

Committee Reports

2017-2018

Archives

Members: Kevin Rupp (Chair), Michael Brown, Bill Doos, Bob Meininger, Mike Meisinger, Harold Penner, Patti Sellenrick, Leonard Welch.

The AHSGR Archives Committee strives to follow the mission statement, “dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.”

Below is a list of the current projects and accomplishment from summer 2017 – summer 2018.

1. In 2014 the Archives Committee began working on the Kukkus Kanton area and those designated by the various donors for various villages and records. The focus of the Archives sub-committee is to obtain as many records that are possible, have them translated and compile them in a standardized method making them available in the AHSGR Store to members and non-members. Currently our committee is working on these villages:
 - a. Alt-Doenhof – Birth 1815-1852
 - b. Bangert (Zaumorye) – Births 1826-1841; Marriages 1826-1841; Deaths 1826-1841
 - c. Dietel – Births 1870-1884, Marriages 1892, 1894; Family Lists 1901/1902, 1908-1918
 - d. Lauwe – Births 1794-1811
 - e. Louis (Mariental) – Births 1789-1827; Marriages 1827-1834; 1835-1838; 1842-1855, 1856-1887, 1889, 1891, 1894, 1901, 1905-1917 (no books for 1916-1917);
 - f. Messer 1897 Census
 - g. Obermunjou – Births 1821-1826, 1897-1934
 - h. Rosenberg Parish –
 - i. Alexandertal – Births 1902, Marriages 1905, Deaths 1904
 - ii. Beideck – Births 1902, Marriages 1905, Deaths 1904
 - iii. Erlenbach – Births 1902, Marriages 1905, deaths 1904
 - iv. Neu-Norka – Marriages 1905, Deaths 1904
 - v. Oberdorf – Births 1902, Marriages 1905, deaths 1904
 - vi. Rosenberg – Births 1902, Marriages 1905
 - vii. Shilling – Births 1902, Marriages 1905, Deaths 1904
 - viii. Unterdorf – Marriages 1905, Deaths 1904
 - i. Stahl-am-Tarlyk – Births 1908-1915
 - j. Straub – Births 1816-1833 (1834-1846 Not Available), 1900-1907

Not all these records have been translated, but many are in the process. All records will be available from the AHSGR store as soon as they have been translated and complied.

2. Other projects that are in the works include:
 - a. Mennonites in the Military Service 1881 – 1917
 - b. Connections with Siberia
 - c. An article written about the Military Draft that will be placed in an upcoming Journal.
 - d. Open talks with CVGS in publishing translations that they have acquired.
3. Possible Translation Projects:
 - a. We have found several records from these villages but are in need of funds to purchase

them and to have them translated. If anyone is interested in donating to any of these projects please contact the Archives Chair, Kevin Rupp, for more information.

These villages include:

Anton

Taufen: 1764-73, 1821-31, 1827-44, 1834-48, 1845-57, 1899-1920, 1903-10, 1910-15, 1916-20

Trau: 1821-34, 1834-51, 1834-63, 1906-19

Tod: 1764-73, 1821-31, 1821-44, 1834-51, 1845-68

Personalbuecher: 1834-45, 1846-60, 1861-75, 1876-90, 1904-18 (two volumes)

Basel

Trau: 1877-1907

Bauer

Taufen: 1894-1905

Personalbuecher: 1834-45, 1861-75, 1876-90

Bettinger (Baratajewka)

Taufen: 1890-98

Brunnentahl

Taufen: 1894-1905

Personalbuecher: 1860-69

Dinkel

Taufen: 1794-1811, 1812-25, 1826-33, 1834-58

Tod: 1834-63, 1844-64

Personalbuecher: Familienliste 1768-1826

Eckheim

Taufen: 1870-1907

Tod: 1870-1914

Ehrenfeld

Tod: 1875-1912

Glarus

Taufen: 1780, 1792-1815 (includes Baratajewka, Schafhausen, Basel, Unterwalden, Susannenthal, Baskakofka, Resanofka, Brockhausen, and Hockersberg)

