



AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Honoring our Past • Embracing the Future

54TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

FROM THE STEPPES TO OUR TABLES

CONVENTION PROGRAM



August 7-9, 2024

Sheraton Downtown Hotel
1 North Broadway Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK



**AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA**

Honoring our Past • Embracing the Future

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia mission is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history, cultural heritage, and genealogical legacy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire.



**INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

The International Foundation of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is responsible for exercising financial stewardship to generate, manage, and allocate resources which advance the mission and assist in securing the future of AHSGR.

CONVENTION DONOR

Jerome and Janice Siebert



August 7, 2024

**American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
2024 International Convention**

Dear American Historical Society Of Germans From Russia,

Oklahoma City is an emerging, collaborative, and welcoming destination that enjoys the benefits of a bustling modern city while maintaining approachability. As evidence in the ever-changing skyline, there's an excitement happening in Oklahoma City, and we invite you to experience it first-hand. The Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau is honored to be considered as a host for the American Historical Society Of Germans From Russia 2024 International Convention in Oklahoma City, and help bring in events that generate activity and enthusiasm among event attendees and our citizens.

In Oklahoma City, you will find a level of hospitality that simply cannot be matched. For nearly 30 years, Oklahoma City has funneled over \$1 billion into revitalizing downtown and providing new and upgraded cultural, sports, recreation, entertainment and convention facilities for our locals and visitors alike. This tremendous vision has allowed us to grow and expand as an energetic, action-packed city with even more to see and do than ever before. However – we are most proud of what has not changed – our central location, easy accessibility, affordable lodging, exceptional restaurants and attractions, and our diverse and friendly people. These factors create an unparalleled environment for a successful and memorable conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Modern Frontier and having the opportunity to serve as your host in 2024.

Kindest regards,

Zac Craig
President, OKC CVB

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Badges

Wear your name badge at all times. You will not be admitted to convention sessions, meals, the Bookstore, or the Research Room without it.

AHSGR Store

Visit the AHSGR Store in the Plaza South. You will be able to buy a variety of books, census records, genealogy maps, and more. Debit/credit cards are accepted.

Research Room

Genealogy records are available for research in the Research Room in Plaza North. You may get photocopies of some research material. Volunteers will be available to assist.

Convention Hotel

The Sheraton Oklahoma City is the official convention headquarters, where most activities are scheduled. Meeting locations are noted in this program.

Meal Tickets

All tickets for meals must have been purchased by July 28, 2024. You must present your name badge at mealtime before entering the event, and any meal tickets, including those for dietary restrictions, must be brought to the meal to be served.

Quilt Tickets

Tickets for the Quilt Raffle drawing are available for \$2 or 6 for \$10. The drawing will take place at the banquet on Saturday. You do not need to be present to win.

Registration/Information

If you have questions about convention activities, stop by the AHSGR Registration Desk. Volunteers or AHSGR staff will help.

Silent Auction

Visit the Silent Auction in the Red Carpet Room. Many items have been donated. If you brought items to donate, leave them at the Registration Desk. Winners must pick up their items by 3 pm on Friday, August 9.

Vendor Tables

Visit our convention vendors in the Century Foyer.

Volunteers

Volunteers will wear ribbons on their name badges. If you need help or have questions, look for the ribbons!

Buses

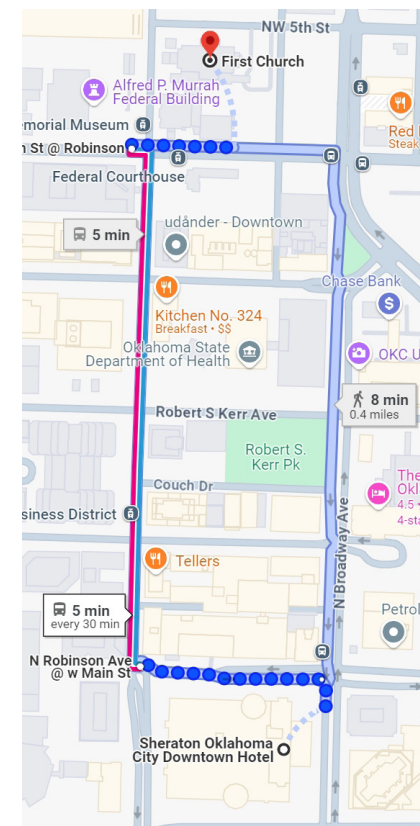
Tour buses will load and unload on the front drive of the hotel. Use the main entrance.

Membership Information

Visit the registration desk in the Century Foyer for information about how we may support you and your chapter, and learn about the benefits of AHSGR membership.

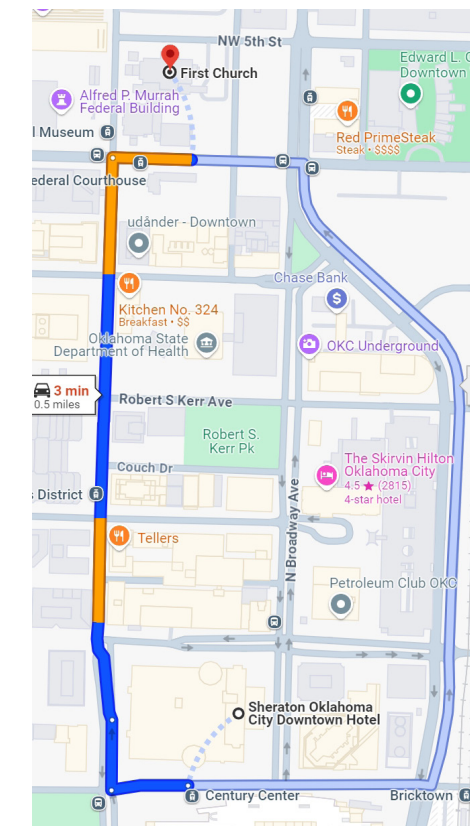
DIRECTIONS TO WELCOME NIGHT

Welcome Night will be held at
First Church, 131 NW 4th St.



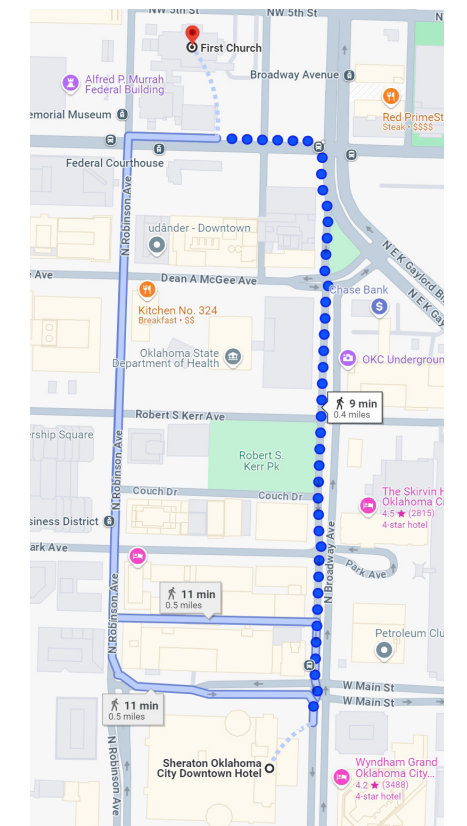
Tram

Complimentary tram passes will be available at the Registration Desk.



