**Annual General Meeting**

**Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE)**

**August 22, 2014 at 4 p.m.**

**Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre**

**1316 – 33rd Street N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2A 6B6**

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Rose Ingram, Past-President, with approximately 75 members in attendance.

1. Approval of minutes from the 2013 Annual General Meeting held in Seattle, Washington, was the first item of business. These Minutes were posted on the SGGEE website and some copies were available at the meeting. Ken Krell moved to approve the minutes as written. Bill Tucholke seconded the motion; the motion carried.
2. There was no business arising from the 2013 minutes.
3. **Committee reports**:

**Membership 2013-2014**: Ted Belke

This report is a snap shot of the membership status as taken on 1 August 2014 and reflects membership activities since last year’s convention report. Membership is virtually unchanged since last year, because the slightly lower renewal rate was offset by an increase in new members.

2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009

Paid Members 628 631 582 590 597 531

Honorary Members 11 12 13 13 11 10

Journal Subscribers 2 2 2 2 2 2

Publication Exchange 10 10 10 10 11 10

Total 651 655 607 615 622 553

The membership transactions since 27 July 2013 are as follows:

New Members PayPal 91 (78%)

New Members Mail 18 (16%)

New Members Convention 7 (6%)

Total 116 (100%)

Renewals PayPal 309 (59%)

Renewals Mail 217 (41%)

Renewals Convention 1 (0.2%)

Total 527 (100%)

This year we have paying members from 14 different counties. We lost Brazil but added France, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine

Australia 7 Canada 244 (248)

Denmark 3 France 1

Germany 122 (117) Norway 1

New Zealand 2 Paraguay 1

Poland 1 Spain 1

Switzerland 1 United Kingdom 3

United States 252 (246) Ukraine 1

Total 651

Renate Dilk was introduced as the new Membership chair. Members showed appreciation to Ted Belke for his work as registrar during the past 6 years and welcomed Renate Dilk.

**Databases:** Gary Warner (see attached [pdf](https://sggee.org/members/Databases%20report%20for%202014.pdf))

**Research:** Rose Ingram

**Zhitomir Archives Indexing Project**, Ken Krell, Zhitomir Indexing Project Leader

The Zhitomir Archives extracting/indexing/translation and editing project for years 1900 to 1914 is nearing completion. The project did come to a halt this past January and February due to the interpretation by the new director of the Archives.

We have received 96,408 lines of birth, marriage and death data with about 2,200 lines left to be indexed and received from Radomysl church records. All files for Heimtal, Emilchin, Novograd Volhynski, have been received, with a few years of Zhitomir yet to be received. Zhitomir is a major parish and has over 32,000 lines of data which require a lot of editing and correcting.

We hope to have all the corrections and editing done and posted on the SGGEE website, in the member’s only section, in about a year.

We have also agreed to have Alex Brzhezytskyy, the current project leader in Zhitomir, translate all the name cards contained within 6 metal files which have about 12,000 to 18,000 names. These cards contain file locations for German land and legal documents.

**Other projects**:

Diethard Kolewe has recently started indexing the Ilow church marriages. To date he is working on the 1830’s marriages.

There are two other parish records in Poland in process of being indexed by volunteers. Once the indexing is finished the data will be posted in the Parish Records Index database and notification of such will be given.

As there are many filmed records of Polish Lutheran and Catholic church books, quite of few of these have been posted on the internet by various Archives. We would someday like to have volunteers do some indexing from these online records, which can be done in the comfort of their homes instead of ordering films and working at a Family History Center.

**North American record indexing**:

We hope to have some more Canadian records posted on the Website soon. Jerry Frank has scanned and indexed Pastor Willing diaries, ultimately 1894-1933, particularly important 1894-1896.

**Lublin Project:** Sigrid Pohl Perry read the report for Karl Krueger, team leader

The Lublin Project is nearly complete regarding all the DVDs that we have received in a readable condition. The last remaining DVDs are slowly being completed now by our German volunteers where several missing years of births or deaths are getting done. Several DVDs of tables will complete this project but these are of lowest priority since this data duplicates what is already in the database. We are open for anyone to volunteer to proof these tables with data already extracted from Napoleonic records as we complete this project.

