

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 16, 2015, BILLINGS, MONTANA**

Call to Order: President Robert Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:45 with a quorum present. Bill Dellos moved and Don Schenk seconded that the Standing Rules of Order as printed on page 27 of the Convention Manual be approved. Motion carried. Nick Bretz was appointed Parliamentarian and Timekeeper.

President's Report: President Wagner's report noted the following: (1) the need to increase our membership, (2) continuing to incorporate technology and use of social media, (3) issues as a result of recent heavy rains in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the need to protect our collections. He also commented on the development of a new website, migration to new software for database management, increased visibility of AHSGR in the community including over 600 visitors to the AHSGR campus since the beginning of 2015, and the availability of Interlibrary Loan for our library collection.

Headquarters Report: Executive Director Sherry Pawelko noted the increased visibility of AHSGR through activities such as the Sheldon Library display and History Harvest project, projects with local universities that have enabled AHSGR to have interns, the increased number of volunteers at headquarters and volunteer hours (e.g., 471 hours in June 2015 as compared with 75 hours in May 2014), and AHSGR presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. To date 840 of our family histories have been digitized and work continues on that project. Also, headquarters will be producing and identifying videos for chapters to use in their meetings. Goals for 2015--2016 are increasing the protection of our collections and increasing membership.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the July 10, 2014, Annual Business Meeting are printed on page 28 of the Convention Manual. Don Schenk moved, Nick Bretz seconded that the minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dennis Zitterkopf stated that the written report is available for members in the registration area. The audit report is found on pages 33-41 of the Convention Manual.

Committee Reports: Annual reports are available in written form in the registration area.

Nominating Committee: Donita (Dodie) Rotherham indicated that there are 18 open positions for the Board of Directors and nine individuals have indicated they will serve.

District 1—Nominations for one 3-year term – Donita (Dodie) Rotherham

District 1—Nominations for one 2-year term –

District 2—Nominations for one 3-year term – Rob Miller

District 3—Nominations for one 3-year term – Marvin Heckman

District 4—Nominations for one 3-year term –

District 4—Nominations for two 1-year terms –

District 4—Nominations for one 2-year term –

District 6—Nominations for two 3-year terms – Karen Penner and Mike Meisinger

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District 7—Nominations for one 3-year term – William Dellos
District 8—Nominations for one 3-year term – Wilhelm Doos
District 9—Nominations for one 3-year term – Patricia Sellenrick
District 11—Nominations for one 2-year term –
District 11—Nominations for one 1-year term –
District 12—Nominations for one 3-year term – Karen Soeken
District 13—Nominations for one 1-year term –
District 14—Nominations for one 1-year term –

There was unanimous consent for approval of the nominees.

Jim Weibert, Chair of the Elections Committee, opened nominations from the floor for the unfilled positions.

District 1 – Nominations for one 2-year term – Susan Nakaji

There was unanimous consent for approval of the nominee. The Society Board of Directors will make out--of--district appointments for the remaining positions.

Proposed Bylaws: The proposed Bylaws changes printed on pages 30--31 of the Convention Manual were presented to the convention. The Board of Directors then moved the following amendment to the proposed changes: (1) Add to the New Section B the sentence ‘Only the investment income from the Life Membership Fund will be used for Society operations.’ And add to the new Section C the sentence that ‘Each person who is over the age of 14 years who is a member is entitled to one (1) vote.’

The amendment carried. The proposed Bylaws as amended carried.

New Business: Jerry Siebert extended an invitation to the 2016 convention in Concord, California, under the theme “Before the Storm.”

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karen Soeken, Secretary, Board of Directors

2016 Board of Directors Nominations

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (International)

Below are the Board of Directors nominations and election information. The data is separated by district. Listed first are the names of current board members, their current terms, and the dates of terms they are serving. Board members are allowed to serve consecutive three-year terms. See the AHSGR bylaws for more nomination and election information (Article XII: Elections). Where terms begin in 2016 (*), the candidates listed have agreed to be nominated in July at the 2016 AHSGR Convention in Concord, California. Where vacancies are noted (+), there are no nominees. As stated in the bylaws, AHSGR will NOT mail ballots for Board of Directors seats that are uncontested.

District 1: California (4 seats)

Dodie Rotherham	Third Term	2015-2018
Sue Nakaji	First Term	2015-2018
Jerry Siebert	Sixth Term	2014-2017
Leonard Welsh	Second Term	2016-2019*

District 2: Washington and Alaska (2 seats)

Rob Miller	Second Term	2015-2018
Dennis Reich	First Term	2014-2017

District 3: Nebraska (3 seats)

Nancy Borrell	Fourth Term	2016-2018*
Delores Schwartz	First Term	2014-2017
Pam Wurst	Second Term	2016-2019*

District 4: Colorado (4 seats)

Vacancy		2015-2018+
Vacancy		2016-2019+
Vacancy		2016-2019+
Vacancy		2014-2017+

District 5: Oregon (1 seat)

Ed Wagner	Third Term	2014-2017
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District 6: Kansas (2 seats)

Karen Penner	Fourth Term	2015-2018
Mike Meisinger	Second Term	2015-2018

District 7: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah (3 seats)

Greg Amen	Second Term	2014-2017
Bill Dellos	Second Term	2015-2018
Judy Gareis	Third Term	2016-2019*

District 8: Illinois and Wisconsin (1 seat)

Bill Doos	Second Term	2015-2018
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District 9: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota (1 seat)

Patricia Sellenrick	Fourth Term	2015-2018
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District 10: Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio (1 seat)

Vacancy		2014-2017+
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District 11: Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri (2 seats)

Vacancy		2014-2017+
Richard Dann	First Term	2016-2019*

District 12: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and the Virgin Islands (2 seats)

Jill Gaddis	First Term	2015-2018
Karen Soeken	Second Term	2015-2018

District 13: Canada and other countries (1 seat)

Vacancy		2016-2019+
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District 14: Any AHSGR member in good standing (at-large) district (3 seats)

Bob Meininger	Third Term	2016-2019*
Kevin Rupp	Fourth Term	2016-2019*
Stephen Murray	First Term	2016-2019*

2016 PROPOSED IFAHSGR BYLAW CHANGES

Policy B4, Article IV: Board of Trustees

Section B. The Board of Trustees shall consist of eleven (11) elected members.

Section D. Each of eight (8) members of the Board of Trustees shall serve a Representative District. Three (3) at-large members shall be elected, except they shall not come from the same district; (The remainder of this paragraph is unchanged.)

Section E. Representative Districts

District 1. California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska

District 2. Nebraska

District 3. Colorado

District 4. Kansas

District 5. Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah

District 6. Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri

District 7. Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Canada

District 8. All states not listed above

District 9. At Large

District 10. At Large

District 11. At Large

Section J. Five (5) members of the BOT shall constitute a quorum. There will be no proxy vote.

Rationale.

When the By Laws were originally written our membership was growing, eventually reaching over 5,000. Membership at this time is declining and we are hard-pressed to recruit Board members. The proposed changes will make it easier to fill the positions and still retain approximately the same proportional representation as when originally written.

In summary, the changes are: fifteen (15) trustees will decrease to eleven (11). Of the eleven (11), three (3) will be At Large instead of two (2), and five (5) will constitute a quorum instead of seven (7). Representative District changes are for the Foundation only. Thus, we will have a smaller but more workable Board of Trustees.

D. C. Schenk, IFAHSGR Vice President