

**SWISS (Volhynian) MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
MINUTES**

February 26, 2004, 4:00 pm
Goering Activity Center

Present: Arnold Wedel, Ben Stucky, Gary Stucky, Jay Goering, LaVera Schrag, Wayne Stucky,
Roger Juhnke, Theodore James Goering, Waneta Goering
Absent: Lowell Goering, Scott Waltner
Others Present: Neva Stucky and Donna Neufeld

Call to Order: Arnold Wedel, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2004

The minutes of January 8, 2004 were read by Secretary Waneta Goering.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben Stucky and seconded by LaVera Schrag to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2004

There was discussion on whether the Executive Committee can make a decision to take a question from the table when the total board has tabled the issue. It was reported that some individuals were concerned about this action. Jim Goering clarified the composition of the Board's Executive Committee by reading Article V, Section 2 that states:

"The Executive Committee shall consist of the Association above specified." Article IV, Section 1 notes, "The officers of the Association shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, an executive trustee, a treasurer and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may deem advisable."

Jim Goering reviewed the by-laws stating that it is somewhat ambiguous about who has prime authority to conduct business for the organization. Gary Stucky suggested the SMCHA by-laws be placed on the website. Jim Goering consented to take care of this task.

The Executive Committee Minutes of January 12, 2004 were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jay Goering

Jay reported there were three transactions in the checking account since the Annual Meeting and fund balances are as follows:

Checking Account Balance:	\$144.71
Money Market Account	\$7,205.28
Savings Account:	\$97.73
Cemetery Endowment Fund	\$15,056.23

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Goering and seconded by Ben Stucky to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Jay distributed a list of membership for 2004 and reported that some individuals sent in \$10 memberships instead of \$15 memberships. There was discussion and consensus to grant individuals

who sent in \$10 memberships thinking it was for 2004 membership be considered members for Year 2004. Roger Juhnke made clarification that ten-year memberships begin with February 1, 2004. Jay will track these memberships as such.

“ONLY SCHWEITZER SPOKEN HERE”

It was reported there were approximately 60 in attendance at the February 6 program. The next program will be May 7, 2004 at the Goering Activity Center at Memorial Home.

FARM DAYS AT MAYNARD KREHBIEL’S FARM

It was reported that “Farm Days” would not be scheduled for this spring.

SCHWEITZER SALT – Donna Neufeld / Neva Stucky

Donna Neufeld reported that March 24, 2004 is the deadline for articles and information for *Schweitzer Salt*. She stated she would place in the newsletter the following in follow up to the annual meeting discussions:

- List of graves in the Hopefield Cemetery needing repair with associated costs.
- When the SMCHA fiscal year begins and ends.
- Proxy clarification and notice of annual meeting.

Roger Juhnke felt strongly that we need to let the “world” know about the SMCHA organization.

CHANGE IN ANNUAL MEETING DATE

Getting the financial report ready for the annual meeting has become problematic since the fiscal year ends January 31 of each year and the annual meeting (as the by-laws state) is scheduled for February 1. It was reported that the by-laws provide that the Board of Trustees shall have discretion to change the date of when the fiscal years begins and ends.

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Goering and seconded by Gary Stucky to change the fiscal year of the corporation to begin and end with the calendar year. Motion carried.

SPRING BANQUET – Monday, June 7, 2004

Roger Juhnke will clarify with John Ruth what will be the topic for his presentation for the Historical Association of the Western District Conference. Gary Stucky and LaVera Schrag will work on the menu for the banquet.

RESTORATION OF GRAVES IN HOPEFIELD CEMETERY

There was consensus that graves needing repair and the cost of those repairs would be listed in the next issue of *Schweitzer Salt*.

TRUSTEE REPORT – Ben Stucky

Cemetery Fund Raising and Workday. The workday has not been scheduled. Should there be a committee in charge of fund raising. Gary Stucky felt *Schweitzer Salt* would be a good vehicle for raising funds, and if the list were published in *Schweitzer Salt*, this would be an excellent way of advertising the need to raise funds for the cemetery restoration. There was discussion about whether all families knew of the need for their family members’ graves that were in need of repair. There was discussion about IRS regulations in gifting money through SMCHA for grave restoration and the proper

way to do it. It was suggested *Schweitzer Salt* state it as follows: “This is a tax deductible gift to cover expenses for grave restoration.”

FALL FESTIVAL – October 9, 2004

The First Mennonite Church in Pretty Prairie is responsible for the entire program at the 2004 SMCHA booth at Fall Festival at Bethel College. Gary Stucky and LaVera Schrag will notify them.

SMCHA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Executive Trustee. The Board of Trustees appointed Ben Stucky as the Executive Trustee for 2004.

Scholarship Committee. Alice Suderman was appointed to the Scholarship Committee.

Nominating Committee. Betty Jean Graber Stegall was appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Research Committee. James W. Krehbiel was appointed to the Research Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Goal Setting Retreat. Jim Goering stated he would find it helpful to have an evening retreat to do some goal setting for this organization—where are we going to be in five years. Is there value in having a meeting such as this? Gary suggested that Neva Stucky and Donna Neufeld be part of this discussion. Gary Stucky distributed for the committee’s review and discussion, an outline of what SMCHA is and what it could become. No date was set

The next meeting will be March 25, 2004, 4:00 pm, Goering Activity Center, Memorial Home.

Respectfully submitted,

Waneta Goering, Secretary