrid announced that Jerry Frank had passed away early that morning, and asked Matt Warner to remove Jerry Frank from various lists so that his family will not be bothered by SGGEE-related emails. This was done. Karl Krueger shared with us his last several affecting emails with Rod Frank, Jerry’s son, the last one regarding the eventual disposal of Jerry’s valuable SGGEE material.

Ken Kufeldt sent a copy of his proposal concerning subsidization of Directors’ convention expenses, and moved its adoption. Its provisions are:

1.) The full budgeted sum [of $1500] will be utilized only if all Directors attend the convention. The amount will be reduced proportionately if not all Directors attend (e.g., if 4 of 6 Directors attend, the amount for distribution will be reduced by 33 1/3%).

2.) Directors living at or near the convention location will not be eligible for payment but will be included in the “Directors attending” count at 1) above.

3.) Out of town Directors that attend will share proportionately in the amount for distribution based on their “map” miles or kilometers from home to the convention location. (e.g. Director A-500 miles/ Director B-1000 miles/ Director C-1500 miles/ Director D-2000 miles. Total mileage 5000. Director A receives 10%; Director B- 20%; Director C- 30%; Director D-40%.”

On October 11, Dick Benert seconded Ken Kufeldt’s motion regarding subsidization of Directors’ convention travel. On October 23, Sigrid Perry reminded the Directors that this motion, though seconded, had not yet passed, but on October 27 she announced that the motion had carried unanimously.

**October 3**

Bill Tucholke submitted the September Journal to the Directors for review and comment.

Sigrid Perry responded to an email from Barb Yanta, affirming that SGGEE would indeed have a memorial tribute at Jerry’s funeral service. Edie Adam expressed hopes that an article about Jerry will appear in the Journal befitting his invaluable services to our Society.

**October 6**

Ray Bloch suggested canvassing the membership for stories about working with Jerry over the years. Sigrid supported this idea, adding that such stories might be added to a tribute already written by John Marsch.

**October 10**

Ken Kufeldt sent a copy of the 2014 Annual Return which he had filed electronically at the cost of $20. He had requested a key that would be used for future electronic filing. He had received two books with the new bylaws and matter pertaining to the 2013 legislative changes. One copy will go to Earl Schulz whose home is our new corporate address and the other will remain with the Treasurer.

**October 11, 29**

Sigrid Perry wrote to Dick Benert, Elvin Meyers, Ken Kufeldt, and Rose Ingram regarding the contents of the SGGEE library and the possibilities of scanning materials it contains. She has suggested forming a Library Committee to determine which materials in the Library may already be accessible online, to secure permission from families to scan their family histories, and to actually do the scanning of pages to send by PDF or to print photocopies. Very good information about copyright law is available at: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/okbooks.html>. On October 29, Elvin Meyers brought the conversation about a Library Committee to the Directors, suggesting that it be formed before any decision is made about the Library’s future location. He suggested a committee of at least 5 or 6 people to investigate how many of the Library’s holdings are online. He is looking into taking the Library out of commercial storage and locating it in a private residence. Edie Adam is looking into storing the Library in an academic institution or other place where the contents might be available for lending.

**October 12**

Renate Dilk sent the updated membership role, filtered to show only active members.

**October 18**

Rose Ingram requested from the Directors the release of $1000 for continued indexing of Card Files in the Zhitomir Archives. This is to be sent to Ken Krell, leader of the research project, who will then forward the money to Alex Brzhezytskiy.

**October 19**

Bill Tucholke sent the 2014 Final Convention Report which Karl later posted on the website.

**October 19-28**

Sigrid Perry announced that Rachel Patterson had requested space in the “Other Genealogy News” on the SGGEE website to advertise her new book “Homeland Lost.” This gave rise to a discussion about what the policy should be for such requests and also the purpose of “Other Genealogy News” on the SGGEE.org homepage. After Ken Kufeldt brought up the need to keep maintenance of the website as simple as possible, the idea of eliminating “Other Genealogy News” found general agreement. Dick Benert, on October 24, moved “That the ‘Other Genealogy News’ segment of the SGGEE website homepage be eliminated, and that announcements concerning genealogical events, books or other publications, or other newsworthy items be published in the quarterly Journal and in any periodic newsletters, subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors and the Editors of these respective publications.” The motion was seconded by Edie Adam. On October 27, Ken Kufeldt announced that a motion was not necessary to make this change. Ray Bloch had indicated that using the Journal for “Other Genealogy News” was a good idea, and it could easily fit into the Editor’s comments on Page 3.

