

2018-2019 Committee Reports

Ancestral Records Committee

(Formerly known as the Archives Committee and Historical Research Committee)

2019 Annual Report

Kevin Rupp, Chair

The AHSGR Ancestral Records 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...within the copyrights they pertain to.

Our committee currently consists of the following members:

Kevin Rupp (Chair), Michael Brown, Dick Davenport, Bill Doos, Larry Gerlach, Mike Meisinger, Michel Marlene, Harold Penner, Dodie Rotherham, Ed Wagner, Leonard Welch, Pam Wurst & Christina Zahn.

Non-Board Member – Yulia Tsymbal

Our first task at the end of last year's AHSGR Convention in Hays was to combine the two committees, Archives and Historical Research, into one, The Ancestral Records Committee. The purpose for doing so was to eliminate a lot of duplication in the meetings and projects and try to streamline how we do things.

Below is a list of the current projects and new records that we have received within the year. Donations are seriously needed to continue these projects. If you are interested in donating to a certain village fund, please mark your donation with the name of the village. We have received a few donations from chapters, foundations and a few single donors which greatly help our project.

1. In 2014 the Archives Committee, at the time, 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. Enders
 - i. Birth Records 1850-1868
 - ii. Marriage Records 1884-1893
 - iii. Death Records 1850-1869

- b. Dinkel

- i. Death Records 1826-1864
 - ii. 1827 Family Records
- c. Katharinenstadt/Obermunjou
 - i. Births Records – 1866-1875
 - ii. Death Records – 1861-1875
- d. Kukkus
 - i. Death Records 1912
 - ii. 1914 Draftees
- e. Laub
 - i. Death Records 1816-1825; 1826-1833
- f. Lauwe
 - i. Deaths Records 1826-1840; 1841-1865; 1912
 - ii. Births Records 1841-1862
 - iii. 1886 Family Lists
- g. Louis (Mariental)
 - i. Births Records 1789-1827
 - ii. Marriage Records 1789 - 1915 (no books for 1916-1917);
- h. Neu-Balzer
 - i. 1897 Census (Donated by Marvin Heckman for AHSGR to sell)
- i. Obermunjou
 - i. Birth Records 1875-1894
 - ii. Death Records 1875-1892; 1892-1896
 - iii. 1834 Census was revised with some additions
- j. Rohleder
 - i. Birth Records 1851-1890; 1869-1887; 1887-1906
 - ii. Marriage Records – 1851-1900
 - iii. Death Records 1851-1864; 1865-1870; 1871-1883; 1884-1900
- k. Rosenberg Parish – (Translation and completion of the book is almost done.)
 - 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. Schoenchen
 - i. Marriage Records 1820-1850

- m. Stahl am Tarlyk
 - i. Births Records 1908-1915
 - ii. Family List 1876
 - iii. Death Records 1835-1861

- n. Straub
 - i. Birth Records 1795-1873 (1834-1846 Not Available), 1897-1907
 - ii. Confirmation Records 1847-1868
 - iii. Death Records 1865-1884
 - iv. First settlers lists from Poland to Straub

- o. Warenburg
 - i. Birth Records 1915-1918
 - ii. Death Records 1826-1840; 1841-1850
 - iii. Marriage Records 1826-1840

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 compiled.

These items listed below are complete and available from the online AHSGR Store.

1. Dinkel Births 1807-1825
2. Jost Births 1794-1866
3. Krasnoyar 1874-1891
4. Kukkus Family list 1886
5. Neu Doenhof Births 1863-1904
6. Neu Doenhof Deaths 1862-1884; 1897-1912
7. Neu Doenhof Marriage 1863-1901
8. Neu-Laub Family List 1920
9. Stahl am Tarlyk Births 1794-1861
10. Dinkel 1827 Family Records
11. Stahl am Tarlyk 1835-1861 Deaths
12. Neu-Messer 1904 Baptism Records
13. Dinkel Births 1834-1858
14. Herzog 1879-1912 Family List
15. Laub Birth Records 1794-1825, Vol. 1
16. Laub Birth Records 1826-1833 Vol. 2
17. Laub Deaths 1826-1833

18. Laub Marriages 1826-1833
19. Messer Marriage Index 1827-1892
20. Messer Births 1791-1820
21. Messer Births 1856-1858
22. Messer Deaths 1805-1826
23. Messer Marriages 1804-1826
24. New Messer Family List 1917
25. Reinwald Family List 1874
26. Schoenchen Family List 1920 (General Labor Duty List)
27. Straub Confirmations 1847-1868
28. Straub Marriages 1826-1832
29. Warrenburg Family List Vol. 1 1874
30. Warrenburg Family List Vol. 2 1874
31. Warrenburg Marriages 1826-1840
32. Obermunjou 1834 Census Records REVISED
33. The Pastor's Notes Greater Tarryk