Trau: 1821-34, 1834-51, 1834-63, 1906-19

Tod: 1764-73, 1821-31, 1821-44, 1834-51, 1845-68

Personalbuecher: 1834-45, 1846-60, 1861-75, 1876-90, 1904-18 (2 volumes)

Gnadentau

Personalbuch: 1864

Grimm

Taufen: 1910-18, 1921

Personalbuch: 1906-27 (3 volumes)

Huck

Taufen: 1836-49, 1919-21

Trau: 1905-13, 1911-21

Tod: 1844, 1845-47, 1892-98

Kamenka

Taufen: 1905-18

Trau: 1901-21

Kutter

Personbücher: 1834-45, 1891-1905, Familienliste 1873, Familienliste 1906 (2 volumes)

Langenfeld

Taufen: 1896-1920

Neu-Beideck

Taufen: 1903-18

Neu Kolonie (und Seelmann)

Taufen: 1835-38, 1838-53, 1859-64

Trau: 1839-60

Tod: 1840-58

Niedermonjou

Taufen: 1834-54, 1855-61, 1849-63

Tod: 1854-64

Reinwald

Taufen: 1787-1805, 1815-37, 1832-43, 1844-66

Trau: 1787-1805, 1820-33, 1834-47, 1834-65, 1897-1903

Tod: 1787-1805, 1815-33, 1836, 1834-46

Personalbuecher: Familienliste 1874

Rosenfeld/Rosowoje

Taufen: 1863-83, 1884-91, 1901-12, 1913-18, 1916-21

Trau: 1863-82

Tod: 1877-91, 1892-1914, 1915-18, 1916-18

Rosenfeld/Norki

Taufen: 1896-1915, July, 1916

Rosenthal

Taufen: 1884-93, 1901-14

Tod: 1884-93

Schilling

Taufen: 1842-61, 1845-58, 1859-78, 1902-06, 1906-17, 1918-21

Trau: 1903-12

Personalbücher: 1900-27, 1928-32, Volkszählung 1897, Revisionliste 1881

Schwed (Zvonarev Kut)

Taufen: 1833-44, 1845-57

Trau: 1853-57

Tod: 1845-57

Stahl am Tarlyk

Taufen: 1835-41, 1841-61, 1901-12, 1913-18, 1916-21

Trau: 1841-58

Tod: 1835-40, 1841-61

Straub

Taufen: 1859-73

Warenburg

Taufen: 1794-1811, 1812-25

Kevin Rupp, Chair

Convention Management Committee

Members: Susan Nakaji (Chair), Nancy Borrell, Bill Dellos, Judy Gareis, Jerry Siebert, Kevin Rupp, Karen Soeken, Shirley Wilcoxon

2018 Convention status: Registration was 227 at the close of early-bird registration.

The tours are being conducted on Monday and Tuesday. They include: a village tour of Catherine, Victoria (Herzog) and Pfeifer including the majestic churches and cemeteries. We will also tour historic St. Joseph Church in Hays. This tour will conclude with a meal served at the St. Joseph annex building, by parishioners of St. Francis Church of Munjor. The second tour is of local museums including the Ellis County Historical Society, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History and the Bukovina Society Headquarters-Museum. The third is an Artisan tour of Pete Felten's Stone Gallery, Gella's Diner and Lb. Brewing Co., Bruce Burkholder's gallery with a final stop at Defiance Brewery and Taproom.

Three cooking classes are offered this year.

International speakers include Olga Litzenberger from Russia and Michael Wanner from Germany.

Favorite activities such as the Quilt Raffle, Kuchen Break, Silent Auction, Bookstore and Research Room are planned.

I would like to acknowledge Kevin Rupp and his local committee in Hays for their hard work organizing the Hays volunteers and adding a local flavor to the convention. Thank you to Misty Graham of Fort Hays State University and Janet Kuhn of the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau for their help planning this event.