**October 22-24**

Karl Krueger announced that he had inserted his name on the website as webmaster, and had written a short acknowledgement of what Jerry Frank had meant for the development of the website. He requested others to look at it and make suggestions for improving it. A few minor changes were suggested. Karl suggested that a longer memorial to Jerry written by John Marsch might be placed in the Journal.

**October 24-25**

Sigrid Perry relayed a request from Rose Ingram regarding approval of an expenditure of $8000 for a new indexing project in the Rowno Archives once the Zhitomir project is completed, and also the release of $5000 to Ken Krell who will wire this amount to Alex Brzhezytsky. Edie Adam moved to approve both expenditures on October 25, and Melonie Liening seconded the motion. Sigrid Perry announced that the motion carried by a majority vote, and Rose expressed her gratitude.

**October 27**

Ken Kufeldt, after some discussion about whether to take a projector across Canada to the 2015 Convention or to rent one in Ottawa, observed that the consensus is to rent one. He will investigate what should be done with the current projector owned by SGGEE.

**October 28**

After some discussion about whether “Lutheran Parishes in Russian Poland” should be discontinued, Rose Ingram felt that it should “stay for a long time yet.” Sigrid agreed and Karl said he has left it on the homepage because of its continuing importance.

**November 6**

Sigrid Perry sent a copy of her letter to Rachael Patterson regarding the posting of an announcement of her book in the Journal. Rachael’s response was positive, but seemed to indicate an assumption that something more than a mere announcement was expected. Sigrid asked Ray to let her know how much space was available.

**November 10**

Ken Kufeldt distributed a balance sheet illustrating SGGEE’s financial condition halfway through the fiscal year. He reported a deficit of $7,194 against a planned deficit of $5,500. We still await the $120 post-dated payment he had mentioned on September 17. A slow reception of membership dues is normal at this time of year. Storing the library is taking us over the Library Budget. Research and administrative expenses are within budget; Journal expenses may go a little over. Website/database expenses are within the newly increased budget amount, but nothing is budgeted for any possible new software.

**November 13**

Ken Kufeldt raised a question about confirmation of registrations going to the address [registration@sggee.org](mailto:registration@sggee.org) (which is not connected to any “registration committee”) rather than to the Membership Committee. Sigrid suggested that sensitive financial information needs to be restricted, and Ted Belke, when asked, confirmed the need to restrict such information to a select few, on a “need to know” basis.

**November 29**

Ken Kufeldt distributed the Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2014, and an Income to Budget statement as of October 31. He included an explanation of how the US$ in the treasury are converted to C$ for reporting purposes.

**December 12**

Sigrid Pohl Perry initiated a discussion about renewal of some honorary memberships and the granting of new ones. New honorary members to be considered were Jack Bowman, for his continuing permission to use his translation pages on our website, and Rodney Frank, to facilitate his cooperation in sorting his father’s materials and in sharing them with SGGEE as per his wishes. Edith Riske’s membership will be terminated due to her incapacitating illness.

**December 28**

Ray Bloch distributed a copy of the December Journal for review. After revisions were suggested, Ray announced the posting of the Journal on ­­­­­January 6, 2015.

**December 29**

Sigrid Pohl Perry presented a list of people who should be offered one-year honorary memberships for various services rendered to SGGEE. In addition to Jack Bowman and Rodney Frank (mentioned on December 12), they are: AGoFF team leaders Stefan Balzer, Juergen Frantz, Irmgard Mueller, Brigitte Marufke, Dieter Pechner, and Beate Harbich-Schoenert; Ansgar Mantey, Matt Warner, Alex Brzhezytsky, and Frank Stewner. Edie Adams moved that all these honorary memberships be approved, and Elvin Meyers seconded the motion. On January 1, Sigrid Pohl Perry added Birgitt Mingen’s name to the list of prospective honorary members for her help with the Rowno Project proofreading. On January 4, Sigrid announced that a majority had approved the list of honorary memberships as amended. Current honorary members were notified of their renewal for one more year, and Jack Bowman, Rodney Frank and Birgitt Mingen were told of their nomination. Bowman and Mingen gratefully accepted. As of this date we have received no answer from Rodney Frank. On January 15 Sigrid notified us that Stefan Balzer, due to lack of time to work on SGGEE projects, wishes to terminate his honorary membership.

