

Swiss (Volhynian) Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association  
Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2006  
2:30 P.M.

Welcome: Arnold Wedel opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance.

Devotional: Peter Voran reminisced about pastoring at the Hopefield Church some 55 years ago. From the New Living Bible he read some verses from Romans 12. The theme of these verses is that we are to exercise the gifts give to each of us by God. It is good to look back at traditions but equally important to look to the future. From the March 7<sup>th</sup> the Mennonite Peter shared from an article the hope that young people need to be incorporated into areas and programs we value as being important. What kind of a model do we display for the young to follow? This model should mirror the direction we have been given.

Declaration of a Quorum: Arnold Wedel reported 13 proxies in hand and 22 members present at the meeting made for a quorum.

Minutes of the March 12, 2005 annual business meeting: They were read by Melvin Graber in their entirety. Donna Neufeld moved to accept them as read and N. Paul Stucky seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Arnold Wedel reported in the absence of Jay Goering. The program for the afternoon had the treasurer's report printed in it. All the accounts printed were reviewed by Arnold Wedel and those present followed in the programs. A question was raised about the dollar amount reported for the scholarships that were given out. No one had an answer.

Balances of the SCHMA accounts as of 12-31-2005

Cemetery Endowment Fund:	\$15,412.29
Cemetery Renovation Fund:	\$12,870.20
HMA checking account:	\$341.74
Money Market account:	\$4,411.62

Included in the treasurer's report was an oral report from Ozzie Goering about the cemetery fund raising. Funds raised were for these areas.

\$15,000.00	Cemetery
\$2,000.00	Perimeter
\$3,000.00	Monument
\$2,000.00	Contingency fund

There were those who believed in this project and a strong core willing to support it. Generous contributions and pledges ended by being \$1,000.00 over the goal of \$22,000.00. At the time of this meeting there were some pledges to be received yet but \$21,000.00 cash has already been collected.

A comment was made recognizing the efforts of Ozzie Goering taking charge of this fund raising project.

Motion: Vic Goering moved to accept the treasurer's report along with what Ozzie Goering reported. Eugene Goering seconded the motion and it was approved by those present.

The Year in review

Board of trustees: There were the same number of meetings as the other years and a couple of executive meetings.

Highlights of 2005 year reported by Arnold Wedel:

- Childrens Blizzard book signing by David Laskin. Donna Zerger invited David to come speak at the book signing. He highlighted the Schweitzer connection found in the book.
- Fall Festival program was given over to Only Schweitzer Spoke Here.
- Steven Stucky was the pulitzer prize winner in music.
- Citizens State Bank pledge a \$5,000.00 matching gift for the cemetery renovation.
- Merv Schrag said the addresses will be updated in the cemetery directory.
- Ted Voran, Harley Stucky & Gary Stucky were additions to the cemetery.

Schweitzer Salt Newsletter: Donna Neufeld and Neva Belle thank you for your contributions and distributions-- you make Schweitzer Salt happen. We invite you to send material for the next issue. SS was distributed via 24 churches and three retirement centers, plus around 100 mailings and e mailings to around 1300-1500 people.

Printing \$282 - included an extra page-- names Hopefield Cemetery Occupants.

There has been only 1 SS this year because of other obligations.

Neva and I will be doing one more issue of Schweitzer Salt. Then it is time for someone else to write the next chapter. It has been a terrific experience for us. The Schweitzers we have encountered through this endeavor are fantastic. We thank you. We thank Arnold for his wisdom and support. We look forward to receiving your material for this next issue. Surprise us! Onward Schweiters.

Web Site: Vic Goering read the report from T James Goering in his absence.

The Year 2005 is the 5th year that SMCHA has maintained a home page on the world wide web ([www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org)). During those years this web page has been contacted ("hit" in e-mail parlance) about 15,800 times. The frequency of "hits" has grown over time.

The web page had proven to be a cost-effective means of reaching a potential world-wide audience with historical or current information about the Volhynian Swiss Mennonites. It is considered of particular value to younger members of the Swiss Mennonite group who are generally more frequent users of the Internet. The quality of the home page and its usefulness have been subjects of positive comments by several users.

Features of particular interest have been: (i) the calendar of upcoming events of possible interest to Swiss Mennonites; and (ii) a "monthly feature" highlighting activities, individuals, reports, etc. relating to the Swiss Mennonite community.

Since the "Monthly Feature" began, some 33 articles have been posted as a link from the SMCHA home page. All of these articles are then placed in the SMCHA "monthly feature" archive and can be accessed from the SMCHA home page. The latest in January 2006 feature on the Life and Times of Harley Stucky.

The quality and usefulness of the SMCHA Home Page is due in large part to the excellent work to the person responsible for maintaining the home page, our Web Master Dennis Quiring. Dennis has been serving in that capacity for the past four years, i.e. since late March, 2002.

Costs of operating the website are of three different kinds:

(i) An annual registration fee that has been running at about \$35.

(ii) A monthly "hosting fee" of about \$20.

(iii) Service charges levied by our Web Master, Dennis Quiring. The level of these costs depends on the amount of work we ask him to do (update current events; adding the "monthly feature", etc.

Total costs of operating the home page in 2004 were in the range of \$930. Cost figures for 2005 are not available at the date of this writing.

In communication to SMCHA President Wedel dated December 15, 2005, I advised of my intent to resign as Chair of the SMCHA Web Committee, effective January 31, 2006. My resignation has been accepted.

I have been pleased with the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Web Committee and I thank all of you for giving me this opportunity.

I have in my possession a few documents pertaining to the SMCHA Web history and development and would be pleased to pass these on to the successor chair of the Web Page Committee.

Vic Goering expressed the desire that the Web Site continue.

Scholarship Committee: Art Goering reported that 3 scholarships were given.

Alan Stucky \$500

Katherine Goering \$250

Liby Schrag \$250

Individuals who need help for further education need to be aware of this committee.

Trustees Report: In May there was a work day where the brush pile was burned and tree branches downed by the ice storm were cleaned up. 5 men worked to complete the task. On another day 2 corner posts were set. Von Peterson has started at the west side of the cemetery and moving to the east. 13 grave stones and 170 markers need work. As of March 17, 2006 87 have been completed and 77 have been paid for. There are 100 stones left to work on.

Only Schwitzer Spoke Here: Ozzie Goering reported the group is active. They meet 4 times a year with 60 - 80 people attending. They have refreshments and fellowship. The meetings are held at the Memorial Home Activity Center. A committee of 4 plans the events and serve for a 6 month term which seems to be working good.

Election of Officers: Eugene Goering presented the ballot

President     Arnold Wedel

Treasurer    H Keith Goering

Trustees      Alice Suderman & Delbert Goering

There were no nominations from the floor. Wayne Stucky moved to close the nomination and N Paul Stucky seconded the motion. Those present agreed. Motion approved. The motion to cast a unanimous ballot by Melvin Graber was seconded by Myron Goering. Those present approved and the motion carried.

Adoption of Proposed Budget: Arnold Wedel presented the proposed budget of \$20,980.00 with the recommendation of the executive committee.

Motion: Donna Neufeld moved to accept the proposed 2006 budget and Wayne Stucky seconded the motion. The motion was approved by members present and it carried.

New business: There was none.

Announcements: Spring Membership Banquet of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) will be held at the First Mennonite Church of Hutchinson, Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 6:30 pm. James W. Krehbiel will speak on "The Story of the Schweitzers Who Stayed Behind (Ukraine) in 1874".

Closing: James Krehbiel lead the group in singing 1 verse of Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing. The meeting then adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Melvin Graber, Secretary