Car

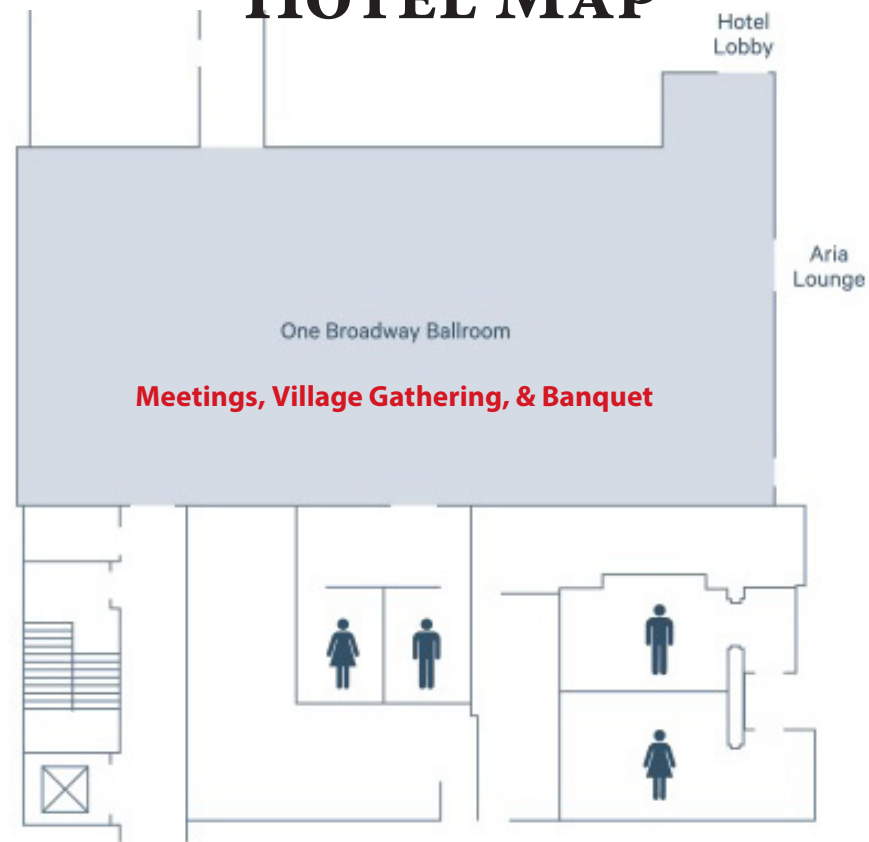
Parking is on the East side of the building.



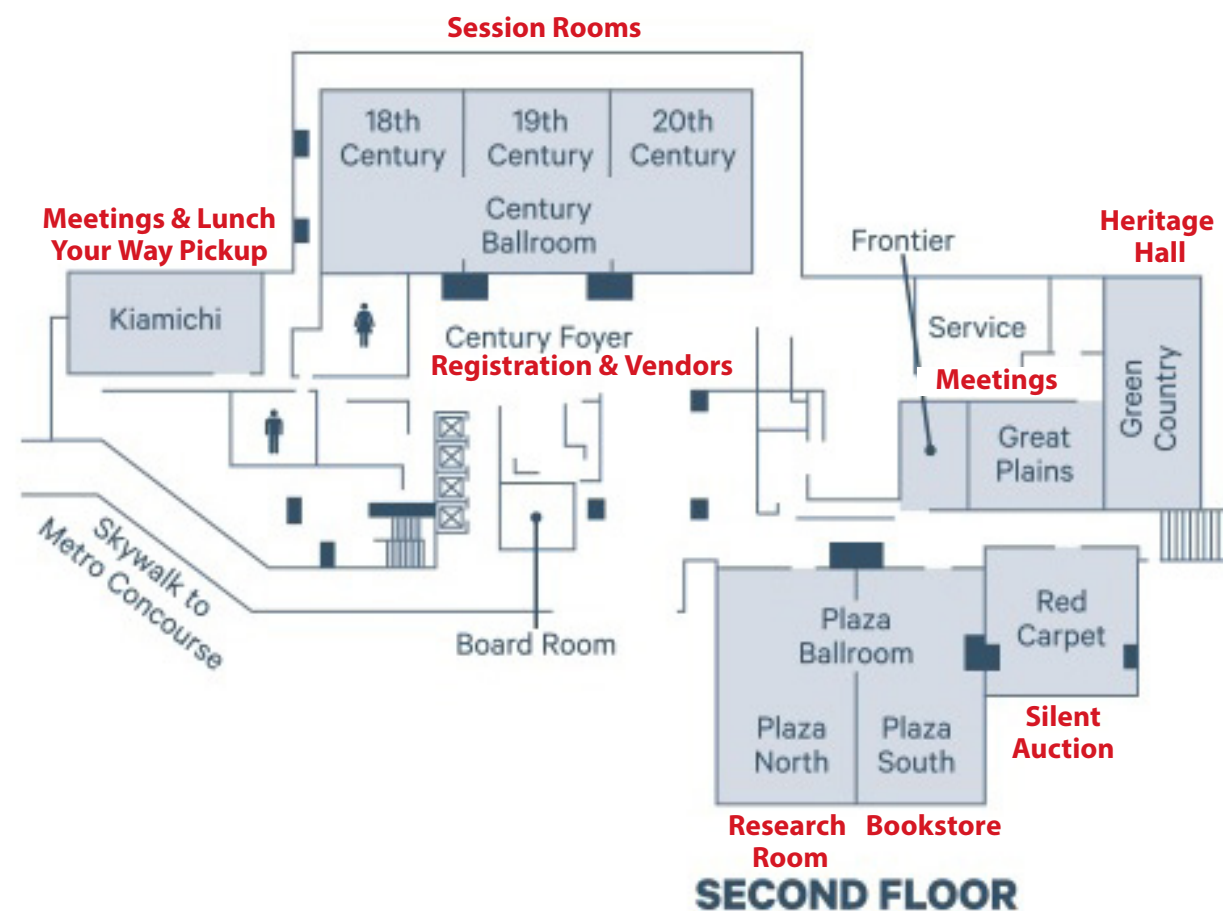
Walking

Welcome Night is about a 10 minute walk from the hotel.

HOTEL MAP



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

54TH INTERNATIONAL AHSGR CONVENTION AGENDA

*Events with this symbol require previous registration

Wednesday, August 7

Time	Event	Location
7:30 am-5:00 pm	Registration	Century Foyer
8:30-11:30 am	AHSGR BOD meeting	Frontier Room
9:00 am-5:00 pm	AHSGR Store open	Plaza South
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Research Room open	Plaza North
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Silent Auction open	Red Carpet
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Vendors	Century Foyer
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Heritage Hall	Green Country
9:00-11:30 am	Tour 1 - <i>A Taste of Oklahoma Tour Led by Dr. Phillip C. Bryan, M.D.*</i>	
9:00-10:00 am	Presentations	
	William Ridinger - <i>Across the Iron Curtain - One Family's Odyssey</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	When the Red Army flooded across the Bug River in March of 1944, the villages of the Beresan region were in danger of being overrun. With only hours to spare, they loaded up their wagons and carts and set off on an odyssey that for many would last years, and would scatter them over three continents. Despite the distances and hardships throughout the Cold War years, families stayed in touch and would eventually become reunited.	
	Peggy Goertzen - <i>Overcoming "Brick Walls" through German Newspaper Research</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	Presentation will present possible strategies for uncovering missing information in your family history through German newspaper research, including details of birth, place of origin, parentage, baptism, education, marriage, kinship, medical history, death, and burial.	
	Carolyn Zeisset - <i>Caught in the Middle: A WWI Home-Front Story</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	After promises made a century earlier to German-speaking people in Russia were revoked and they immigrated to America in the 1800s, the next generation felt caught between 1st-generation old-country culture & 3rd-generation assimilation into new-country culture. Then came World War I with harassment, especially in the fledgling state of Oklahoma whose American loyalty was questioned.	
10:15-11:15 am	Presentations	
	Emily Gengenbach - <i>Just like how your ancestors did it: How to play old German Russian Games</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	Games like Bunnock or Kaschlan can date back to the 19th century in Eastern Europe and were very popular among those of that time. Learning the history and rules of these games can help you better understand and feel closer to your ancestors.	
	Amber Mikkelsen - <i>Research Room Orientation</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	The Research Room Orientation will introduce members to the convention research room and discuss materials that will be available to aid in their genealogical research.	