It takes many volunteers to host a convention and thank you to the board members who have stepped up to help organize this convention. All convention attendees are welcome to volunteer. A white board will be at the registration desk for people to sign up.

2019 Convention status: The 2019 Convention will be in Lincoln, Neb. This will be the Golden Jubilee, 50th anniversary of AHSGR conventions. The Embassy Suites hotel is the site.

2020 Convention: Under the leadership of Rob Miller and with help from the Yakima Chapter, the 2020 Convention is being planned for Washington State. The tri-cities area and Yakima are under consideration.

Susan Nakaji, Chair

Editorial and Publications Committee

Members: Jerry Siebert (Chair), Michael Brown, Bob Meininger, Marlene Michel, Stephen Murray, Sue Nakaji, Karen Soeken, Delores Tippet

Publications policies are established by the Board of Directors. Responsibility for initial development of publications policy, review of publications policies and procedures, development of records, reports, and budgets, and recommendations for publication and sale of publications and other materials is given to the Editorial and Publications Committee of the Board of Directors. This committee is assisted by the Publications Coordinator Dan Moser.

During the past 12 months, the AHSGR Newsletter and Journal have been published and distributed on a quarterly basis. The Journal's editor is Robert Meininger, who is assisted by an Editorial Committee and other reviewers of articles. Articles are drawn from many sources and involve articles, essays, family histories, anecdotes, folklore, book reviews, and items regarding all aspects of the lives of Germans from/in Russia. High priority is given to articles that contain historical and/or genealogical information and research. Especially important are those articles that have been published in Russia, Ukraine, other former Russian or Soviet areas, Germany, and South America.

The Newsletter is intended to provide timely information regarding AHSGR programs and activities. It is edited by Dan Moser.

The highest priority in publication of books, monographs, and other materials for sale in the AHSGR bookstore is for those for which AHSGR has a copyright. These materials may involve translations of books and other materials relating to history, genealogy, or folklore published originally in foreign languages or original manuscripts based on research.

AHSGR has a continuous stream of requests from various authors to sell their books and other published materials in the AHSGR bookstore. These publications usually are already being sold in other outlets such as Amazon. All publications that are received by AHSGR are reviewed by the Editorial and Publications committee. In most cases, the publications are placed in the AHSGR library and a book review written and published in the Newsletter with purchasing instructions.

The youth newsletter, *Jugend Zeitung*, continued to be published in an electronic format and distributed by e-mail to AHSGR members. Thanks go to Susan Nakaji for her leadership.

The committee continued to review books and other publications to be sold and distributed electronically. Future publications will be sold and distributed in this format.

Beginning in 2015, the AHSGR Newsletter and Journal are distributed electronically, which results in savings and affords an opportunity to upgrade the quality and timeliness of news and other articles for distribution to members. More than 2,000 AHSGR members now receive all publications by e-mail attachment in PDF format.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the review of books, articles, periodicals, and other publications. If you are interested in doing so, please contact the Publications Coordinator.

The Editorial and Publications committee will continue to work on bringing historical, genealogical, and folklore publications to AHSGR members.

During the past year, a video “**John Biel Returns: A Visit To The Volga German Villages**” was produced and premiered at the 2017 convention. It joins “Norka – A Passage in Time” which premiered at the 2016 convention. In addition, the AHSGR cookbook, “Kuche Kochen,” continues to be a best seller, especially at Christmas.

Jerry Siebert , Chair

Facilities Committee

Members: Nancy Burrell (Chair), Susan Casseday, Judy Gareis, Cheryl Glanz, Bob Meininger, Stephen Murray, Leonard Welch, Pam Wurst

As usual there are continuing projects to be done at headquarters. We have replaced a couple of fire doors on the lower level. We have a new screen door on the summer kitchen and the threshold has been repaired.

As in other years, there have been some issues with the mowers but they have been resolved. They have been contacted now for help with our weeds.