Dr. Dariusz Chwastek was the pastor at Lublin when this project was initiated in 2006. He was very instrumental in cooperating with us to see this project move forward. As of June 2013 he has been promoted to be the pastor at the main consistory in Warsaw where his absence is being felt in our communications with Lublin. Since Dr. Chwastek left we have been unable to receive any replies from Lublin. People who have ordered records from them have not received any feedback and even their PayPal payments were returned. Until things change it seems no one will be able to order records from Lublin. At the moment our database is the only resource one can use for finding details on records from this archive. We will keep you informed of any progress.

Someone asked how many records were in the database at this time; the information was supplied by Gary Warner: Births 58,763; Deaths 31,681; Marriages 13,296 records

**Publicity:** Sigrid Pohl Perry

Various committee members contacted 66 organizations in Canada and the United States about SGGEE and the Convention once dates and a venue were secured; those in the western states and provinces were contacted again in July 2013 with a reminder about the early registration discount and to include the Convention information in their newsletters or at meetings. We increased our number of contacts by 50% this year and will concentrate on adding organizations in the eastern states and provinces in 2014-2015.

Upon request, the SGGEE brochure and Convention information were supplied to the South Peace Regional Archives in Grand Prairie, Alberta for their Family History Day on February 17, 2014. In the coming year the Publicity Committee will update the general brochure about SGGEE for distribution to organizations for meetings or conventions and include a link to download it from the website.

**Journal:** Bill O’Shea read the report for Ray Bloch, editor of the SGGEE Journal.

We are continuing the quarterly publication of the SGGEE Journal for our members and the continued support of our membership in providing articles and personal stories has been well received by our readers. As with any publication, we are always looking for more materials that can be used in the Journal and our inventory of articles are somewhat low at this time. Any article dealing with our areas of interest will be considered for publication so please feel free to forward it via email at [editor@sggee.org](mailto:editor@sggee.org). If you cannot email it or it requires special handling, please email Ray and he will provide a postal address where it can be mailed via postal mail. If you have documents or pictures that may require scanning originals (for example, photos, documents, etc.), they will later be returned.

We post each Journal to the web site and have approximately seventy individuals and organizations who receive their Journal via postal mail. We exchange the Journal with genealogy societies in the US and Canada and are required to send copies the Canadian Archives in Ottawa, Canada. We do provide the ability to receive previously printed Journals via postal mail and they may be ordered for $5.00 (CDN or USD) plus postage.

We welcome your comments and suggestions so please feel free to contact us directly.

**Finance Report:** Treasurer Ken Kufeldt

Since last year’s Annual General Meeting we have had two fiscal year ends. The first was at our traditional date of September 30, 2013, the results of which were published in the December Journal. The second fiscal year represented a transitional change to our new yearend of April 30 and was only seven months in length. The April 30, 2014 financial reports appeared in our June Journal. The change to our fiscal yearend was adopted last year when SGGEE revised its bylaws in response to new legislation covering “Not for Profit” organizations such as ours. Under this legislation financial statements must now be published and circulated to our membership shortly after the fiscal yearend. Also, the Annual General Meeting must be held approximately three months after circulation to the membership. This is quite a contrast, and a decided improvement to our previous practice, where yearend financial information was almost eleven months old by the time of the AGM.

A comparison of the latest year (2013-2014) to the previous year reveals some differences. Some expense items such as web server costs, journal, etc. were proportionately lower, given the shorter year. However there was only a minor reduction to membership dues as the bulk of this income is received in the months November to February. Of course there was no Convention/AGM during the shortened year so there was no income or expense for this activity.

As you will be aware, SGGEE is in a strong financial position and certainly has the resources to take advantage of any research or technological opportunities that may arise. In addition, we operate very frugally, and I am aware that directors, senior members and committee volunteers personally cover many costs such as driving and sundry expenses rather than bill the organization. This is in addition to them giving very freely of their time. I believe we owe all of these dedicated individuals a vote of thanks.

As a matter of interest, the percentage of membership payments by PayPal continues to slowly increase and is now near 62%. The decision of a few years ago to utilize this payment option for members has been very worthwhile.

Our revised and simplified accounting protocols have worked very well. I have prepared and kept current some fairly detailed guidelines covering most aspects of the accounting process so that in the event I do not carry on after 2015, the transition to a new Treasurer should be relatively smooth.

Volunteers in Calgary are sought who will be part of the Finance Committee so that there can be a smooth transition to a new treasurer in the future.