	Wyatt Atchley- <i>Prairie Preservation: Cultural Architecture of Black Sea Germans in North Dakota</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	“Prairie Preservation” explores the architectural legacy of Black Sea Germans from Russia in North Dakota, focusing on their unique home construction. The presentation also confronts the challenge of abandoned homes on the prairies, posing the key question: “How do homesteads contribute to the broader context of historic preservation?”	
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Presentations	
	Karen Keehr - <i>Innovation and Digitization at AHSGR</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	AHSGR Archives is entering an exciting new era of digitization. Find out how we scan the photographs and documents in the AHSGR Archives, what our priorities are, and what the future holds. Learn how to access the new digitized images through our new PastPerfect Online portal. Karen will also offer a few tips and tricks on how best to digitize your own family treasures.	
	Michael Brown - <i>German Russian Artists of the Gulag</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	Most Gulag camps had “art houses” where artists were officially tasked with creating works of propaganda, and they provided art and portraits for administrators, guards, and inmates. This presentation examines the way art was produced in the Gulag and identifies several significant German Russian artists who spent time in the Gulag system.	
12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch Your Way*	Kiamichi
1:30-2:30 pm	Presentations	
	William G. Doos - <i>Germans to Russia and Beyond</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	This will be an overview of the German Agrarian movements to Russia, when and where they settled, where they came from, and their subsequent movements in Russia and the Soviet Union. This will also outline what happened to them during WWI and WWII and after the 1950s and 1990s. Comments will be made about the various Imperial Decrees limiting and abrogating their original settlers’ rights. A description of the exodus out of Russia and the Soviet Union and where they went to. A brief comment will be made about the assimilation process during the 1800s, early 1900s, and after the dissolution of the USSR.	
	Steve Fast - <i>Unblocking Anna Block: Combining Russian and West Prussian Records to Break a Brick Wall</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	A case study to present strategies for combining Russian census and immigration records with West Prussian land and church records to find the ancestors of a Mennonite girl who immigrated to Russia in 1819.	
	Cary Bright - <i>Drilling Down on your DNA Matches</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	Learn how to drill down on your DNA matches to isolate a group by matches, using the tools provided by the three DNA Co, FTDNA, Ancestry, or MyHeritage. Then learn ways to capture these groups of matches for further analysis on your home computer.	
3:00-5:00 pm	Village Gathering	One Broadway Ballroom, see village gathering groups on pgs. 20-21
6:00-8:00 pm	Welcome Night	First Church, map on pg. 6

Thursday, August 8

7:30 am-5:45 pm	Registration	Century Foyer
9:45-11:30 am	AHSGR Store open	Plaza South
9:45-11:30 am	Research Room open	Plaza North
9:45 am-5:45 pm	Silent Auction open	Red Carpet
9:45 am-5:45 pm	Vendors	Century Foyer
9:45 am-5:45 pm	Heritage Hall	Green Country
8:30-9:45am	Opening Ceremony	One Broadway Ballroom
	Presiding: Duane Stabler, Convention Chair	
	Presentation of Colors: Boy Scout Troop 94 of Edmond Oklahoma	
	Singing of the National Anthems: Dr Phil Bryan and LaDonna Hunt	
	Opening Prayer: Rev. Dr Kurt Friederich	
	Welcome to the 54th Annual AHSGR Convention/Welcome to Oklahoma	
	City Proclamation: Rodd Moesel	
	Introduction of the AHSGR BOD: Bob Ahlbrandt, President	
	Introduction of the IFAHSGR BOT: Janene Schmidt, President	
	Introduction of the AHSGR Staff: Bob Ahlbrandt, President	
	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker: Duane Stabler	
	Keynote Speaker, Michael Brown - <i>The Beet Master: A History of Mechanized Sugar Beet Harvesting</i>	
	This presentation examines the history of mechanized sugar beet production as various machines were developed and perfected to harvest beets. It also points to the problematic relationship between individual farmers and the large agricultural businesses who might benefit from these innovations.	
10:00-11:00 am	Presentations	
	Erika Weidemann Bravo - <i>Mennonites on the Move: German Russians in World War II</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	This presentation follows Soviet-German Mennonites during World War II from Nazi resettlement to Poland in 1943 through their flight ahead of the advancing Soviet Army in 1945. For those who survived the war and escaped repatriation to the USSR, post-war immigration provided an opportunity to rebuild their lives.	
	Philip C. Bryan - <i>The Indian Removal Act of 1830, The Trail of Tears and the Settlement of Oklahoma by our Germans from Russia Ancestors</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	The Indian Removal Act of 1830: its impact on the native Americans of the Southeast United States and their removal to Indian Territory. The “Dawes Act” and the “civilizing” of the Indians and its eventual opening of Indian Territory to our Germans from Russia ancestors. Numerous G-R family stories are cited.	
	Maggie Hein - <i>German (and French and Danish) Church Records Online Documenting your Ancestors Before they Immigrated to Russia</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	Have you wondered how to access records in Europe to research your ancestors? Church parish records are the main source of documentation of births, marriages, and deaths of our ancestors. Many European archives have digitized their collections and made the images available online. Some of these websites are even free to use. This presentation will cover European websites including Matricula Online, Archion, Rigsarkivet, and French Departmental Archives, and the American websites FamilySearch and Ancestry.	

11:30 am-1:00 pm	Society and Foundation Annual Meeting and Luncheon Society Annual Meeting Presiding: Bob Ahlbrandt, President Appointments for meeting (Minutes Review, Parliamentarian) President's Report Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting (see pages 25-26) Financial Report (see QR code on page 24) Executive Director's Report Standing Committee Annual Reports (see QR code on page 24) New Business Election of Board Members (see page 27) Foundation Annual Meeting Presiding: Janene Schmidt, President	Century Ballroom	2:30-3:30pm	Presentations Peggy Goertzen - <i>Building Community in Russian-German Settlements through German Newspapers</i> German newspapers facilitated connections, community and mutual aid in Russian-German settlements in the US, Canada, Russia and Poland through the publishing of correspondence, reports, and advertisements. Carolyn Schott - <i>ABC...123...EWZ! Diving into Using EWZ Records for Your Research</i> This presentation will discuss the history of EWZ (Einwanderungszentralstelle) records, the different types of records, and how to access them for your research on German families repatriating from Eastern Europe during WWII.	19 th Century Ballroom 20 th Century Ballroom
			3:30-4:15 pm	Kuchen Break	Century Foyer
1:00-5:45pm	Research Room open	Plaza North			
1:00-5:45pm	AHSGR Store Open	Plaza South	4:15-5:45 pm	Presentation Anna Bartkowski, Carolyn Schott, David Jahn, Merv Weiss, Mike Meisinger - <i>Germans from the Russian Empire - Our Shared Heritage</i> Immerse yourself in a captivating exploration led by panelists Carolyn Schott, Merv Weiss, David Jahn, Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski, and the skilled facilitator Mike Meisinger. Together, they delve into the rich tapestry of settlements, cherished traditions, vibrant culture, and intertwined heritage of the Bessarabia, Black Sea, Mennonite, and Volga colonists within the vast expanse of the Russian Empire.	One Broadway Ballroom
1:15-2:15 pm	Presentations Carolyn Zeisset - <i>Keeping Your Heritage Story Alive</i> Grandparents and older relatives are often keepers of family heritage. Story-telling can keep it alive for younger generations. This program is not about memoirs, histories, or novels. It will share story examples to stimulate thinking, with pauses to make notes or tell others story snippets you would like younger generations to know about your heritage. Edward J. Swierczewski Jr. - <i>Using Artificial Intelligence for Common Genealogical Tasks</i> The newest tool is AI, and we need to understand its benefits and limitations. Use cases will demonstrate some of the abilities of AI for common genealogical tasks like Summarization, Extraction, and Translation. A handout will be distributed with prompts so that these skills can be put to immediate use Mervin Weiss - <i>The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05</i> The disasters of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 awakened the Russian peasants and factory workers to the injustices and weaknesses of the Tsarist regime. The open and broadly based opposition following the war would lead directly to the Russian Revolutions of 1917.	18 th Century Ballroom 19 th Century Ballroom 20 th Century Ballroom			
			8:00 am-1:00 pm	Registration	Century Foyer
			8:00 am-3:00 pm	AHSGR Store open	Plaza South
			8:00 am-3:00 pm	Research Room open	Plaza North
			8:00 am-12:00 pm	Silent Auction open	Red Carpet
			8:00 am-3:00 pm	Vendors	Century Foyer
			8:00 am-3:00 pm	Heritage Hall	Green Country
			8:30-9:30 am	Presentations Eric J. Schmaltz - <i>People on the Way: German from Russia Settlements in Oklahoma and Texas (1880s-1920s)</i> This presentation outlines the push-pull factors encouraging German from Russia migrations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to Oklahoma and Texas. After considering the group's resilience and adaptation in their new prairie homelands, the discussion also reflects on the German Russians' broader impact and legacy in the region. Cary Bright - <i>Drilling Down on your DNA Matches</i> Learn how to drill down on your DNA matches to isolate a group by matches, using the tools provided by the three DNA Co, FTDNA, Ancestry, or MyHeritage. Then learn ways to capture these groups of matches for further analysis on your home computer. Kay Fritzler Pimple - <i>Make a German (Froebel) Star</i> A German (Froebel) Star: Are you familiar with the tradition of folding these colorful stars, dipping them in wax, and adorning the Christmas tree? You will make and take your own star! Please join me in this walk back in history, and bring a friend or cousin you just met!	18 th Century Ballroom 19 th Century Ballroom 20 th Century Ballroom
1:30-4:00 pm	Tour 2- Western Heritage Museum*				