2. Other Translation Projects

- a. When Michael Wanner, from the HFDR Society in Germany (Historischen Forschungsverein der Deutschen aus Russland, was in Hays for the 2018 AHSGR Convention, we received him permission to translate one of their many books: Gedenkbuch Kasachstan or Kazakhstan Memorial Book. To give you an idea of the importance in translating a book like this I have included in this report the table of contents for you viewing. We are able to get Alex Herzog to do the translation for AHSGR, and he is hard at work on this book at this time. We hope to have this ready by next convention.

Kazakhstan Memorial Book Table of Contents

Preface by Dr. Viktor Krieger
 Preface by Waldemar Schmidt
 Foreword [by Michael Wanner]
 Mini-bios of the authors
 Ludmila Burghardt: The German Catholics in Kazakhstan
 Reprisals against the Catholic Church in the USSR from the 1920s to the 1940s
 Group offenses of the Catholic clergy on the Island Anser
 Group proceedings against the "Fascist counterrevolutionary organization of Roman Catholic and Uniate clergy"
 Court proceedings against the "Fascist counterrevolutionary Catholic organization of Volga Germans"
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen "Voino et al"
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen "Przketis et al"
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen "Warth et al"
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen "Woronitsch, Blechmann, et al"

Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen “Tauberger et al”
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen “Neugum, Reichart. et al”
 Group court proceedings against Catholic clergy and laymen “Leoni et al”
 List of Catholic clergy and laymen who died in prisons or in banishment in Kazakhstan
 The German Lutherans in Kazakhstan
 The German Russian Mennonites in Kazakhstan
 Conclusion
 History of the Evangelical-Christian Baptists in Kazakhstan
 State-conducted terror against the Germans in Kazakhstan
 The women’s camp ALGIR near Akmolinsk
 Children of “Enemies of the People”
 Excerpts from the database ALGIR
 Excerpts from the databank Akmolinsk (1092 persons)
 Numbers of victims in the *rayon* centers and villages of the Akmolinsk region
 A brief history of the place called Romanovka
Trud-army members from Romanovka
 The Shortandy *rayon*
 The Novokubanka settlement
 The Kotschetav region
 Lineyevka
 Beginnings of the German settlement Lineyevka (Thälmanovka) near Koktchevkaw, founded in 1904
 Memories of Prigorchos near Stepnyak – My Fateful Life Paths
 Excerpt from the databank Aktyubinsk
 German Russians in the Aktyubinsk region
 A voice from the grave
 Excerpt from the databank Alma-Ata
 German Russians in the Alma-Ata (Almaty) region
 German Russians in the Guryev/Atyrau region
 Excerpt from the databank Karaganda
 The Karlag Memories of Dzheskasgan, by Elisabeth Boss
 Memories by Rosa Jahner

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Memories of Balchash, by Katharina Oks
 A Samarkand at the summit of Shauyr
 From the Chronicle of the Akmolinsk region
 Excerpt from the databank Kustanai
 Numbers of victims from the *rayon* centers and villages of the Kustanai region
 German Russians in the Kustanai region
 The village Nedeshdinka: a local history according to archival documents and memories of older residents
 The Alexanderpol and Voskressenovka settlements in the Kustanai region
 Johannes Herzog: Memories of Vikentyevka [his birthplace in Kazakhstan – AH]
 What do I know about my homeland
 Semyonovka
 Mobilization into the work columns of German forced laborers in the Taranovski rayon,
 Kustanai region
 History of the parish
 The long way home