**January 7, 2015**

Melonie Liening distributed an update to the Database Committee Responsibilities, to be placed in the website, replacing the old statement of responsibilities.

**January 19**

Ken Kufeldt asked the Directors to give thought to a request made by Renate Dilk concerning a request from Victor Gess for a list of SGGEE members in California to facilitate formation of a California discussion group. Renate had created a list of the California membership, and had asked if there were objections to sending this list to Victor. Edie Adam brought up the problem of “the privacy expectations people may have,” and suggested that a notice in the Journal might serve Victor’s purposes. On the other hand, people might welcome such a list to facilitate their getting together. Sigrid Pohl Perry saw merit in both points of view and suggested that the Journal or the Listserve be used to notify potential local group members of a contact person who could coordinate such an effort, not only in California but in other regions also. She suggested that in the future a line could be added to the Membership Renewal form about being contacted for a regional gathering. Those who approved could be put on a list to be contacted.

**January 20**

Ken Kufeldt submitted a motion regarding the grace period for membership renewal, with the intention of clarifying and standardizing what heretofore has been a matter of some uncertainty. The motion contains four paragraphs:

1. Members in good standing at the end of the membership year on December 31 will be allowed a renewal grace period until February 28 of the following year. There will be no curtailment of access or privileges during this period.
2. New member applications for the following year received October 1 to December 31, and which are accompanied by full (annual) payment, will be granted full membership access and privileges from date of receipt and processing.
3. New member applications received at our annual Convention, and accompanied by full (annual) payment will be considered as applications for the following year. They will be granted full membership access and privileges from October 1 of the current year.
4. Members are allowed to prepay for future years, beyond the current membership year.

Edie Adams seconded the motion on January 21. After brief discussion Sigrid Pohl Perry declared the motion passed on January 26.

**January 20-22**

There was a brief discussion concerning the Ger-Poland-Volhynia Listserve and its relationship to the SGGEE website. This was occasioned by a member locked out of the website because her Listserve email address was different from her Membership email. Ken Kufeldt asked whether this might have implications for security from hackers. In addition, he reported a recent “lockout” of Renate Dilk, as Chair of the Membership Committee, from the SGGEE Membership Database, caused apparently by “an inconsistency of personal info between the membership database and the Listserve database.” Renate, Matt Warner and Karl Krueger are working on coding issues related to the Website. Ken asked 1. If we really need to run a social networking service open to non-members. 2. How much time is needed to police it? 3. Should it be on the main server, or should it be “quarantined”? 4. Does it jeopardize the website by introducing possible malware or viruses?

Edie Adam brought up two questions. Should membership in the Society be required for participation in the Listserve? Should the Listserve be separated from the website? Ken brought up the possibility of a hacker gaining access to the website through the Listserve (which is open to non-members). He intends to look into possible liability problems in our insurance coverage. There ensued a discussion of the adequacy of our “safeguards” against hacking and viruses. Sigrid Pohl Perry noted the value of the GPV Listserve and generally believes our system to be relatively secure against these evils. The discussion ended without conclusion except for the suggestions that Karl and Matt be consulted about the issue, and that the website clarify the distinction between membership in the Society and subscription to the Listserve.

**February 4**

Ray Bloch presented a request from Harrassowitz Subscription Services for a quotation for the cost of the SGGEE Journal from January, 2006 to December, 2013, Vols. 8-13. Ray is opposed to sending electronic copies, since SGGEE restricts access to them to Members Only. He will draw up a quotation which covers our printing and shipping costs, and submit it to the Board for review.