Friday, August 9

9:45-10:45 am	Presentations	
	Carolyn Zeisset - <i>Keeping Your Heritage Story Alive</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	Grandparents and older relatives are often keepers of family heritage. Storytelling can keep it alive for younger generations. This program is not about memoirs, histories, or novels. It will share story examples to stimulate thinking, with pauses to make notes or tell others story snippets you would like younger generations to know about your heritage.	
	Ulrich Merten - <i>The Baltic Germans- A History; 1200-1939</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	Over the centuries, the German role in the Baltics was a bittersweet mixture of domination combined with the introduction and cultivation of western-style civilization. The Baltic Germans created, in large part, the Latvian and Estonian nations we know today. Learn more about this fascinating history.	
	Doug Schoenhals - <i>Shattuck Windmill Museum</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	History of the Shattuck Windmill Museum, the origin of the Museum and its founder, History of the settlement of the Shattuck Area, and explanation of the Museum displays.	
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Presentations	
	Wayne Garman - <i>War and German Immigration to Russia – 1760 to 1820</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	Wars had a major influence on our ancestors' decision to immigrate from Germany to Russia. My presentation will describe these conflicts as well as their impact on the German farming population, including our ancestors. I will also explain how without war, our history and lives would have been far different.	
	Phil Goldfarb - <i>Traveling to America in Steerage and Whether to Admit or Deport our Ancestors.</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	This presentation discusses the history of ship travel to the United States from the 1830s to the 1920s. What it was like for our ancestors to travel on these ships, especially in steerage, what they did, how they felt, and how they prepared to enter the US. We will also discuss in detail the processing of immigrants into the United States with an emphasis on Ellis Island.	
	Russ Gunther - <i>Scout Explorer Voyages to America</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	In 1874 two groups of scouts were elected from German villages in Russia to explore prospects for emigration to the Americas. (Did you know they weren't originally planning to see the United States?!) Hear about their voyages, their invitation from a king, the routes, where they ended up, and what they brought back!	
12:15-1:00 pm	Lunch Your Way*	Kiamichi
12:00 pm	Silent Auction closes	Red Carpet
12:30-3:00 pm	Pay and pick up Silent Auction items	Red Carpet

1:15-2:15 pm	Presentations	
	Carolyn Schott - <i>Walking in the Footsteps of your Ancestors</i>	18 th Century Ballroom
	Visiting places where your ancestors lived can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that opens the door to better understanding your ancestors' lives. Learn strategies for getting the most out of a visit to an ancestral town and making local contacts. We'll also talk about genealogy research tips for identifying the place of origin of your ancestors.	
	Wyatt Atchley - <i>Prairie Preservation: Cultural Architecture of Black Sea Germans in North Dakota</i>	19 th Century Ballroom
	"Prairie Preservation" explores the architectural legacy of Black Sea Germans from Russia in North Dakota, focusing on their unique home construction. The presentation also confronts the challenge of abandoned homes on the prairies, posing the key question: "How do homesteads contribute to the broader context of historic preservation?"	
	Phil Goldfarb - <i>The History of U.S. Passports, U.S. Passport Applications, Russian/Lithuania/Latvia Internal Passports and Nansen Passports For Refugees</i>	20 th Century Ballroom
	This session discusses the history of passports which began in 450 BCE and continues with a discussion of U.S Passports, Passport Applications, and information that can be found, including examples of Passport Applications. We will then focus on Russian, Lithuania, and Latvian Internal Passports with examples. Finally, the Nansen Passports for refugees will be discussed.	
2:30-3:30 pm	Presentation	
	Brent Mai - <i>Copyright for Genealogists</i>	One Broadway Ballroom
	Copyright in the realm of genealogy may not be what it first appears to be – but it's not as complicated as one might think. In this session, we'll delve into the various parts of copyright law that apply to researching and sharing genealogical work.	
3:45-4:15 pm	Post Convention Society BOD meeting	Frontier Room
3:45-4:15 pm	Post Convention Foundation BOT meeting	Great Plains Room
5:30 pm	Cocktail hour-Cash Bar	Century Ballroom
6:00-8:00 pm	Banquet	Century Ballroom
	Presiding: Bob Ahlbrandt, President	
	Invocation: Rev. Dr Kurt Friederich	
	Introduction of New Officers of the Society and Foundation	
	Presentation of Distinguished Service Award	
	Banquet Speaker: Brent Mai <i>Back to the Future: Why Looking Back is So Critical to the Future</i>	
	Quilt Raffle: Kay Fritzler & Harriet Wahler	
	Lantern Presentation: Duane Stabler	
	Closing	

2024 CONVENTION STAFF

Not a complete list of volunteers, thanks to all who helped!

Convention Management Committee

Duane Stabler, Chair
Ann Friederich
Kurt Friederich
Dodie Rotherham
Janis Hudson
Jack Unger
Jerri Unger
Bill Ridinger
Cahterine Butshek
Kay Fritzier Pimple
Tom Pimple
Marsha Sauer
Harriett Wahler
Ladonna Hunt
Philip Bryan
Sandy Osmus
Harold Penner
Howard Foote
Karlene Grosz
Deborah Dehn
Sue Casseday

AHSGR Convention Committee

Liaison

Duane Stabler

Host Committee Chairpersons

Marsha Sauer (President, Central Oklahoma Chapter)
Jack Unger (President, North Texas Chapter)

AHSGR Staff

Rebecca Matticks
Emily Gengenbach
Karen Keehr
Claire Landolt
Amber Mikkelsen
Libby Horken

Quilt Auction

Janis Hudson

Registration Volunteers

JoAnn Smith
Marvin Steinback
Andrea Hanson
Janet Shapiro

Research Room Volunteers

Suzie Nixon

Session Hosts

Jack Unger
Howard Foote
Marsha Sauer
Harold Penner
Duane Stabler
Anna Bartowski
Rudy York
Dodie Rotherham
Harriet Walher

Silent Auction

Kay Fritzier Pimple
Harriet Wahler

Tours

Marvin Steinback
Dr. Phil Bryan
LaDonna Hunt
Harriet Wahler

Tech/IT Liasion

Tom Pimple

Transportation/Set-up/Tear-Down

Dennis Reich
Ashley Weber
Fred Grosz
Karlene Grosz
David Ralston
Marvin Steinback

Vendors

Oklahoma Historical Society
Ellis County Historical Society
Ann's Amazing Threads

Village Gathering

Ray Karlin

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**Presidents are listed as last known in AHSGR records.*

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STOP BY OUR BOOTH
HERE AT THE 2024 CONVENTION
FOR NOVEL *Volga German* ITEMS

.....stickers.....aprons.....t-shirts.....books.....and more.....

The Heartbeat of Volga German Culture is in Ellis County Kansas!

Find us online at www.echshays.org



1943, celebrating 20 years of freedom.

Forever bonded by a common goal fleeing Russia.