List of the deported Volga Germans arriving in the Kustanai region on September 9, 1941
 German Russians in the Kysyl-Orda region
 List of the victims from the rayon centers and villages of the Kysyl-Orda region
 Excerpt from the databank North Kazakhstan (Petropavlovsk)
 Numbers of victims in the rayon centers and villages of the North Kazakhstan region
 German Russians in the North Kazakhstan (Petropavlovsk) Peterfeld
 Excerpt from the databank Pavlodar
 Numbers of victims from the rayon centers and villages of the Pavlodar region
 German Russians in the Pavlodar region
 Ethnic and denominational breakdown of the population of the Irtysh region near
 Pavlodar, from the later 20th Century to the early 21st Century
 The initial group: ethnographic research
 The second group: writings dedicated to the history of the Germans in Kazakhstan
 The third group: writings dedicated to the religious confessions of the German population
 The fourth group: research by historians regarding various questions on the ethnic
 history of the Germans in Kazakhstan
 Conclusions from the dissertation
 Autonomy movement in Kazakhstan
 ROSOVKA – our home in foreign regions (short history of a German settlement in
 Kazakhstan)
 Interview with Viktor Rudi, director of the Kirov Collective. January 2002, Rosovka –
 Klein Berlin, by Viktor Weiz
 History of the village of Konstantinovka
 Legendary collective directors in the Pavlodar region
 Ingrid Heinisch of Düsseldorf
 Ingrid Heinisch of Düsseldorf [separate articles]
 History of a “work training camp”
 Excerpt from the databank Vostochna-Kazakhstanskaya (Ust-Kamenogorsk)
 Numbers of victims from the rayon centers and villages of the East Kazakhstan region
 German Russians in the East Kazakhstan (Ust-Kamenogorsk) region
 Ust-Kamenogorsk
 Semipalatinsk
 Ridder
 Ivanovka, 1901-2011
 The German colony of Marienburg (Peremenovka)
 Marienburg
 Petition

[Third page of the Table of Contents:]

List of residents of the Marienburg (Peremenovka) settlement Uezd Smeinogorsk, Uspenka, August 17, 1912, Book 1,2,3 Germans Complete list of residents of the Marienburg colony, according to registration lists from a community meeting on September 29, 1922 Registration and group numbers were left out! Marienburg family list for 1929 Excerpt from the databank South Kazakhstan (Chimkent/Shymkent) Numbers of victims from the rayon centers and villages of the South Kazakhstan region German Russians in the South Kazakhstan region: history of the Konstantinovka village Kaplanbek	Volost
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Excerpt from the databank West Kazakhstan (Uralsk)
 Numbers of victims from the rayon centers and villages of the West Kazakhstan region
 German Russians in the West Kazakhstan (Uralsk) region
 Germans in Dzhambeya
 Numbers and Data on the history of the Germans in Kazakhstan, the Soviet Union,
 and Russia
 Numbers of Germans in Kazakhstan from 1897 to 2013, including percentages and
 rankings compared to other nationalities
 Numbers of Germans in the Kazakhstan regions, 1970 – 2013, compared with the
 total population numbers of the regions, and information on city and rural
 residents
 Numbers of settlements with a substantial majority of German population in the
 Kazakhstan regions
 Settlements with more than 50 % Germans in the Kazakhstan regions as of 1989
 Final remarks
 Abbreviations
 Sources and bibliography
 Historical Research Association of the Germans from Russia

This is going to be a big project for AHSGR and I hope we can raise the funds to have this book printed in
 hardback to keep it in par with the German printed of the book. We also hope this will be a start in
 many translations from the HFSR Society in Germany. Please watch the AHSGR Newsletter for any
 updates.

3. Another item that was completed this year were...
 - a. The History of German of the Koshkin District 1858-1941
 - b. "Annotated Inventory of Collections" at the Engels Archives on the Catholic Colonies.
Both books are available in our AHSGR Bookstore.
4. Journal & Newsletter Articles:
 - a. Military Draft Records – Three articles were written by Elena Ananyan and Olga Erokhina. The aarticles have been translated and awaiting their turn on the AHSGR Journal.
 - b. By now you have noticed that we have been placing village articles written by Olga Lizenberger from her books on the villages. So far, we have published the villages of Messer, Krasnojarsk and Reinwald. The next village scheduled will be Jost. We try to incorporate in each article what AHSGR has for research on each of these villages. Many thanks to Alex Herzog who has helped us with the translations.
5. Other Projects in the bin –
 - a. Aussidler Project has been a long ongoing work in progress for us. Watch the AHSGR Newsletter for any updates.
 - b. Die Welt Post, Letters from Hell 1920-1923 have been translated and are in the process of being formatted into one style for printing. Look for this in the bookstore by fall.
 - c. Deportation Lists of Stalingrad Area by Nina Vaschkau will need to be our next big project. Eleven files for those villages were translated by Janet Flickinger with Yulia

Tsymbol translating the introduction and brief description of the files. This will be one of our goals to get this available to our membership through the AHSGR Bookstore once it is completed, hopefully in 2020.

- d. Shcherbakovka Project was put on the back burner last year to get caught up on a number of projects. We will need to form a new small group committee that will take this project over and search for more documents that fits the bequest.
6. In conclusion, I want to thank our committee members for the time they put in to help with these projects. This coming year we will need ever more help to continue what we have begin in forms of monetary and dedication to complete these projects. Please consider donating to one or more of our village projects, if the funding isn't there we cant get the records out for our members and have them translated.