**February 18-June 24**

February 18

Ken Kufeldt distributed four documents: 1) “Our shortage of U.S. dollars” 2) an interim income comparison, 3) an Interim balance sheet comparison and 4) an interim income statement. The thrust of “Our shortage…” is that the decline of the Canadian dollar is presenting problems. Since SGGEE research is funded in US$, and Paypal accepts membership payments only in Can$, our US$ holdings are being exhausted rapidly, and cannot be replenished adequately from mailed-in US$ payments. In this and another posting on February 27, Ken suggested several alternative solutions to the problem, including the possibility of making changes to the SGGEE membership fee structure and offering the option of multi-year memberships. Changes to the fee structure would be as follows:

Canadian members – C$40 by cheque or PayPal (same as current fees): U.S. members – US$40 by check or PayPal (currently allows C$40 PayPal option): International members – Us$40 by PayPal or a remittance, or 30 Euros (currently allows remittance of C$40)

The effect of these changes would be to decrease the amount of payments in C$ and increase the intake of US$

After some questions and comments by Dick Benert and Edie Adam, Ken’s plan, as laid out on February 28, is to “leave US$ in the aggregation account and let it accumulate. Then when funds build up, see if we can convince PayPal to let us pay US$ based expenses with it. . . . “ This plan would be “a cost and risk free alternative to setting up another PayPal account in US$” On February 27, Ken issued a memo indicating the discovery that PayPal allows withdrawal of funds only in C$, which nullifies part of his original plan of making payments in US$ through PayPal. He also urged acceptance of his recommended changes in the membership fee structure, although now with the option for international members to pay C$40 through PayPal as before. He also encouraged adoption of his suggestions for multi-year memberships and changes to wording and organization on the website.

There was also discussion regarding Ken’s proposal to set up a separate U.S. bank account.

As of March 1, Ken’s latest proposal has received the express approval of Edie Adam. Others have not yet registered an opinion.

March 2-5

Ken Kufeldt submitted “Motion One” regarding fees and terms of membership.

His motion: “Effective October 1,2015, so as to apply to the full 2016 membership year, the rates and terms of membership shall be set as follows:

Depending on a member’s country of residence, membership dues are payable in US$, Can$ or Euros, as follows:

1. American members (i.e. with US addresses) paid by check or PayPal—1 year new or renewal, $40 US; 2 year new or renewal, $75 US; 3 year new or renewal, $110US.
2. Canadian members (i.e. with Canadian Addresses) paid by cheque or PayPal—2 year new or renewal choice of $40US or C. 2 year new or renewal choice of $75 US or C.
3. Members from other countries—paid by PayPal, One year new or renewal, choice of $40 US or C; 2 year new or renewal, choice of $75US or C.
4. Members from other countries, paid by cash or money order in Euros—1 year new or renewal, 30 Euros.

The Motion was seconded by Edie Adam. Melonie and Dick voted in favor. Sigrid announced that it had passed on March 5.

March 5-14

Ken Kufeldt issued his Motion Two, an attempt “to keep our US$ in that form” by trying to arrange with PayPal to preserve our US$ in an aggregate PayPal account and make disbursements from it without conversion to C$.

The Motion: “Before the new membership application year begins on October 1, 2015, the Treasurer, the Website Manager and the Database Managers will collaborate, with an outside expert if necessary, to prepare, test and verify the following modifications to the PayPal payments and aggregation system:

1. Modify website instructions and membership application forms to accommodate the timing, constraints and changes to fee structure and conditions, referred to in the previous motion (MOTION **ONE**).

2. Negotiate with PayPal to ensure any changes required by our website and PayPal are properly tested and fully implementable prior to October 1, 2015.

3. If necessary negotiate with PayPal to create another Canadian based aggregation account, for the benefit of SGGEE, for the purpose of accepting payments in US$: and that member applications with any other than US currency attached will be properly directed to the applicable account designation.

4. Negotiate with PayPal to change the existing Canadian based SGGEE aggregation account, be modified so that it will accept only C$: and that applications with any other than Can. currency will be properly directed to the applicable account designation.

The motion was seconded by Edie Adam. In the ensuing discussion, Ken expressed his hope that “US funds can be disbursed from a PayPal aggregation account, provided they never come into our regular US$, but Canadian based bank account.” Melonie and Dick voted in favor. Sigrid declared it passed by majority vote on March 14.

April 2

Ken Kufeldt offered some advice regarding his Motion One. He recommended removing the option for “Non North American Members” (NNAMs) to pay fees in C$ as “too complicated and confusing.” He announced that he would soon convene with the Webmaster, database people and membership chairman to discuss all these and other matters.

April 26-29

Ken Kufeldt submitted a revision of his Motion One. It reflected the advice he had given on April 2, except that it disallows only “EU members” to pay fees in C$, not NNAMs outside of the Euro zone. It also reflects his desire to avoid the mailing of currency by European members. He moved that the following fee schedule be adopted as of October 1, 2015, as a replacement for his original Motion 1 of March 5, and be applicable for the 2016 membership year and following years, unless revised by the Board.