We have security cameras installed now. There are three outside, one to the front door, one to the back door and one to the parking lot. Inside we have two on the second floor, two on the first floor and one in the basement.

There have been a couple of issues with the air conditioner but they are fixed.

Our handyman fixed a problem with the back door not closing.

The city has installed street lights on C Street between Sixth and Seventh on our side of the street. It was a very good addition for us.

Nancy Burrell, Chair

Finance & Personnel Committee

Members: Rob Miller (Chair), Susan Casseday, Bill Dellos, Dennis Reich, Dodie Rotherham, Jerry Siebert, Ed Wagner.

The Finance and Personnel Committee is responsible for preparing annual budget and presenting it as well as regular financial reports to the Board of Directors; reviewing and making modifications to AHSGR’s investment portfolio. It is also responsible for personnel issues such as policies, compensation and benefit plans, along with making sure adequate staffing is maintained.

This last year the committee has worked on creating a balanced budget. We were successful in doing so, by not only having a budget that did not require taking from our reserve, but also allowed us to finish the year with a positive balance.

It was also a year of staff turnover. The vacancies allowed us to review our needs for staffing and make some changes that allow AHSGR to have the resources available to address areas of focus for future growth as well as providing assistance to current members. Along with this came a review of our current benefits package which is still evolving.

Rob Miller, Chair

Genealogical Research Service Committee

Members: Karen Suderman Penner (Chair), Mike Meisinger (Vice Chair) Sue Nakaji, Rob Miller, Ronald Rutz, Kevin Rupp, Patti Sellenrick, Pam Wurst, Christina Zahn, Joe Gertge (ex-officio)

Our Mission: The mission of the Genealogy Committee of the American Historical Society (AHSGR) is (1) to discover, collect, and preserve German Russian history and cultural heritage information of a genealogical nature, (2) to organize information in the AHSGR library on German settlers in the Russian Empire, (3) to disseminate information to German Russian descendants, (4) to educate and promote to the general public the German Russian heritage and history, and (5) to provide and maintain an appropriate facility and equipment to carry out the mission of our committee.

The Genealogy Committee oversees the AHSGR library and archival holdings, including family histories, genealogical files, surname charts, and Russian censuses, etc. Our holdings cover all areas of German Russians (GR): the Volga region, Ukraine and Black Sea region, the Volhynia Colonies, and the Mennonites. We also have South American GR holdings, including a South American CLUES. Other areas our committee oversees are the Village Coordinator program, the publication of CLUES, Genealogy Consulting Workshops, and securing speakers at our annual conventions. Our link to our members is through the dedicated work of Executive Director Sherry Pawelko and her staff. We welcome our new Research Librarian Sara Roberts, who began her duties April 18, 2018. Yulia Tsymbal has served as our Archive Research Coordinator for many years. Her research with the Russian Archives, her translation work, and much more has been invaluable to the Genealogy Committee and AHSGR. We are sad to announce that she will retire after the convention. She plans to continue with projects she has been coordinating, including the Russian Military Draft project. Other staff members include Dan Moser, editorial and publications coordinator; Lauren Stewart, assistant librarian/customer outreach specialist; and Becky Hansen, office assistant. We are grateful to each of them for their excellent performance on our behalf, as well as their hospitality to the many visitors and researchers who use our valuable holdings, one of the largest collections of German Russian material in the United States.

The AHSGR Research Library: The AHSGR library holdings are available on Online Computer Library Center Inc. (OCLC), including the Arthur Flegel book collection, which allows access to our library. Our research librarian and many volunteers work tirelessly to complete and update our inventory and holdings. All censuses have been catalogued. Sara has many goals, such as to organize the bookshelves near the librarian's desk on the west wall. She has created a *Library & Archives Use Form* for researchers to sign when coming into library to research. Thank you to Sara and all our continuing volunteers, and to former librarian Diane Wilson, who retired in April. Security lockers for researchers have been purchased and installed on first floor near the entry desk.