Sincerely,
Kevin Rupp
AHSGR Ancestral Records Chair
July 9, 2019

Convention Management Committee

Year End Report 2019

Committee Members: Susan Nakaji, Chair, Nancy Borrell, Bill Dellos, Judy Gareis, Karen Soeken, Shirley Wilcoxon, Patti Sellenrick, Ed Wagner, Larry Gerlach, Richard Davenport

The Theme for the 50th International Convention is: Our Golden Jubilee, an enduring legacy: milestones of our history. 2019 Convention Status: Early Registration closed on June 15, 2019 offering a \$20 savings for registering early. Registration was 275 on June 17, 2019 shortly after the close of Early Bird registration. We sold out our room block for the Embassy Hotel and were able to obtain additional rooms at the Graduate Hotel across the street. The Tours are being conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, they include: North and South Bottoms tour including lunch and Christmas in July at Immanuel Church. The second tour is the International Quilt Study museum and the University of Nebraska- Lincoln Dairy store. The third is a tour of the American Museum of Speed. A guided tour of the Nebraska State Capitol is the final tour being offered on Wednesday. Cooking classes are offered this year for Grebbel, Blinna and German Sausage. The Grebbel class sold out quickly. International speakers include Dr. J. Otto Pohl, German Sack, Dr. Jorge Fabian Zubia- Schultheis and Dr. Tanya Schell.

The Youth program will have activities Wednesday through Friday, including the food demonstrations, a tour of the University of Nebraska Memorial Stadium, Dutch Hop, dulcimer music along with historical, cultural activities and German vocabulary. The documentary on the "Dutch Hop," will be shown on Thursday night along with other activities including genealogical research help. Favorite activities such as the Quilt raffle, Kuchen break, Silent Auction, Bookstore and Research room are being planned.

I would like to acknowledge Paul Loss and his local committee in Lincoln for their hard work. It takes many volunteers to host a Convention and I'd like to thank the Board members that have stepped up to help organize this convention. All convention attendees are welcome to volunteer at the Convention. A whiteboard will be at the registration desk for people to sign-up.

2020 Convention Status: The 2020 Convention will be in Pasco, Washington at the Red Lion Inn, July 20-26, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nakaji, Chair

AHSGR Facilities Committee

Annual Report, 2018

It's been a busy year for the Facilities Committee.

We had someone hired to refurbish and refinish our beautiful front door. He never seemed to get started on the job. Finally we found someone else to do this project and it should be all done and back on by convention time.

Our flag poles have not been able to fly flags for quite some time due to some damage. They are now fixed and flying new United States and Canada flags.

The chapel and summer kitchen have been resided.

The entire lower level of headquarters has had the carpet cleaned and all the stairways

The President's display in the Board room on the lower level has all new picture frames and name plates.

Genealogical Research Service Committee Annual Report – 2018-2019

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.

Committee members include Mike Meisinger, Vice-Chair; Sue Nakaji, Kevin Rupp, Pam Wurst, Mike Brown, Bill Doos, Patti Sellenrick, Ed Wagner, Christina Zahn, and Karen Penner, Chair. Co-chair of the Village Coordinators, Joe Gertge, serves as an ex-officio member (Kevin Rupp is his co-chair).

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 our Executive Director Sherry Pawelko and her staff. We are sad to report that Sherry has resigned effective after the convention. Our Research Librarian Sara Roberts, who has been with AHSGR for just over a year, is doing excellent work and has made great progress in updating the library: indexing, cataloguing, making additions, and inventorying the vault (with the help of Pam Wurst and other volunteers). Other staff members include John Wenz who serves as Editorial and Publications Coordinator and Lauren Stewart as Assistant Librarian/Customer Outreach Specialist. 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 collection 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 E. Flegel Library**, which allows access to our library. The **Arthur E. Flegel Library** was collected by Arthur over a lifetime of all areas of German Russian books, research materials and family histories. Our research librarian and volunteers work tirelessly to complete and update our inventory and holdings. All censuses have been catalogued. She has added many new books and censuses. Research Librarian 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 Roberts and all our continuing volunteers. There are security lockers for researchers installed on first floor near the entry desk.

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 began last summer. It will be sent to qualifying members in December of 2019. If you do not qualify to receive a ***CLUES 2019***, you may purchase a copy for \$5 from AHSGR.