1. **Residents of all countries excepting Canada:**

One year - **US $40** / 2 years - **US $75** / 3 years - **US $110**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***For EU members only, who wish to pay in Euros rather than US$ - mail in money order only - no currency please.:***  One year - **30 Euros** / 2 years - **60 Euros** / 3 years - **80 Euros** |  |

1. **Residents of Canada:**

One year - **CD $40** / 2 years - **CD $75** / 3 years - **CD $110**

Ken also suggested that the membership web pages were badly in need of revision, a problem he was working on. On April 28, Ken asked for rapid action on his revision of his Motion One. Dick seconded the revised motion, and Melonie, Edie, Elvin, and Ray voted in favor. It passed on April 29.

May 11

Ken Kufeldt notified the Board that he had, for confidential reasons, “withdrawn as team leader and participant in the implementation of SGGEE’s revised membership fee structure” and would “no longer be involved.” On May 12, Sigrid Pohl Perry expressed our gratitude to Ken for his investigations with PayPal and the work he had done to revise the membership and fee structure pages on the SGGEE website. She expressed the hope that this revision would be acceptable to the Membership and Website Committees, and also to know what arrangements were possible with PayPal. Edie Adam also thanked Ken for his efforts, and expressed interest in knowing the results of the negotiations with PayPal.

May 20-22

Ken Kufeldt, in response to Dick Benert’s suggestion, distributed his suggested revisions to our Membership Information website pages. He did so reluctantly, since he had withdrawn himself from the project. There followed some discussion over the revisions’ impact on the website and on the Membership Committee.

June 19-24

After several weeks of private discussion with Sigrid, Renate, and Ted, some of it concerning an analysis done by Renate which she completed on June 2, which led her to believe that no substantial benefits would ensue from making changes to the membership fee structure, Dick Benert, citing issues such as the uninsurability of funds in a PayPal account and the impossibility of sending money to Alex Brzheytsky or of paying hotels for convention expenses via PayPal, and in the firm belief that resolving differences of opinion on the Board was no longer possible, put forward the following motion:

“I move that the Board of Directors regretfully rescind Ken’s two motions, with thanks to him for raising our awareness of the problem that faces us, with the intention to begin a new discussion of possible solutions which might have the approval of all concerned.”

Ray Bloch seconded the motion, and Elvin Meyers and Melonie Liening voted in favor. Ken Kufeldt voted against the motion. Sigrid announced its passage on June 24. It was generally agreed that finding a solution to the currency exchange problem is imperative.

**April 13**

Ken Kufeldt submitted “A report on the library and other physical assets,” detailing the cost of maintaining the SGGEE Library at Maple Leaf Storage in Calgary, along with vital information like the location (unit number 3119) and the entry code (62713). The cost is $135.45/month, and with discount for prepayment for a year, $1,367.14/year, and possibility of refund for unused months if we remove the Library early. There was limited discussion concerning the utility of the library and what should be done with it.

**February 19-27**

Edie Adam, on behalf of the Convention Committee, announced the Committee’s proposal to extend an invitation to Mathias Schulze of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies to speak at this year’s convention in Ottawa, both in a workshop presentation and as the banquet speaker. Since he has asked if SGGEE could cover his travel expenses, Edie asked for comment from the Board. Comment was favorable, and on February 22 Edie announced there is support for the proposal to reimburse Prof. Schulze and that Bill Tucholke would be having further talks him concerning content. On February 27 Sigrid Pohl Perry announced that a vote on Edie’s request was unnecessary since she was working within funds already budgeted for the convention and was not requesting a change in policy to affect all speakers in the future. In April, however a vote will be necessary on the complete SGGEE budget for the coming year.

**February 27**

Rose Ingram announced that the Lutheran records in the Rowno Archives have now been completely indexed. They include the years 1900 to 1915 from both the Rowno and Tutschin records. As of this date, $3,000 has been wired to Alex Brzhezytsky. Because of unrest in Ukraine, the money has been sent to a bank account in Poland, where Alex will pick it up.

Two workers from the Rowno project are now available to do the same work in the Lutzk Archives, indexing church books from Lutzk, Rozyszcze, and Vladimir Volhynski.