John L. Feser Schuck-Refugee John J. Feser Schuck-U.S. Sponsor

John Weigel Pfeifer-Refugee Anton Klobertanz Schuck-Refugee

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Contact help@ahsgr.org if you are interested in becoming a Village Coordinator

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VILLAGE GATHERING GROUPS

AREA 1A

Medveditsa River Villages and Daughter Colonies

Mother Colonies

Frank
Hussenbach
Kolb
Walter

Daughter Colonies

Brunnental
Frank-Khutor/Neu-Frank
Hoffental
Klein-Walter
Neu-Hussenbach
Walter-Khutor/Neu-Walter

AREA 1B

Protestant Colonies of Kantons Frank & Northern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Dietel
Franzosen
Kautz
Kratzke
Merkel

Daughter Colonies

Aehrenfeld
Friedenberg
Friedenfeld
Gnadentau
Konstantinowka
Langenfeld
Neu-Aehrenfelde
Neu-Bauer
Neu-Donenhoff
Propp
Wiesenmueller

AREA 2

Protestant Colonies of Kantons Balzer & Northern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Anton
Balzer
Bauer
Beideck
Doenhoff
Grimm

Huck

Kutter
Messer
Moor
Norka
Schilling

Daughter Colonies

Aehrenfeld
Alt-Schilling
Alt-Weimar
Eckheim
Erlenbach
Friedenberg
Friedenfeld
Gnadentau
Gnadentau
Hoffental
Konstantinowka
Langenfeld
Neu-Balzer
Neu-Bauer
Neu-Messer
Neu-Moor
Neu-Norka
Neu-Schilling I
Neu-Schilling II
New-Aehrenfelde
Oberdorf
Rosenfeld-am-Jerusan
Wiesenmueller

AREA 3

Catholic Colonies of Kantons Frank, Kamenka, Kukkus, & Seelmann

Mother Colonies

Brabander
Degott
Dehler
Franzosen
Goebel
Hildmann
Hoezel
Husaren
Kamenka
Keller
Koehler
Leichtling
Leitsinger
Neu-Kolonie

Pfeifer

Preuss
Rothammel
Schuck
Seewald
Semenovka
Vollmer

Daughter Colonies

Josephstal
Marienberg
Marienfeld
Streckerau

AREA 4

Protestant Colonies of Kanton Southern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Dobrinka
Drespitz
Galka
Holstein
Kraft
Mueller
Shcherbakovka
Schwab
Stephan

Daughter Colonies

Alexandertal
Alt-Weimar
Blumenfeld
Dubowka
Eckheim
Erlenbach
Frankreich
Friedenberg
Fritzendorf
Gnadenhau
Kana
Langenfeld
Morgentau
Neu-Galka
Neu-Muehle
Neu-Norka
Neu-Weimar
Oberdorf
Strassburg
Unterdorf
Wiesenfeld
Wiesenmueller

AREA 5

Protestant Colonies of Kantons Krasnojarsk & Marxstadt

Mother Colonies

Basel
Beauregard
Beckerdorf
Bern

Bettinger
Biberstein
Boaro
Brockhausen
Caesarfeld
Enders
Fischer
Hockerburg
Kano

Katherinenstadt
Kind
Krasnojarsk
Naab
Nieder-Monjour
Orlowskoje
Paulskoje
Phillipsfeld
Reinhardt
Reinwald
Rosenheim
Schaefer
Schafthausen
Schulz
Schwed
Stahl-am-Karman
Susannental
Unterwalden
Zuerich

Daughter Colonies

Alexanderhoh
Lilienfeld
Neu-Boisroux
Rosenfeld am Nachoi
Rosental

AREA 6

Catholic Colonies of Kantons Krasnojarsk, Marxstadt & Tonkoschoramka

Mother Colonies

Beauregardt
Chassoelois
Graf
Herzog

Katharienenstadt
Louis
Luzern
Mariental
Ober-Monjour
Rohleder
Schoenchen
Urbach
Wittman
Zug

Daughter Colonies

Alexanderfeld
Birkenheim
Friedental
Liebental
Maidorf
Neu-Boaro
Neu-Urbach
Neu-Obermonjour

AREA 7

Mennonite Colonies

Colonies

Chortitza
Crimea
Friesenov
Kuban
Molotschna
Sagradovka

(Individual villages may be found on the area map or at <http://www.mennonitehistory.org/projects/geography/index.html>)

AREA 8

Volhynia Colonies Polish & Ukraine

Colonies

Dermanke
Emilhin
Kruglik
Marianin
Polish
Volhynia
Volyunsk
Zaslav

AREA 9

Protestant Colonies of Kantons Jagodaja Poljana, Kukkus, & Seelmann

Mother Colonies

Bangert
Dinkel

Jost
Kukkus
Laub
Lauwe
Neu-Warenberg
Pobotschnaja
Seelmann
Stahl-am-Tarlyk
Straub
Warenburg
Yagodnaya Poljana

Daughter Colonies

Brunnental
Konstantinowka
Neu-Beideck
Neu-Jagodnaja
Neu-Laub
Neu-Schoenfeld
Neu-Schoental
Neu-Straub
Neu-Warenburg
Schoendorf
Schoenfeld
Schoental
Strassendorf
Tschardym

AREA 10

Caucasus Colonies

Colonies

Alexanderfeld
Duchlonoff
Eigenfeld
Eigenheim
Emaus
Friedrichsfeld
Johannesdorf
Karlsruhe
Katharinenfeld
Kronental
Lillienfeld
Luxemburg
Marienbrunn
Markosowka
Nalchik
Rosenfeld

AREA 11

Beresan & Odessa Colonies

Beresan Colonies

Johannestal
Karlsruhe
Katherinental
Landau
Rohrbach

Speier
Sulz
Waterloo
Worms

Odessa Colonies

Alexanderhilf
Berezan
Franzfeld
Grossliebental
Josefstal
Kleinliebental
Mammjeo
Mariental
Neuburg
Odessa
Rastatt

AREA 12

Bessarabia, Kutschurgan & Romania Colonies

Bessarabia Colonies

Akkerman
Alt-Posttal
Arzis
Beresina
Borodino
Brienne
Dennewitz
Engenheim
Friedenfeld
Friedenstal
Hoffnungstal
Katzbach
Krasna
Kulm
Leipzig
Lichtental
Neu-Arzis
Neu-Sarata
Sarata
Tarutino
Teplitz

Kutschurgan Colonies

Elsass
Kandel
Mannheim
Selz

Romania Colonies

Atmagea
Bukovina
Cataloi
Ciucurova

Dobruja
Gurahumora
Tschukurov

AREA 13

Crimea, Prischib & Swedish Colonies

Crimea Colonies

Friedental
Heilbronn
Karassan
Kronental
Neu-Hoffnung
Neusatz
Rosental
Schoenbrunn
Spat
Sudak
Zuerichtal

Prischib Colonies

Alt-Montal
Alt-Nassau
Durlach
Friedrichsfeld
Hochheim
Hochstaedt
Hoffental
Karlsruhe
Kronsfeld
Neu-Montal
Neu-Nassau
Reichenfeld
Rosental
Tiefenbrunn
Wasserau

Swedish Colonies

Alt-Schwedendorf
Klosterdorf
Muehlhausendorf
Schlangendorf

AREA 14

Glueckstal & Hoffnungstal Colonies

Mother Colonies

Bergdorf
Gluckstal
Hoffnungsfeld
Hoffnungstal
Kassel
Neudorf

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Category	30-Jun-24	30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22	6-Jun-21
Life Members	1,056	1,056	1,077	1,151
Sustaining Members	162	173	217	n/a
Standard Members	1,089	1,145	1,095	1,450*
Youth & Student Members	17	21	18	21
Organization Members **	35	36	58	22
TOTAL	2,359	2,431	2,465	2,644

* Includes Sustaining Members

** Includes Exchange Members

Members by Country and State

United States	2,214	Idaho	40	Connecticut	5	Kentucky	2
Canada	111	Florida	35	D.C.	4	Maine	2
Germany	20	Iowa	34	Georgia	4	Rhode Island	2
Argentina	5	Missouri	34	Hawaii	4	West Virginia	2
Russia	3	Wyoming	29	Massachusetts	4	Mississippi	1
Australia	2	Virginia	28	Louisiana	3	New Jersey	1
Mexico	2	Montana	27				
Great Britain	2	North Carolina	26				
		South Dakota	25				
Colorado	330	Ohio	17				
California	315	Tennessee	15				
Kansas	167	Nevada	14				
Nebraska	166	New Mexico	14				
Washington	148	North Dakota	14				
Oregon	104	Indiana	13				
Texas	94	Maryland	12				
Michigan	72	Pennsylvania	11				
Wisconsin	72	South Carolina	10				
Minnesota	68	New York	9				
Arizona	66	Alaska	8				
Oklahoma	55	Georgia	8				
Illinois	48	Arkansas	6				
Utah	43	Alabama	5				

WHY BECOME AN AHSGR MEMBER?