Village Coordinators (VC) Program: The Genealogy Committee works with VC to preserve our village and family histories, and we encourage all VC to make their files available

in our library holdings so they are preserved. The large collection of village files is 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, which will allow attachments to be sent by VCs. Unfortunately, there are many villages that do not have Village Coordinators (VC), and if that includes your village, please consider becoming a VC. We continue to strive to improve our services to the VC and to promote a strong link of communication between our members, the VC, 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 the digital obits were not added. We are placing the digital obits onto the AHSGR website to make them available to our members. 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 X 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 who 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 are tentatively scheduled to meet at the 2019 Lincoln, NE, Convention at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24. The following individual Village Area Discussion Groups are tentatively scheduled to meet as follows:

Wednesday, July 24:	At 2:15 to 3:15: Village Areas 10 and 14 and Area 8 3:30 to 4:30: Village Areas 11 and 12; Areas 7 and 13
Thursday, July 25:	9:30 to 10:30: Village Area 9 10:45 to 11:45: Village Area 6 1:15 to 2:15: Village Area 5 3:45 to 4:45: Village Area 1
Friday, July 26:	9:30 to 10:40: Village Area 3 2:15 to 3:15: Village Area 4 3:45 to 4:45: Village Area 2

Be sure to check the official program as to what “Village Area” your village is in, and check the times and places for Village Area meetings. The VC will meet on Wednesday. The above dates and times are tentative so be sure to check date and times in the convention program.

As you research your family and village history, we will continue to work to provide assistance for 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.

Respectfully submitted by:
Karen Suderman Penner, Chair

AHSGR Fall BOD Meeting 2019
Interim Executive Director Report
Sara Roberts

First, welcome everyone and especially the new AHSGR Board Members to our Fall 2019 BOD Meeting. This past two and a half months of Interim Executive Director have certainly been a series of learning curves, but with the great staff we have employed, we’ve had not just a smooth adjustment to Sherry’s retirement, but a successful one.

I’ll start out with what we have been working on these past several weeks. Of course, we’ve had a lot of convention debriefing and unpacking, getting settled in after another successful convention here in Lincoln. In total, we had 388 registrants for our 2019 Convention and so many positive evaluations commenting on how they had such an excellent time at our Golden Jubilee.

One of our first tasks post-convention was organizing and cleaning out the Executive Director Office. This encompassed organizing documents that needed a home, archiving convention documents and information going back to mid-1990s. We have completed clearing out the ED office and if you haven’t taken a look, you should. We also have organized and tidying up the Book Keepers Office, as well as the 2nd Floor North Room.

We have been working on increasing our membership renewals. On August 15th, Lauren sent out a physical letter and membership renewal form to 125 accounts that had not renewed their membership. By September 25th, 68 accounts have renewed their membership. We scheduled a 3rd quarter renewal letter and membership renewal form to be sent out by post and e-blast last week and are waiting for the renewals to come in.

We have been receiving many great artifacts and donations to our organization, some of which include artifacts from the First German Congregational Church here in Lincoln. Our Museum Volunteers have also been working on new exhibits and accessing. One new exhibit on German Russian Women can be found on first floor next to the elevator.

HQ has been focusing on creating a consistent staff social media strategy to highlight AHSGR happenings and events. We are utilizing Facebook and Twitter, and are curating posts each week to cover our newest publications, exhibits, tours, outreach events, and other exciting things going on.

Lauren and I have been very busy with outreach. We've attended a few outreach events working with Homestead National Monument and the City of Lincoln. In August, I was an invited speaker for the Homestead National Monument Campfire Program. At around 40 people in attendance, we had a great night and I discussed Germans Russian History in Immigration and Homesteading. Lauren also visited Homestead National Monument for a Living History Event. She had a booth and provided lot of great information and fun crafts for attendees. In September, Lauren and I participated in the Lincoln Streets Alive! event here in Cooper Park. It was a beautiful day, many people stopped by our booth, with lots of great outreach. On the Horizon, we have been contacted to participate in another OLLI Course. The German Russian OLLI Course has been notoriously popular and the outreach coordinator for OLLI was very excited to have us participate once again.

We have completed the Fall 2019 Journal and Newsletter. Allison has been doing an amazing job at prepping those publications. They are now published and available to our members. Additionally, in-house publications and research records have been published since convention, as well as restocking of many of our books because of the massive book store sales we had during Convention.

HQ has had a lot of visitors and interests in our tours these past couple months, but with winter upon us, we are getting ready to wrap up our campus tours for the season, ending on October 31st. We will be busy throughout this long winter gearing up for 2020.

