

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

Thursday, November 4, 2004, 4:30 pm
Memorial Home Goering Activity Center, Moundridge, Kansas

Present: LaVera Schrag, Lowell Goering, Arnold Wedel, Jim Goering, Jay Goering, Scott Waltner,
Roger Juhnke, Waneta Goering

Absent: Gary Stucky, Ben Stucky, Wayne Stucky

Call to Order: Arnold Wedel, Chair, called the meeting to order. Waneta requested Jim Goering to record minutes.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were reviewed with discussion regarding Fall Festival 2004—will this be the last SMCHA appearance at Bethel College's Fall Festival? Wayne Stucky brought the Elder Jacob Stucky trunks in the possession of Galen Stucky to the Kauffman Museum. There is no formally organized Schweitzer Museum Committee at this point.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jay distributed the treasurer's report.

SMCHA Checking Account Beginning Balance as of 09/16/04		\$ 382.06
Income: 3 membership dues	\$ 45.00	
Expenses: Electricity (BPU)	\$ 31.51	
Vision Computer (quarterly website hosting fee)	\$ 59.85	
Stucky Electric	\$ 57.26	
Account Ending Balance as of 11/03/04		\$ 273.44
Swiss Money Market Account Beginning Balance as of 11/03/04		\$ 8,404.00
Dividend	\$ 8.90	
Account Ending Balance as of 11/03/04		\$ 8,412.90
Cemetery Building Fund Balance as of 11/03/04		\$ 95.40
Cemetery Endowment Fund Balance as of 11/03/04		\$15,170.60

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Goering and seconded by LaVera Schrag to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

ONLY SCHWEITZER SPOKEN HERE

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2004, 2:00 pm, at the Memorial Home Goering Activity Center.

SCHWEITZER SALT

There was no report on when the next issue of *Schweitzer Salt* would be ready for publication. Roger Juhnke stated that membership reminders should also be announced in this next issue.

SMCHA WEBSITE

It was reported that six (6) stories from the *Eden Peace Witness* will appear on the website. This will become a monthly feature.

DEATH OF VICTOR STUCKY

It was recommended a note of sympathy be sent to son, Steve Stucky, who provided the music for the 125th anniversary celebration of the Swiss Mennonites in America.

FALL FESTIVAL REVIEW

There was discussion and reluctance to drop the SMCHA Fall Festival program for 2005. LaVera Schrag expressed her concern for difficulty in getting individuals to participate. There was no decision.

MEMBERSHIP

Jay distributed an updated list of the SMCHA membership. There were 185 members in 2003 and currently for 2004 there are 180. Arnold Wedel was thanked for sending 100 membership reminder postcards. He suggests renewal reminders to those who have not renewed for 2005. Jay will check into this and report back at the next meeting.

VIDEO

Robert Krehbiel has suggested a 10-15 minute video be produced on "Who Are the Schweitzers?" Also discussed in reference to doing a video, was the Nellie Laird Waltner video on the Mennonites coming to Harper, Kansas and the history written of the Mennonites coming to St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada. Arnold Wedel asked for feedback on asking John Ruth to participate. It was suggested we investigate costs, etc. Where will we use this video?—it could be shown to church groups, shown to young people to peak their interest in the Schweitzers. There was consensus that the discussed uses for the video would justify its cost. There was no decision.

TRUSTEE REPORT – Ben Stucky

1. Stucky Electric has repaired the lighting issues at the marker.
2. Cemetery issues – Arnold Wedel reported he has discussed cemetery issues with Von Peterson.
3. Scott Waltner reported they would be spraying bindweed around the marker and cemetery at the end of this week.
4. Vaughn Juhnke has completed his work on the marker.

PRESERVING SCHWEITZER HISTORY

Jim Goering discussed the possibility of having an exhibit at the Kauffman Museum. The concern is to preserve the artifacts. There was discussion and several suggestions on how to present our history and preserve our story.

- Put the story on paper and display it in the Swiss churches.
- A traveling exhibit displayed in churches.
- Use SMCHA website to link with other Mennonite history and artifacts.
- A PowerPoint presentation made to tell our story and take to church groups.

Jim stated the one thing we do not cover on our website is “looking to the future in preserving our history.” If we want to be relevant in the future we must write a story that focuses on the future and not just on the past. Kirsten Zerger was suggested as a possible writer for this story. Should we appoint a committee to look into this? There was no decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Stucky Status. It was reported that Gary Stucky was hospitalized with a serious illness, but is now at home but very weak. It was suggested to send a card and gift basket from the Board of Trustees. Waneta will take care of.

Spring Banquet. Jim Goering suggested the board explore the possibility of asking Kirsten Zerger to be the guest speaker at the Spring Banquet, focusing more on the future of SMCHA. Jim stated he would contact her for availability and then set the date for the spring banquet based on her schedule.

Other. Arnold Wedel shared his discussion with Brian Stucky about placing publicity about the 100-year celebration of the Alta Mill program in *Schweitzer Salt* and inviting the public.

The meeting was adjourned. **The next meeting will be Thursday, February 3, 2005, 4:00 pm, Goering Activity Center, Memorial Home, Moundridge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Waneta Goering, Secretary