As an AHSGR Member you can:

- Discover your ancestors' backstories
- Gain free access to our extensive research library
- Meet cousins and make friends
- Receive discounted prices for village records, family lists, and other items in our store
- Search our publications database for *Journals* and *Newsletters* from 1969 to 2024.
- Ensure our ancestry and heritage live on for future generations!

Want to save time? Sign up today for auto renewal of your AHSGR membership.



Find out more at ahsgr.org/membership

STANDING RULES OF ORDER

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING STANDING RULES OF ORDER

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES:

The Colorado Revised Statutes, as Amended, Title 7: CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, Articles 20 through 29: Nonprofit Corporations. The Articles of Incorporation as certified by and in the State of Colorado March 25, 1974, and amended August 9, 1974, and the Bylaws, as amended August 17, 2006.

Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, (as required by Bylaws Article X), in all cases not provided for by Colorado State Law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the following Standing Rules of Order.

STANDING RULES OF ORDER:

The following rules, adopted by the Board of Trustees and membership, shall prevail during the (year) Annual Meeting and, as appropriate, to Foundation business during the Joint Memberships Meeting.

1. Reports of officers shall be in writing, except those of the International Foundation President and Treasurer whose reports are limited to five (5) minutes.
2. Committee reports are limited to five (5) minutes, except for the Finance committee whose report is limited to 10 minutes.
3. A member making a motion must rise, state his/her name, address the Chair, and be recognized. The same rule applies to the member making a second.
4. All motions must be reduced to writing and must be submitted to the Chair at the time the motion is made. Any amendment to the motion as originally proposed must also be submitted in writing to the Chair at the time the amendment is made.
5. If proceedings give rise to discussion, a member may speak three (3) minutes for or against a motion. Timekeepers will present a one (1) minute and a thirty (30) second warning to the member so that he/she may conclude his/her remarks within the three (3) minute limit. A member may speak a second time to the same motion only after all others present and wishing to speak have been heard for the first time.
6. Except where written ballot is required by Robert's Rules of Order or Colorado State Law, all votes will be viva voce. The chair retains the right to require a show of hands or a standing count when a clear majority cannot be easily determined. When written ballot is required by Robert's Rules of Order, the Chair will make provisions for such a vote in an expeditious manner. When written ballot is required by Colorado State Law, the procedures required by the statute will be followed.
7. Except where two-thirds vote is required by the Bylaws, Colorado State Law or these Standing Rules, decisions will be by simple majority.
8. Except as required by Colorado State Law, decisions depend upon those members present at the Annual Meeting and voting. Any member, with just cause, may challenge the right of a person to vote. The roster of paid-up members of AHSGR, as maintained by AHSGR Headquarters staff, will determine a person's eligibility to vote (Reference Bylaws Article I. Membership).
9. Nominations will be governed in accordance with Article IV, Sections C, D, E, and F and Article VI, Section C of the Bylaws. A slate of candidates will be presented by the Nominations Committee. However,

nominations from the floor are in order. Nominations from the floor shall be limited to one nomination speech of two (2) minutes and one seconding speech of one (1) minute for each nominee.

10. If there is only one (1) nominee to fill the Representation District position(s) on the Board of Trustees, a motion may be accepted that the individual(s) be elected by acclamation. All positions having more than one nominee require election by written ballot. A majority vote of the members voting elects.
11. In case of need, these Standing Rules of Order may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, except as dictated by the Legal and Parliamentary authorities listed above.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING STANDING RULES OF ORDER

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES:

The Colorado Revised Statutes, as Amended, Title 7: CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, Articles 20 through 29: Nonprofit Corporations. The Articles of Incorporation as certified in 1968 in the State of Colorado and the Restated Articles of Incorporation adopted June 25, 1977, and the Bylaws as adopted July 8, 2004, shall govern all proceedings of the Society. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition, in all cases not provided for by Colorado State Law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the following Standing Rules of Order.

STANDING RULES OF ORDER:

The following rules adopted by the Board of Directors shall prevail during convention general and business sessions.

1. Members are urged to assemble five (5) minutes before scheduled meeting time.
2. Reports of officers are limited to five (5) minutes (except that of the International President).
3. Committee reports are limited to three (3) minutes. A member making a motion must rise, state his/her name, address the Chair, and be recognized.
4. All motions must be made in writing and must be submitted to the Chair at the time the motion is made. Any amendment to the motion as originally proposed must also be submitted to the Chair in writing at the time the amendment is made.
5. If proceedings give rise to discussion, a member may speak three (3) minutes for or against a motion. Timekeepers will present a one (1) minute and a thirty (30) second warning so the member may conclude his or her remarks within the time limit.
6. A member may speak a second time to the same question only after those present and wishing to speak have had the opportunity.
7. Any member may present a Resolution to the Resolution Committee. Deadline is 24 hours prior to the scheduled Resolutions Committee report. Resolutions shall be presented only through the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions may be handed in at the Convention Registration Desk.
8. These Standing Rules of Order may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, except as dictated by the Legal and Parliamentary authorities listed above.

AHSGR REPORTS

Scan the QR code below to access All Committee Annual Reports.



Scan the QR code below to access the 2023 Financial Report.



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia AHSGR General Business Meeting Minutes 4 August 2023

Karen Soeken, Board President, called the meeting to order.
Motion to adopt the meeting agenda as printed carried.

Karen Soeken appointed the following individuals to serve for the annual meeting:

- Parliamentarian: Nick Bretz
- Timekeeper: Harold Penner
- Minutes Review: Judy Gareis and Shirley Wilcoxon
- Standing rules were adopted unanimously by the Membership.

Board President's Report: Karen Soeken

- AHSGR has completed one year fully staffed and much has been accomplished.
- Board of director's committee reports are available on the website.
- Karen shared her main goals and accomplishments as Board President:
- Committees and staff work together as a team. This was accomplished thanks to the Executive Director, Deb Arenz.
- Update policies and procedures to reflect best practices and create a staff procedure manual.
- Develop a new Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 at the culmination of the 2020-2023 Plan.

Minutes

Motion to accept the Minutes from the 2022 Annual Board Meeting carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Casseday

- If there are questions, talk with Sue and/or Deb Arenz.
- Treasurer called for members to renew, donate, and recruit friends.

Director's Report: Deb Arenz

Deb presented some of the Staff Strategic goals and accomplishments for the past year.

- Staff strives for operational excellence and outreach.
- They engage with the local community.
- A walking tour of the South Bottoms neighborhood was recently launched.
- Staff is creating original video content.
- The library and research collections are being reorganized.
- AHSGR has received grants and donations for facility upgrades.
- Staff has instituted metrics for collections.

Old Business

None

New Business: Bylaws Amendments

The Secretary (Sheri Ertl) read the bylaws and the President (Karen Soeken) reviewed the changes.

Article III. Section C

~~Dues become delinquent 30 days after due date and a service charge to cover additional expenses may be assessed for renewals thereafter.~~

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article VI. Section G

~~The Board of Directors may fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for the unexpired terms resulting from resignations when these vacancies occur at least ninety (90) days prior to the ballot process before the annual membership meeting. Serving an unexpired term of more than two (2) years shall constitute a full term for Section B.~~

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article VIII. Section D

~~The Executive Committee shall report its action for ratification to the Board of Directors actions taken on behalf of the Board of Directors at the next Board's next meeting.~~

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article VIII. Section F

The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the recruitment, negotiation of salary, and hiring of the Executive Director.

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article X. Section F

~~The Board of Directors shall review the job description and salary of the Executive Director annually.~~

From the publisher of *The Right Place at the Right Time*

Flyblister Press announces the upcoming publication of

Kind Colony on the Volga: Coming Together, Their Lives and Diaspora, by Bill Pickelhaupt

A Hardcover book of approximately 800 pages. Planned release in late 2024 or very early 2025.

German and Russian editions planned.



Congratulations on hosting the 2024 Annual Convention in Oklahoma City
From your friends and members of the Calgary Chapter North of the 49th Parallel.
Hope you have a great get-together with lots of fun and plenty of information exchange.
We wish you every success!

Article VIII. Section G

The Executive Committee shall review the job description and salary of the Executive Director annually.

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article XII: Elections. Section C.1

Consist of five (5) members appointed by the President within sixty (60) days after the adjournment of the annual membership meeting. Not more than two (2) members shall be from any one Representation District and three (3) shall be non-board members.