Again, it's nice to see you all here in Lincoln for BOD meeting and if you need anything these next couple days, please let me or the staff know. We are happy to help.

Thank you.

**Librarian Report
Fall 2019
Sara Roberts**

- Archival Collections
 - o Dolores Schwartz – Pam has been working on completing this collection.
- Reference & Research
 - o Assisted with in-house researchers.
 - o Research Requests
 - o General reference via email, phone, in-house.
- Unpack from Convention, plus a Convention Debrief.

- New Member Reports – I emailed new member information to VCs.
- ILL . We have been steadily busy with ILL requests.
- We have received book donations. I have added them to the book log and sent thank you donation letters to donors.
- HQ Quick Takes – Monthly report that we send to Chapter Leaders about what is going on in HQ. We include information such as new publications, new library acquisitions, number of visitors and researchers in house, etc.
- Adding Village Files to the website.
- Updating the website with current information regarding surname charts.
- Presentations & Events:
 - o Homestead National Monument. Presented on German Russian immigration to the US and their participation in Homestead Act.
 - o Streets Alive. AHSGR had a booth at this event.
- Lauren Stewart has been picking up cataloging and book processing since I've taken on the roll as Interim Executive Director. She has also been assisting with researchers and research requests.
- Tours & Bookstore purchases.
- Interim Executive Director Responsibilities.
- Preparations for Fall BOD / BOT Meeting.
- Vacation – 9/3 – 9/6

2019 MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, Shirley Wilcoxon,
Chairperson

FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The committee broadcasted multiple membership and recruiting messages to over 70 Facebook Groups and Pages. Posts included, but were not limited to: Register for the 2019 Convention, Penny Pincher Discount, early convention registration discount, membership benefits, You Have a Story to Tell – oral interviews at 2019 Convention, Interviews and photographs from the 2018 Convention , silent auction photos and video, vendor photos and videos, benefits of membership and registration forms for the 2019 convention, village hall video, “Are you German?” video, searchable journal inventories, campus buildings tour video, headquarters’ video, storytelling video contest for youths, Want to join? poster, Rootstech syllabus, Eine Hochzeit in Ellis County 1881, promotions of the 25 Days of Christmas shopping items, We break brick walls poster, how we can straighten tangled tree branches poster, online bookstore offers, front and back of the tri-fold membership brochure along with membership forms, how to use the website video, we want you to be a member posters, wanted you to become a member poster, membership benefits poster, cookbook availabilities, Christmas/New Year’s Day greeting, books and publications for sale, sugar beet farming information, board meeting photos, library photos, museum photos, bookstore photos, sharing posts from other groups, music and food posts, history posts, and so many more. New messages are being sent and shared every week. Each message averages 2,500 to 6,000+ views. There are many comments and responses from potential new members. Facebook page and group analytics are analyzed on a regular basis to determine effectiveness and new campaigns.

A Virtual Chapter on Facebook for members outside the boundaries of physical chapters has been created.

A DNA Germans from Russia group has been created.

An Unidentified Germans from Russia Photographs group has been created.

We are in the process of updating the list of Germans from Russia related Facebook groups and pages

CONVENTION

Maintained a membership table at the 2018 Hays, Kansas 49th annual convention

Took photographs and video interviews of members with Catherine the Great and shared them on Facebook

Conducted the chapter leaders meeting

Enrolled several new life and standard members

Offered a \$100.00 discount for new life member applications at the convention

Encouraged multi-chapter membership

Approved the 2108 Distinguished Service award and Special Citation award winners, signed the certificates, and presented the awards at the banquet

Hosted the joint Society/Foundation luncheon

Presented special anniversary citation awards to several chapters

Submitted the 2019 Distinguished Service Award nominees to the Executive Committee for approval

Prepared the information and script for the DSA plaques

A new Catherine the Great cutout plus Alexander I has been ordered for photo opportunities for 2019.

The MPAC committee assisted in the design of the 2019 Convention name tags.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TASKS

MPAC Committee is Preparing an inventory of presentation materials and resources for chapter programs.

Lapsed and new members were surveyed to discover why they joined, lapsed, or cancelled membership.

Strategies are being developed to attract new members: first time member discounts, offering a “try us out” six-month membership, expanding social media contacts and strategies, developing outreach programs with other organizations, museums, libraries, historical and genealogical societies, welcome centers, speaker bureaus, festivals and events.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

We are analyzing the membership numbers on a monthly basis to determine patterns and recruiting effectiveness.