**Website:** read for Webmaster Karl Krueger by Sigrid Pohl Perry

There was little activity of any significance this year that involved the web site. We continue to add links to online records as they become available for evangelical churches in Russian Poland. John Ziske was kind enough to develop an index of all articles in our journals from 2009-2013. The index is a single document organized as a list of each successive journal issue with its articles. It would be helpful if someone would like to add further levels of organization such as listing articles by author and/or topic.

Frank Stewner continues to update the locations database. This project has matured significantly and he is currently adding new locations as they are encountered with new entries into the MPD.

This spring there was a bothersome glitch that occurred with the listserv as many subscribers were having messages bounced back to the server putting them at risk for getting automatically unsubscribed. It seems this was caused by a technical issue resulting from moving our website from the old server to the current one several years ago. We believe this issue has been resolved and the nagging bounce notifications have stopped since a minor update was made on our end.

Finally a small change was made to make joining membership or renewal easier to find by placing a conspicuous link on our home page.

**Convention:** Bill Tucholke

Calgary, Alberta was once again chosen as the site for the 16th SGGEE convention and annual membership meeting. It is our hope that a reduced registration fee and more emphasis being placed on publicity will increase this year's attendance. [NOTE: 86 registrations were received which was the best attendance in several years.]

Special thanks and recognition go out to Mabel Kiessling who selected and made arrangements with the Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre; to Rose Ingram who continues to be instrumental in working out numerous planning details and providing support to our workshop speakers; to Edie Adam who provided invaluable input along with developing our program guide and finally, to Sigrid Pohl Perry and the members of the Publicity committee who distributed information about our convention.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members and volunteers who have and are providing much needed assistance during the convention. Their willingness to volunteer creates a helpful and supportive atmosphere and the sharing of genealogical expertise among our members is often cited year after year as one of the highlights of our conventions.

Finally, the Convention committee is always in need of fresh ideas and input from our members. We encourage you to join the committee if you would like to become more involved in planning our future conventions. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of member suggestions. This includes: Selecting locations; identifying meaningful workshop topics; and finding knowledgeable speakers. We encourage all to fill out the Convention survey for more input to the Committee and request more volunteers to join the Committee.

Amendment by Rose Ingram: 2015 Convention site: Board of Directors and Convention Committee are seeking a site in eastern Canada. An announcement will be posted to the List-serve when a decision has been made.

A summary of Convention speakers and presentations will be published in the SGGEE Journal and posted on the Website along with some photographs.

**Library:** report by Rose Ingram

Howard Krushel has asked not to continue any longer as the librarian and for materials to no longer be stored in his home. The Board determined that they should be stored in a local climate controlled facility and a SGGEE member to be found to succeed as librarian.

1. **New business**

The SGGEE registered office must be in Alberta, preferably in Calgary. The Directors determined that Earl Schultz would be willing to have his address listed. Ted Belke moved, and Marnie McCall seconded to approve the Directors’ decision to move the registered office from 136 Silver Springs Drive, Calgary, Alberta, T3B 3G4 to 13 Mount Robson Close SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2Z 2B8. The motion carried. (NOTE: The following address continues to be used for all postal deliveries: Box 905 Stn. “M”, Calgary, AB T2P 2J6)

1. **Appointment of auditor:** Member Virginia Braun will continue to do the annual audit and report; she does this as her volunteer contribution. Judy Hagen moved, Earl Schultz seconded to approve Virginia Braun as auditor. The motion carried.
2. **Election of Directors** to replace 2 retiring Directors, each for a 3 year term. Retiring Directors include Bill O’Shea and Ray Bloch; however, Ray will remain as Past-President. Rose Ingram will retire. Melonie Liening was nominated by Joyce Guasch and seconded by Bill Tucholke. Melonie was approved as a Director. Edie Adam was nominated by Ken Kufeldt and seconded by Ken Krell. Edie was approved as a Director.

Sigrid Pohl Perry asked that the membership show appreciation to Rose Ingram for revising the Bylaws and carrying SGGEE through the transition to the new Industry Canada regulations during her term as President. Rose received a round of applause in appreciation.

Rose Ingram announced that a get well card for Jerry Frank who has been in the hospital will be available for signing in the research room which will be open at 6pm. Sigrid Pohl Perry announced that several members would be available to give a demonstration about dna and genealogy at 7pm.

Don Jabusch moved to adjourn the meeting; Edie Adam seconded motion. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sigrid Pohl Perry, Recording Secretary