Arthur Flegel: The Genealogy Committee shares our great sadness at the death of Arthur E. Flegel on March 16, 2018. We are forever indebted to this founding member of AHSGR, who was a giant and the heart of AHSGR

and the Genealogy Committee. We cherish his memory and the amazing personal legacy he leaves. It will live on through his generous donation of his large Arthur E. Flegel Library, collected over a lifetime of all areas of German Russian books, research materials, and family histories. The Arthur E. and Cleora Flegel Living Legacy Fund now has more than \$135,000 in it.

CLUES 2019: **CLUES** is a research tool or a Surname Exchange that enables AHSGR members who are researching similar names to engage in correspondence that can prove mutually beneficial. The AHSGR Board voted to publish a Golden Anniversary **CLUES 2019**, and work to prepare for publication will begin this summer. It will be sent to qualifying members in December of 2019. If you do not qualify to receive a **CLUES** with the membership you now have, you may purchase a copy from AHSGR for \$5. Please check your **CLUES 2016** and if you find an error in your information, please notify AHSGR so it can be corrected in the **CLUES 2019**.

Village Coordinators (VC) Program: The Genealogy Committee works with VCs to preserve our village and family histories, and we encourage all VCs to make their files available in our library holdings so they are preserved. The large collection of village files have been scanned and digitized. AHSGR has an email address on ahsgr.org to be used for Village Coordinator communication. This allows new emails to be forwarded through Microsoft Outlook rather than RootsWeb, which will allow attachments to be sent by VCs. Unfortunately, there are many villages that do not have Village Coordinators, and if that includes your village, please consider becoming a VC. We continue to strive to improve our services to the VCs and to promote a strong link of communication between our members, the VCs, and AHSGR.

Obituaries: Obituaries are available on FamilySearch. When signing up with FamilySearch in 2012, AHSGR originally sent 450,000 obituaries that we believe are online. We sent approximately 80,000 obituaries to FamilySearch in the fall of 2016, but we are not sure if they have been added to Family Search. Mike Meisinger, vice chair of our committee, works with FamilySearch as to whether or not the obits are online. During 2017 and up to April of 2018, about 11,000 obits were scanned and are on two external hard drives ready to be sent to FamilySearch. The Genealogy Committee solicits obituaries of German Russian ancestors, as well as current GR obituaries, German or English. The obituaries can be digitally sent to AHSGR or a hard copy attached to an 8 by 11 ½ sheet of paper, with a heading of the source of the obit on the left, city and state of source in the middle, and date on the right. The obituary should be taped to the page about 1 inch below heading. Here is a sample of the top of the page:

Name of Publication or Source	City and State of Publication or Source	Date
Heritage Hall is a popular area at conventions that includes pictorial displays of many of the areas in Russia, including the Volga, Ukraine (Black Sea), Volhynia and Mennonite regions. Each village or village group has a notebook with further information. Be sure to visit this area during the convention. If you cannot find information on your village, please consider preparing a display with pictures and information for your village to be displayed at conventions.		

Village Coordinators and Village Area Discussion Groups. There are many open positions for villages that do not have a Village Coordinator. If your village does not have a VC, and you are interested in coordinating research for your village and responding to inquiries from researchers interested in your village, for AHSGR members and non-members, please contact the AHSGR Research Library (Sara Roberts) in Lincoln.

Please note Village Coordinators will meet at the 2018 Hays, Kansas, Convention at 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31. The following individual Village Area Discussion Groups will meet as follows:

Wednesday, Aug. 1: At 10:45 to 11:45: Village Areas 2, 8, 11 and 12
12 Noon to 1 p.m., Village Areas 1, 10 and 14

Thursday, Aug. 2: 10:45 to 11:45: Village Areas 3, 4, 7 and 13

Be sure to check the official program as to what Village Area your village is in, and check the times and places the VCs will meet on Tuesday, and where your individual Village Area Discussion group will meet.

As you research your family and village history, we continue to work to provide assistance to you. If you have ideas on ways we can improve providing genealogical research help for our members, please feel free to contact any Genealogy Committee member or AHSGR headquarters. Thank you for your support.