Board representatives have been assigned to each chapter to assist you. Ask them to attend your meetings.

Requests for annual Chapter Leaders’ reports and membership lists were sent. A few were completed and returned.

Snail mail delivery of the Journal and Newsletters to members outside the USA borders was approved.

The members will be required to pay the additional cost in United States currency. The cost will vary by location.

Karen Soeken is the Chapter Liaison chairperson

The Chapter Manual and the Policies and Procedure manual are being updated.

A business card template for membership recruiting is being created.

Three new chapters were established and/or reactivated in Arizona, Texas, and California.

The By-Laws of two new chapter were reviewed and accepted.

There are several dual chapters of AHSGR and GRHS. Invite GRHS members to attend our meetings.

Creation of new chapters is being encouraged.

The MPAC committee is working on your behalf by email and electronic media collaboration throughout the year.

Weekly new member reports are being sent to chapter leaders for follow-up.

Headquarters updated new member packages and application forms at the MPAC request MPAC and the Folklore committee are providing 10-minute recorded interviews at the 2019 convention. Each interviewee will receive a free USB drive with a copy of their interview along with the history, culture, and heritage of the Germans from Russia to share with your family, friends, and social media contacts. Appointments are limited.

DID YOU KNOW? YOU ARE ALSO A MEMBER OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

You are vital to the success and longevity of AHSGR. Without your efforts to spread the word and tell our story to future members, we will cease to exist. It is your responsibility to recruit just one new member this coming year. Please do not shrug your shoulders and expect someone else to do it. Contact someone who let their membership lapse and invite them back. Offer to take them to a meeting. Provide transportation to your meetings for members who no longer drive. Tell your family your stories and memories. They will eventually want to know more about their past. This might just be their year. Test your DNA and talk about the results with your family. Tell them of the migration their ancestors made through the centuries and the challenges and triumphs they experienced. Put your grandchildren or great grandchildren on your lap and tell them how they have great great grandpa's eyes and great grandma's smile. Let your family interview and record you while you tell your stories. Interview and record them while they tell their stories. You will be leaving a legacy for generations to come. Make a game of it. Let the youngsters do the recording. They are experts on technology. You may also tell your story at the convention and receive a free USB drive to share with your family, friends, and social media contacts. Ask to attend other organizations' meetings or go to a senior center. Ask to share a little information with them. If nothing else, enjoy the coffee and cookies and pass out some flyers. Ask friends about their heritage. Who knows? You might even be related to them. Take some brochures to the local libraries. Don't be shy. When you see a name tag with a German name, ask them if their ancestors were Germans from Russia. They may not know. This is an opportunity to tell them how Catherine the Great invited our ancestors to come to Russia. You will be amazed how interested they may become. They may know of family and friends who have German ancestry. Word of mouth is golden. Therefore, sharing information on social media is so important. Just tap of the share button for every post. Your friends will then see the post on their timeline. Carry some AHSGR business cards to hand out. You know the drill. You have heard it all before. Perhaps you tried it once and it didn't work. I know. You have excuses. You are shy, your family isn't interested, you don't know what to say, you don't know who to talk to about AHSGR, you are too busy, you don't care, you think it is not your responsibility. By the way, do you know there is a difference between a reason and an excuse? Don't let excuses hold you back. All you need is just one person. Find that person now and you can relax the rest of the year. If all else fails, buy a membership for someone. Perhaps they will enjoy the newsletters and journals and renew their membership next year. You can do it. No excuses. Just one new member this year. Take a deep breath. Ready, set, go!

Nominating Committee Annual Report

July 2018 – July 2019

Members: Mike Meisinger, Chair; Nancy Borrell, Bill Dellos, Harvery Fries, Rob Miller

During the board year 2018 - 2019 the Nominating Committee met at the October and March Board of Directors meetings in Lincoln, Nebraska, to prepare for the 2019 board year elections.

One of our goals was to continue to evaluate the board cycles and ensure board membership was maintained and 1/3 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 1 board terms end July 2019 which automatically opens 10 board positions. In addition, there is one open position in cycle 2 and one open position in cycle 3.

The committee developed a list of candidates for the ten Cycle 1 openings and another opening due to a mid-term resignation. Candidates were contacted and those agreeing to serve were presented to the Board in March. Since no one has come forward to run against these candidates they will begin serving their new terms at the July Convention. As of March 2019, nine of the ten Cycle 1 positions have been filled.