$8000 was allotted and spent for Rowno indexing, and Rose suggests budgeting $10,000 for the Lutsk indexing. $2,000 remains in the Research budget, and Rose would like this to be sent to Alex for the Lutzk indexers as soon as possible. A motion to send $2,000US from the Research Fund to Alex Brzhezynski for this purpose was made on March 1 by Dick Benert, seconded by Edie Adam, received aye votes from Ken, Elvin and Melonie, and declared passed by Sigrid on March 2.

**April 6**

Edie Adam proposed the creation of a Facebook page for the Convention in Ottawa. Renate had offered to create and manage it. There was general approval of the idea and Sigrid gave the go ahead.

**May 8**

Ken Kufeldt notified the Board that the cost of our liability insurance had remained the same as in past years, and that he had decided against taking out an expensive policy to cover a “major blowup” of our Listserve.

**May 13-26**

Elvin Meyers reported his communications with the Cloverdale Library in the Vancouver area concerning the storage of the SGGEE Library in that facility. He asked for advice on how to proceed as he and Brenda Smith, a SGGEE member, held further talks with the Library Manager. After brief discussion, Rose Ingram offered to store the Library at her home in Kamloops, BC, and while it is there, carry out, with an experienced friend, an overall evaluation of its contents along with possible removal or scanning of certain items before sending it on to a more permanent location.

After an appeal from Dick Benert to respond to Rose’s offer, Edie Adam, on May 19, made a motion “to relocate the SGGEE library to Rose’s home for continued evaluation and inventory as a first step to a permanent decision on its future.” Dick seconded the motion. On May 26, Elvin, Melonie and Ken voted in favor, and Sigrid declared it passed. Sigrid also asked Elvin to ask Rose to collaborate with Howard Krushel on a Library Committee report for the AGM in August.

**May 14**

Ken Kufeldt submitted a budget for the fiscal year 2015-16, beginning May 1, and moved its adoption. It was seconded by Dick Benert, with Edie, Ray and Melonie voting in favor. Sigrid announced its adoption on May 20.

**May 17**

Edie Adam submitted the Annual Convention schedule and list of speakers, to be posted on the SGGEE Website. Smaller pieces of this, along with “travel or other logistical information” are to be linked to our Facebook page. Both requests were fulfilled by Karl Krueger on May 18, with the Facebook link placed on the home page.

**May 18**

Rose Ingram reported having sent a request to Ken Kufeldt to send $2000 to Alex Brzhezytski, who had recently established a bank account in Poland to facilitate receiving these research funds.

**May 26**

Ken Kufeldt distributed the 2014-15 Financial Report for publication in the June Journal.

**May 28**

The Board received an email from Don Ehreth, Past President and member of the GRHS Board of Directors, inquiring whether SGGEE would like “to explore mutual interests and other opportunities” for cooperation between the two organizations. In response to his request that SGGEE establish a liaison person with GRHS, Edie Adams volunteered for that role. Dick Benert suggested looking into locating the SGGEE library in GRHS’s library in Bismarck. Further discussion ensued regarding a possible joint convention in the near future.

**June 29**

Ray Bloch sent a review copy of the June SGGEE Journal, and announced its appearance on the SGGEE website on July 13.

**July 20-27**

Edie Adam distributed a four-part motion concerning future conventions. The proposals are:

1. The authority to make the decision for convention sites be given to the Convention committee with review and comment from the BOD.  To provide consistency, the venue for the following year should be announced during the Annual General meeting.

2. Calgary become the designated meeting site in Alberta.  This would simplify the planning process, provide a location where air fares cost less and enable the same hotel facility to be utilized with booking taking place well in advance.

3. In order to meet in alternate locations or sponsor joint conventions where no SGGEE members reside, such as in Salt Lake City, we may need to develop an entirely new convention format.  To provide this flexibility, we are requesting the support of the Board of Directors.

4. In order to have a more functional committee where more tasks are delegated, we are proposing that job descriptions with specific tasks be written and assigned to the members of this committee.

Questions were raised by Dick and Ken about Item 3, lest it grant too much independence of action to the Convention Committee. Edie’s revision of Item 3 read as follows:

The convention committee proposes that alternative dates or formats be allowed in order to hold joint conventions or meet in new locations. This change, which may have policy implications, should be done in consultation with the board of directors.

The motion was passed unanimously on July 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Benert

Recording Secretary