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Nominations

Nominees were presented. A ballot election was not required.

District 1: California and Hawaii		
Lee Macklin	First Term	2021-2024
Sue Nakaji	Fourth Term	2023-2026
Dodie Rotherham	Fifth Term	2022-2025
Jerry Siebert	Ninth Term	2023-2026
District 2: Washington and Alaska		
Sally Petersen	First Term	2023-2026
John Spady	First Term	2022-2024
District 3: Nebraska		
Heath Dumler	First Term	2022-2025
Rebecca Matticks	First Term	2023-2026
District 4: Colorado		
Sue Casseday	Third Term	2021-2024
Cheryl Glanz	Third Term	2022-2025
Delores Tippett	Third Term	2023-2026
Sandra Wagner	First Term	2023-2025
District 5: Oregon		
Rosalind Rockweit	Second Term	2023-2026
District 6: Kansas		
Bob Ahlbrandt	Second Term	2021-2024
Kevin Rupp	Sixth Term	2021-2024
District 7: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas & Utah		
Anna Bartkowski	Second Term	2022-2025
Russ Gunther	Third Term	2023-2024
Harold Penner	Fourth Term	2023-2026
District 8: Illinois and Wisconsin		
Bill Doos	Fourth Term	2021-2024
District 9: Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming		
Michael Brown	Second Term	2022-2025
District 10: Indiana, Michigan and Ohio		
Jeff Stoll	First Term	2023-2026

New Strategic Plan

Gary Fuchs presented the goals of the new Strategic Plan.

1. Ensure financial stability of AHSGR.
2. Expand reach of AHSGR.
3. Strengthen partnerships in the German from Russia community.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.

District 11: Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri		
Sheri Ertl	Second Term	2023-2026
Duane Stabler	Second Term	2022-2025
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, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington D.C.		
Diane Bates	First Term	2023-2026
Philip Stuckert	First Term	2021-2024
District 13: Canada and Other Countries		
Timothy Geiger	First Term	2023-2025
Olga Litzenberger	First Term	2023-2024
District 14: At Large		
Gary Fuchs	Second Term	2021-2024
Kristine Jones	First Term	2022-2025
Elizabeth Koch	First Term	2022-2025



Storytelling Contest

Capture the Germans from Russia experience through storytelling!

Examples include: fiction or nonfiction stories, poetry that explores the history, heritage, folklore, food, and culture of the Germans from Russia.

Photos and illustrations to go along with work is encouraged.



Stories and poems can be submitted at ahsgr.org/storytelling-contest

Winning entries will be published by AHSGR.

Submission Deadline
September 6, 2024

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Below is the Board of Directors nomination and election information. Listed are the names of the proposed 2024 board members. This includes both board members who will continue an ongoing term as well as proposed new board members to fill open seats. Board members are displayed by district and note their terms and the number of terms served. See the AHSGR bylaws for more nomination and election information (Article XII: Elections). Where terms begin in 2024 (*), the candidates listed are running

unopposed and therefore will begin their new terms at the 2024 AHSGR summer member meeting. Where terms are followed by (#), the individual is running unopposed to fill the remaining years of the position and will begin serving in that new role at the 2024 AHSGR summer member meeting. 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 and Hawaii (4 seats) Open - 2024-2027+ Sue Nakaji Fourth Term 2023-2026 Dodie Rotherham Fifth Term 2022-2025 Jerry Siebert Ninth Term 2023-2026	District 7: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah (3 seats) Anna Bartkowski Second Term 2022-2025 Russ Gunther Fourth Term 2024-2027* Harold Penner Fourth Term 2023-2026	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, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington D.C. (2 seats) Diane Bates First Term 2023-2026 Philip Stuckert Second Term 2024-2027
District 2: Washington and Alaska (2 seats) Sally Petersen First Term 2023-2026 John Spady Second Term 2024-2027*	District 8: Illinois and Wisconsin (1 seat) Kristine Jones Second Term 2024-2027*	District 13: Canada and Other Countries (2 seats) Wayne Garman First Term 2024-2025# Olga Litzenberger Second Term 2024-2027*
District 3: Nebraska (2 seats) Dan Brosz First Term 2024-2025 Rebecca Matticks First Term 2023-2026	District 9: Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming (1 seat) Michael Brown Third Term 2022-2025	District 14: At Large (3 seats) Gary Fuchs Third Term 2024-2027* Ray Karlin Second Term 2024-2025# Elizabeth Koch First Term 2022-2025
District 4: Colorado (4 seats) Cheryl Glanz Third Term 2022-2025 Larry Kimble First Term 2024-2027* Delores Tippett Third Term 2023-2026 Sandra Wagner First Term 2023-2025	District 10: Indiana, Michigan and Ohio (1 Seat) Jeff Stoll First Term 2023-2026	
District 5: Oregon (1 seat) Rosalind Rockweit Second Term 2023-2026	District 11: Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri (2 seats) Sheri Ertl Second Term 2023-2026 Duane Stabler Second Term 2022-2025	
District 6: Kansas (2 seats) Bob Ahlbrandt Third Term 2024-2027* Kevin Rupp Seventh Term 2024-2027*		

Kruisin' with Konrad



Share your travel adventures with Konrad on our social media! Snap and post your photos with Konrad as he explores the globe.


Join in on the fun with a family-friendly photo event to celebrate the new book *The Adventures of Konrad, Wanderlust*.

Genealogy. Murder. Karma.

What could possibly go wrong?

Join Rosalind Schmidt's journey to uncover her German Russian Ancestors...murderers and all.

www.annabartkowski.com



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Wyatt Atchley

Wyatt Atchley, MA in History from NDSU, serves as the Special Collections Archivist at the Libraries Department. He dedicates himself to preserving and sharing local history through his work at the University Archives and the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU.



Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski

Anna traces her paternal line to the Russian villages of Mariental and Louis and her maternal line to Reinwald, Rosenfeld am Nachoi, and Balzer. With the support of many AHSGR mentors and friends, she has traced most lines back to their Germanic origins as early as 1699. She is an enthusiastic family historian and grebel lover. She is the author of *Dead Reckoning*, *A Rosalind Schmidt Genealogical Mystery*, *Maggie Visits Grandpa*, *Maggie Visits Argentina*, *Value Meals on the Volga*, *Grebel and Gemütlichkeit*, and *Journeys to Authorship: How Wannabe Writers Can Realize Their Publishing Dreams*. For more information, and to receive storytelling tips, please visit annabartkowski.com.



Cary Bright

Cary is co-founder of Seattle Genealogical Society DNA SIG. She loves helping learners have Aha moments. She wishes there was just more time to organize those matches, from the 9 Kits she manages. Cary's a graduate of SLIG Virtual All-DNA, Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicums and speaks on DNA topics.



Michael Brown

Michael is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wyoming. He is second generation German Russian; his grandfather immigrated from the Volga region in 1912. He has spent time in Kazakhstan examining the lives of German Russians in the Kazakh gulag system. He spent four years as editor of the Journal of AHSGR.



Philip C. Bryan, M.D.

Phillip is a retired surgeon of 50 years practice who has researched Oklahoma History and copyrighted two booklets on "The Other Germans." and their settling in Oklahoma.



Wilhelm G. Doos

Dr. Doos has been researching his family history for more than 40 years. He was born in the USSR and immigrated to the USA in 1951. He has visited Russia, Siberia, North Caucasus, Ukraine, Poland, and Germany to visit ancestral village sites and meet relatives to acquire a detailed history of the Doos family. Through research associates in Russia, Ukraine, and Germany, he has obtained extensive archival material relative to his ancestral villages and their inhabitants. He has published several articles and books through AHSGR and in several Russian history journals. He is extremely interested in the cultural assimilation of the German-speaking diaspora in Russia and other countries they moved to.



Steve Fast

Steve Fast is a financial consultant in the oil and gas industry. He has researched his Mennonite ancestors since his 8th grade English teacher introduced him to genealogy. He has taught himself to read German script and is fluent in Russian.



Kay Fritzler Pimple

Kay Fritzler Pimple is Volga Deutsch. Her father's family came from Grimm, to Russell, Kansas and eventually to Sterling, Colorado. She and her husband, Tom, are members of the, North Texas Chapter of Germans From Russia. She is excited for the opportunity to have a hands on demonstration, and to teach you!