Remaining positions to be filled for cycle 1

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

- 1 Three-year position July, 2019 – July, 2022

Remaining open seats:

District 13: Canada and other Countries (2 seats)

- 1 Two-year opening (cycle 3 July, 2019 – July, 2021)

District 2: Alaska and Washington (2 seats)

- 1 One-year term (cycle 2 July, 2019- July, 2020)

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Meisinger

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

Committee Members: Wilhelm Doos, Cheryl Glanz, Mike Meisinger, Rob Miller, Sherry Pawelko, Dennis Reich Co-chair), Dodie Rotherham, Jerry Siebert, Karen Soeken (Co-chair), Shirley Wilcoxon; Alex Garcia (Consultant)

With the guidance of our consultant, the Strategic Planning Committee met monthly to discuss and assess progress on the three goals established for this second year of our strategic planning process.

1. Continue *to track the 2017-2018 goals* related to communicating the mission, vision, and core values of AHSGR and to enhance the communication between Headquarters/Board of Directors and AHSGR Chapters. Scheduling visits of the Executive Director to chapters is yet to be implemented, but we anticipate that happening in 2019-2020. Increasing communication between the Board of Directors and chapters is a task that continues.
2. A second goal focused on *assessing AHSGR marketing strategies and enhancing information flow*. The committee identified key genealogy conferences and we anticipate AHSGR will be present at a selected number during 2020. We continue to grow our online presence, primarily through Facebook, and have begun to make changes to our AHSGR website to improve the usability and appearance of the site; more changes are anticipated. In addition, we are identifying existing material or developing new material about AHSGR that can be shared on our website and through social media.
3. Third, the committee addressed ways to *strengthen the society's vision and mission* through our organizational structure and by expanding our membership. As a first step, we developed a strategic financial planning tool for use by the Board as it considers any program changes. Discussions with the Board of Directors have identified the skills and interests needed on the board. In addition, committees were asked to review committee responsibilities and policies for any changes that are needed.

We are excited as we look ahead to the next year and our continuing work to strengthen our vision and mission. Consultant Alex Garcia has been a tremendous help to and resource for the committee and we are pleased that he will continue to provide guidance.

Dennis Reich and Karen Soeken, Co-chairs

Technology Review Committee Annual Report 2019:

1. "We are still exploring possible re-design of our web site. We are using Your Membership to do every thing on the internet, managing membership, museum, and society business. Perhaps we might use open source programs to separate the functions and re-organize web sites. Staff will clarify YM charges for minor /any page changes. We do have duplicate information on our home page, the tab for Villages is not clear to new members /users. Expert and non-expert user points of contact have been provided to me to further review our web site for suggestions. Other areas of improvement were discussed, like using chart and words to discuss membership and benefits, a better link to Clues is needed, separating the Museum and Society websites. If we stay with YM, we need to understand how flexible or not YM is to change (pages). Rebecca collects

instructions on how to make changes because YM keeps referring all questions to tutorials that take an hour to view. We need to coordinate with the membership committee.”

[from Spring 2019 Board Meeting Lincoln Tech. Committee written report]

From Tech Committee meeting: Spring 2019 meeting.

1. Web site.

Colton [son of Cheryl] / Cheryl reviewed our website. They found lots of duplicate information on front page.

They suggested 2 web sites: 1. For Museum in Lincoln, 2. For our Organization [Society]. This would be in the style of American Danish Society.

They suggested 2 Reviewers for our web site: 1. Michell Monson, 2. Sheri Ertl
[update]

[Sheri Ertle and Michelle Monson email addresses have been received, but not contacted yet.]

At least one of these nominees or both are Genealogy researchers.

“Villages” on top bar is not defined, some folks don’t Know what we mean by that term.

My profile should change to Login

Links to “Book of the month “ , not the information itself.

Link to Join Society move to top of page.

Is “Login” vs. “Your Membership” [email] a YM thing?

All this needs to be co-ordinated with Membership Committee.

The “Clues” paragraph is difficult to understand that you need to click on word “here”.

A “words” description, and a “chart” description, of types of memberships is needed.

[some people think in words others are more pictorial or numerically oriented] Example WEB SITE: Danish America : 1. Museum , hours , events. 2. Genealogy

***** Please remember the quote of \$10,000.00 to change 1 page on YM, before you authorize wholesale changes!*****

Our web site pages are too long and need “contacts” on the bottom of each page

How flexible is YM to change is a big unknown?

Annual efforts:

1. We replace 1 or 2 computers every year as part of a technology refresh program.
2. Our proposed budget will be submitted in October meeting.
3. Supporting the convention is a big effort every year. Volunteers are needed.

End of report.

Technology Review Committee
Chair: Harold Penner