Karen Suderman Penner, Chair

Historical Research Committee

Members: Patti Sellenrick, chair; Michael Brown, Dick Davenport, Bill Doos, Mike Meisinger, Harold Penner, Kevin Rupp, Ed Wagner, Pam Wurst, Christina Zahn.

The Historical Research Committee has been working on a number of projects throughout the year. Translation of books, papers, documents and materials we receive from the archives in Russia is a primary focus and a major challenge. One of the strategies we have incorporated is to translate the Table of Contents and Introduction of books and manuscripts we have identified.

The society relies entirely on donor funding to complete a project with a contracted translator, particularly books and larger manuscripts. In addition, many of our translation projects such as archival records, articles, and documents are completed through the generous donation from qualified volunteers. The committee would welcome both the donation of funding for a translation project or individuals who wish to volunteer their time and expertise to help with this huge task. An agreement for both contracted and volunteer translators has been developed in order to provide a clear understanding between the society and translators as to the expectations and outcomes of the project.

Translation projects completed this past year include “Mein Herz blieb in Russland: Russlanddeutsche erzählen aus ihrem Leben” Larissa Dyck, Heinrich Mehl (Hg.)– 10. September 2008. Volunteer Translator Anne Stang finished the translation and the project was forwarded to the Editorial and Publications Committee for review, editing and decisions regarding how to disseminate this project.

In addition, translation of the Spanish book, “Crónicas De Otros Tiempos” by Generoso Maria Stang is currently being translated by volunteer translator Jan Siebert. This is an ongoing project.

Other books that have been identified for translation include “Annotirovannaa opis del kollekcii ...” (Annotated Inventory of Collection in Engel Archives on Roman Catholic Churches) – originally published (in 2009) for which we have received a \$1,000 donation. We are interested in receiving additional funding to complete the translation project. Another project scheduled for translation is “Ethnography of Russian Germans” by Tatiana Smirnova. Progress on this project is dependent upon donor funding. Several other books have been identified by the committee for translation as soon as donor funding becomes available.

Translation of articles and letters from “*The Die Welt Post*” which was a German newspaper published in Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., from 1916 to 1936 has been an ongoing project. These articles and letters were received from relatives in Russia and provided a window into the life of the Germans from Russia as well as a personal update for their families in America. Progress is moving forward on this project and continues to be dependent upon availability of translators and donor funding.

In addition, we continue to work on transcribing and translating the Aussiedler Tapes. We are attempting to contact members of the German Russian communities in Germany where many of these tapes were recorded and ask for assistance with this project. Although the tapes were recorded in the German language, it is the “old” German which is not used in Germany today and therefore more challenging to understand for individuals not familiar with the German Russians who grew up around the early 1900s. The tapes include information about daily life in Russia and family traditions and are a treasured resource to understand and connect to our heritage. The committee is interested in identifying individuals who have the skills to transcribe these audiotapes, whether living in the United States or elsewhere.

Staff and volunteers continue to work on the preservation and organization of our collections. One of the concerns that we have had is the possibility of losing any of our collections to natural disasters such as flooding or other unfortunate incidents. Not only does the scanning of the materials allow us to preserve a copy in an off-site location, but it makes the material more accessible to our membership and interested individuals. We continue to preserve the original documents, photos and other collections in recommended archival safe manner unique to each type of collection. In addition, an on-going project is to maintain an updated inventory of our collections.

Over 1,500 photos have been digitized and the originals stored in an archival safe manner this past year. In addition, implementing the use of “PastPerfect,” a software program specifically designed for use by museums has been a priority this year. Donor funding was used to purchase the software and additional funding is needed for the continuous update of the program. Interested individuals may contact Sara Roberts, librarian at headquarters, for more information on this project. This program is widely used by museums across the country and will allow the organization to properly develop and maintain our priceless collections.