Wayne Garman

Wayne Garman is a descendant of Germans from Russia on both sides of his family, including the Kutschurgan villages of Elsass & Strassburg and the Mennonite villages of Chortitza. Wayne grew up on a farm near the town of Allan, Saskatchewan, Canada, a predominantly GR community. Upon semi-retirement, Wayne completed a Masters of History degree from Texas State University. Historical research and writing now make up his retirement career.



Emily Gengenbach

Emily Gengenbach grew up in a small town in the middle of Nebraska and went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to receive a degree in history and a minor in English. She is working towards her master's degree in Library Science and with an archives certification. Emily is the Museum Services and Volunteer Coordinator at the AHSGR.



Peggy Goertzen

Peggy Goertzen is a historian, author, and speaker dedicated to Mennonite and German-Russian research. She is a native of Bakersfield, California, graduate of Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. She is an archivist and Director of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies at Tabor College. She is passionate about researching and writing church histories, family histories, local histories, and newspaper extracts.



Phil Goldfarb

Phil Goldfarb is a pharmacist by profession. His great grandfather was a pharmacist in Mogilev, Belarus and in Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine. Researching genealogy for 35+ years, Phil is the founding and current President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa which he started in 2005. He has lectured extensively on various topics in genealogy, published articles in numerous periodicals, and authors a monthly column in the Tulsa Jewish Review as well as a weekly Genealogy Newsletter that goes to 170,000 Jewish genealogists around the world. He has written two books titled *A Page of History: Passport Applications 1851-1914 and 1915-1925*. In July 2020 he won an Emmy Award as a Co-Producer for the Tulsa Historical Society's documentary titled: *L'dor V'dor Generation to Generation: A History of Tulsa's Jewish Community*.



Russ Gunther

Russ is a Brand Ambassador volunteer and Volga German sub-project coordinator of WikiTree's growing Germans from Russia project covering all Germans from Russia populations and colony villages. Russ studied Business and minored in German at Iowa State University, including a study abroad summer in Bregenz, Austria. Join Russ to explore one of the most exciting free resources for family connections and research that he used to root his family tree back to the 1600s in Germany. Russ is also the 3rd great-grandson of the 1874 scout explorer Anton Wasinger of Schönchen and a grand-nephew of scout explorer Peter Leiker of Obermonjou.



Maggie Hein

Maggie Hein is one of the AHSGR Village Coordinators for the village of Frank. Her ongoing research project is to identify the German and French origin locations of settlers in Frank and Kolb, and to publish the origin locations of settlers in other Volga German colonies whenever she happens to find them. When she isn't doing genealogy research, she is a tax accountant and co-owner of a CPA firm in the Chicago suburbs. Maggie writes a blog about Volga German genealogy, which you can find at <https://www.volgagermans.org/blog>.



Dr. David Jahn

Dr. David Jahn is a research meteorologist at the University of Oklahoma. He is a descendant of a group of Swiss Mennonites, who emigrated from Volhynia (Northwest Ukraine) to Kansas in 1874. David is active in his local church and has participated in numerous mission outreaches overseas. He has traveled extensively in Europe and Asia and speaks several languages including German.



Karen Keehr

Karen Keehr is the AHSGR Archivist and has worked in the Archives field for over 22 years, with specialized training in digital imaging and photograph preservation. She loves what she does and is always happy to answer questions. Originally from Minnesota, Karen developed a taste for green chili while doing her graduate work at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and stepson.



Brent Mai

Dr. Brent Mai currently serves as Dean of Libraries at Wichita State University in Kansas. He has over 30 years of experience leading libraries including those at Wichita State, the University of North Florida, Fairfield University, Concordia University in Portland, Vanderbilt University, and Purdue University. Since 2016, he has served as the director of the Volga German Institute through which he shares his research on the socio-economic movement patterns of the Volga Germans. Dr. Mai has published several books and articles on the history and culture of the Volga Germans, many of which were published by AHSGR.



Mike Meisinger

Mike Meisinger grew up on a dairy farm in northeastern Colorado. He has been researching his father's German Russian ancestors ever since he wrote a college term paper about the Germans from Russia in 1973. He is a past Vice President of the AHSGR Board of Directors and is the Village Coordinator for Messer and Neu Messer. Three of his mother's ancestors were Revolutionary War Soldiers, and through that heritage, he is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His articles *Finding Uncle Reavis* and *Proving Pembroke* have been published in the Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal.



Ulrich Merten

Ulrich was born in Berlin, Germany, and came to the United States as a child before the Second World War. He grew up in New York City and after the war, returned to Europe, studying at the University of Zürich, Switzerland and the University of Zaragoza in Spain. He earned his BA degree at Columbia College, Columbia University, and his M.A. at the Graduate Faculties, Columbia University. In his professional life, he was an international banker, and a senior executive of the Bank of America, working in Latin America and the Caribbean, for 38 years. His book, *Forgotten Voices; The Expulsion of the Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II* was published in 2012. In 2015, a companion history was published by the AHSGR entitled *Voices from the Gulag: The Oppression of the German minority in the Soviet Union*. His most recent book, *The Gulag in East Germany: Soviet Special Camps, 1945-1950* was published in 2018.



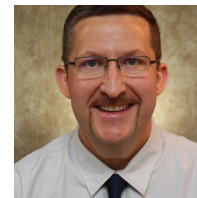
Amber Mikkelsen

Amber Mikkelsen is the Archival Research Coordinator with the AHSGR. She has been with the organization since April 2023. Before joining the AHSGR, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with highest distinction in Linguistics and a minor in Psychology from the University of Kansas. During her studies, she completed a thesis that earned her an Undergraduate Research Award. Concurrently, she worked in archival manuscript processing for the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. From this, she gained professional archival skills. Additionally, Amber has a background in library work and has volunteered at museums, further enriching her professional expertise.



William Ridinger

Bill was born in Germany to a Bavarian mother and a Black Sea German father, who immigrated to America when he was six. After earning a degree in Civil Engineering, he spent much of his career overseas, including assignments in Russia and Kazakhstan, where he began to explore his German Russian roots. His book *Orchards on the Steppes* (available in the AHSGR bookstore) is based on his family history. Bill is also the Village Coordinator for Rohrbach.



Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz

Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz is Professor of History, Departmental Chair of Social Sciences, and Co-Executive Director of the Endowed Institute for Citizenship Studies at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. His research concentrates on Modern Germany and Russia with an emphasis on ethnic and nationality issues, including German migration topics.



Doug Schoenhals

Doug is a lifelong resident of the Shattuck OK, Higgins, TX area and descendant of German Russian parents. Doug is married and has one son, he worked as a Diesel fuel Injection Specialist for forty-four years in his shop "Schoenhals Diesel Service" before retiring in 2018 and became a full-time volunteer at the Shattuck Windmill Museum.



Carolyn Schott

Carolyn Schott has researched her German ancestors in Eastern Europe for 20+ years. She's one of the founders of the Black Sea German Research Community, a former board member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, and author of the book, *Visiting Your Ancestral Town*.



Edward J. Swierczewski Jr., MA

Edward has been a professional educator for over 30 years, and a genealogist for almost 30 years. His education includes multiple GRIP, SLIG, and AI courses, and a ProGen alum. He's the founder of Integrative Genealogy, an award-winning writer and scholarship winner, and presented genealogy webinars locally and nationally, and possesses a deep passion for sharing knowledge.



Erika Weidemann Bravo

Erika (Weidemann) Bravo holds her MA and PhD in History from Texas A&M University where she studied the movement of Germans from Russia in the twentieth century. She currently serves as the editor of the AHSGR Journal and teaches undergraduate courses on immigration and the Second World War.



Mervin Weiss

Mervin Weiss has always been interested in the historical background of the Germans who lived in the Russian Empire. All four of his grandparents were born in what is today Ukraine. He has traveled six times to Ukraine to visit his ancestral villages. Merv lives in Saskatoon, Canada.



Carolyn Zeisset

Carolyn Zeisset is author of the historical fiction novel *Then the Rules Changed*. Currently her writing interest is in World War I experiences of people with German-speaking heritage. She has been an educator at preschool, elementary, middle school, and adult levels in public school, religious education, and business settings.



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