The volunteer museum committee has continued to work diligently to keep an up-to-date inventory of our collections, as well as organize the materials in archival safe storage. The inventories of our collections have been completed both in the museum and headquarters, as well as the other buildings on campus. This highly capable and knowledgeable group continues to develop interesting displays throughout the headquarters building that tell our story and generate interest in our heritage and the society. Whether or not you have had the opportunity to visit headquarters in the past few years, you should put this on your list of regular places to visit. The displays are changed regularly and you don’t want to miss this amazing venue!

There is a significant amount of work that remains to be done as well as projects that are not mentioned here. We welcome donations and volunteer assistance to continue with this work. Again, thank you to the staff and volunteers who are responsible for this amazing work in all areas that we work with.

Patti Sellenrick, Chair

Membership and Public Affairs Committee

Obtaining and maintaining membership is always the heartbeat of any organization. It is especially true of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia as our core membership is aging. The tried and true methods of the past are continuing to be implemented. However, one of the challenges is to attract the younger members who will sustain our society into the future. We need to go where they are and that is social media.

We are using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other sites to spread the word of the benefits of becoming a member. Other sources include tourism bureaus, similar genealogical and historical societies, youth groups, speaker’s bureaus, and others. Our greatest resource of all is YOU! It is up to you to tell our story and the benefits of being a member of AHSGR to everyone you know. Invite your friends and family to join us. Buy a gift membership if necessary.

Communication within our organization is also very important. The membership committee has made a commitment to personally assist each chapter by visiting your chapter meetings and keeping you in touch through all means of communication. We are here to support your chapters in whatever way possible. Contact us with your ideas, suggestions, and needs. Let us know what is working for you and what assistance you may need.

Shirley Wilcoxon, Chair

Nominating Committee

Members: Mike Meisinger, Chair; Nancy Borrell, Bill Dellos, Rob Miller, Ronald Rutz.

During the board year 2017 – 2018 the Nominating Committee met at the October and April Board of Directors meetings, in Lincoln, Neb., to prepare for the 2018 board year elections.

One of our goals was to continue to evaluate the board cycles and ensure board membership was maintained and one-third of the board rotated off each year. This task has been completed and the board cycles continue to be and are currently in sync.

Cycle 3 board term ends in July, 2018 which automatically opens 10 board positions. In addition, there are two open positions in cycle 2 and two open positions in cycle 1.

The districts are evaluated every four years to determine if changes are needed based on membership within the districts. As a result of this analysis Nebraska will be going from three to two board members and Canada and other countries will be going from one to two board members.

The committee developed a list of candidates to fill vacancies. Candidates have been contacted and all nominees listed have agreed to serve. As of June, 2019, nine of the 10 Cycle 3 positions have been filled.

Remaining positions to be filled for cycle 3 are:

District 2: Washington and Alaska (2 seats in district)

Cycle 2: Two-year position 2018 – 2020

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

Cycle 1: One-year position 2018 - 2019

District 11: Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri (2 seats)

Cycle 1: One-year position 2018 - 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,

Technology Committee

Members: Harold Penner (Chair), Dick Davenport, Cheryl Glanz, Marlene Michel, Rob Miller, Dennis Reich, Leonard Welch

At our Spring Board of Directors meeting, we were joined by Simon from Bizco (our Lincoln based technology support company).

We discussed and approved getting a volunteer ID for Your Membership software to facilitate Bookstore sales at convention.

Simon can use Sherry's Your Membership ID for the purpose of troubleshooting IT needs.

Simon and Cheryl to research using Square for credit card purchases by our members at conventions, particularly paying attention to cost of service verses our present method, and equipment compatibility of our present computer equipment and system requirements of Square.

A motion was made to the Board:

-- To buy new registration laptop with Windows Pro 10, not to exceed \$500 -- primary use at conventions, registrations and as a backup at HQ. Goal is to reduce frustrations at convention, and increase customer satisfaction to support our convention attendees. Funding from board-designated funds. The Motion was approved.

Harold Penner, Chair