

Swiss (Volhynian) Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association
Annual Business Meeting Minutes at Hopefield Church
March 11, 2007
2:30 P.M.

Welcome: President Arnold Wedel welcomed all in attendance.

Devotional: Associate Pastor of Visitation from Eden Mennonite Church Gail Graber shared how the path that paralleled the creed lead to green pastures and then also back home. It was memories of times on this path that reminded her of the passage from Jeremiah 6:16. "This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it and you will find rest for your souls....."

Gail continued her comments by sharing when we find ourselves at the crossroads we should seek guidance before choosing a path. We are to stand and look and ask the ancient ones where the good paths are. Ask God and choose the ancient paths. Those who come after us will need to choose a good path and hopefully they will see wisdom in our example and choose to go on the good paths we have set for them. She closed with a prayer.

Declaration of a Quorum: Arnold Wedel reported that 16 proxies were returned and 13 members were present at the meeting. A quorum equals 10% of the total membership, which is a total of 101 members. A quorum was declared.

Minutes of the March 19, 2006 annual business meeting: The were read in their entirety by Secretary Melvin Graber. Under Highlights for the year 2005 it needs to be clear that Gary Stucky was not burried in the Hopefield cemetary and that Ted Voran and Harley Stucky are buried in the cemetary. T James Goering then moved to accept the minutes of 2006. H Keith Goering seconded the motion. The members approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer H Keith Goering presented his report as printed in the business meeting program. Account balances for the beginning of the year and end of the year are listed below. The rest of the treasurers report which includes a financial report and a cash flow report are in the attached program in the secretaries record book.

At The Citizens State Bank	01-01-06	12-31-06
Cemetary Endowment Fund	\$15,412.29	\$15,724.34
Cemetary Renovation Fund	0.00	\$12,045.52
At Mid-Kansas Credit Union		
Checking	\$ 341.74	\$1,583.50
Money Market	\$4,411.62	\$4,478.70
Cemetary Renovation Fund	\$12,870.20	\$ 43.08

The Cemetary Renovation Fund was moved from Mid-Kansas Credit Union to The Citizens State Bank as the treasurer was given permission to do by the SMCHA board at a board meeting. The question was raised why no mowing expense for the 2006 year. The bill was not turned in until 2007 and the \$1,500.00 bill has been paid. Another question was why there is no bill paid for the Web site. None has been received. The question concerning the monthly assesment fee has to be addressed to Dennis Quiring. The money transfered from the Cemetary Renovation Fund included paying the cost of renovating the marker, \$5,800.00. The account balances show that there are \$33,874.14 available to the organization for the year. Wayne Stucky moved to accept the treasurers report. The motion was seconded by Myron Goering. The members voted in favor to accept.

Year in Review: Arnold Wedel reported that 5 meetings of the SMCHA board were held this past year since the last Annual Meeting. Arnold then shared about the book, "John Brown to Bob Dole".

Virgil Dean author will come and speak about Walter Huxman in October sometime. A selection from the book was read.

Schwitzer Salt Newsletter: Alice Suderman is working to get an editor to replace Donna Neufeldt. If anyone has a suggestion they should contact Alice Suderman or Arnold Wedel.

Web site: Arnold Wedel shared there is no chairperson to replace T James Goering. It receives some 2,000 hits a year. Bruce Stucky has been contacted but no response yet. In his trustees report T James Goering made these comments about the web site:

- 2006 marks sixth year of existence
- 17,900 hits during that period --- about 2,100 per year last two years; growth seems to be slowing
- 35 monthly features on the home page or in the linked archives
- Continues to be a cost-effective means of reaching a world wide audience
- Of particular value in appealing to younger SMCHA members/potential members
- Annual cost of web page is in the range of \$875 (\$35 registration fee; \$20 x 12 = \$240 hosting fee; D. Quiring service fee--say \$600)
- Dennis Quiring continues to do a good job as web master; now 5 years in position
- Position of Chair, Web Committee vacant since February '06

Scholarship Committee: Scholarship given to David Roth -- \$500.00 David grew up in the home of a Mennonite Pastor. He received an Associate of Arts in the Pastoral Ministry Program at Hesston College. David is now working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Ministry at Tabor College, Wichita Campus. On November 6, 2005 he was installed as pastor of Kingman Mennonite Church after more than six years at Des Allemandes Mennonite Church, at Des Allemandes, LA. We only gave one scholarship because we only had one applicant.

Trustees Report: Monument Renovation at Front of Church

- Now more than 30 years old
- One year ago SMCHA contracted with Vaughn Juhnke to do some renovation work: Cut out all joints, tuck point all joints, sandblast all structures. Contract price was \$5,800.00. Work done satisfactorily; completed mid-2006. More work needs to be done. No straightening of structures was done.

Reovation in Hopefield Cemetary defined as:

- Raising tombstone to appropriate ground level
- Straighten in vertical direction
- Realign with other T-Ss in immediate vicinity
- Replace limestone base where needed
- Resealing joints between T-S base and upright
- NB: No renovation of lettering or T-S surface; could be arranged for additional fee.
- Based on assesment by Von Peterson of SMR Monuments, about 190 T-S in need of renovation
- SMCHA established a budget of \$15,000 for this purpose
- MOU signed with Peterson in mid-2005
- Estimated completion date: May 31, 2006
- Work has lagged seriously

- Spoke with Von Peterson on 3/9/07. He made several points: he has completed work on 93 stones; been paid \$6,105 (about \$65/stone), another 103 remaining with estimated cost of \$8,990, intends to complete work by Memorial Day 2007 (End May)
- Cemetary Renovation Fund has unspent balance of just under \$10,000

Perimeter planting around Hopefield Cemetary:

- Now scrub trees on southern and eastern borders
- SMCHA decided: (i) no plantings on north side -- stone posts there; some plantings on southern half of west border; enrichment plantings on southern border ("fill in the gaps")
- Harley J. Stucky family generously pledged \$3,000 for this project
- Landscape plan developed by Stone Creek Nursery: would emphasize hardy, drought-resistant species -- Eastern Red Cedar, Red Sunset Maple; Shademaster Honey Locust; Schumard Oak. Tentative bid by Stone Creek of \$3,900
- Invitations to bid will go out this week -- three local nurserymen
- Hope to award winning bid no later than March 30
- Planting to be completed April 30
- Major challenge: Keeping the new plantings alive summer of 2007. Will need regular supplementary irrigation.

Only Schwitzer Spoken Here: Report read by Melvin Graber. "Only Schwitzer Spoken Here" is planning to have three programs per year, one early in the year, one in summer, and a program at Bethel College Octoberfest. The first program this year was at the Memorial Home Wellness Center on Feb. 16, 2007. Participants in the program included Verna Goering, Fern Goering, Lowell Goering, Delmar Voran, Delbert & Martin Goering, Evelyn Schrag, & was MC'd by Norvin Schrag. Approximately 108 people attended the program. The committee will give notice of the next meeting when a date has been confirmed. If anyone is willing to serve on the Schwiter program committee please contact any of the committee members. Richard Stucky, Norvin Schrag, Lynn Kaufman or Don Kaufman. Thank you. Submitted by Don Kaufman Arnold commented that the last program was great.

Election of Officers: The oral ballot was presented by Arnold Wedel and Maynard Krehbiel.

Vice President ----- Roger Juhnke

Secretary ----- No nominee provided (Marla Gilmore was nominated from the floor. When contacted she declined the position.) Secretary position needs to be filled as of the printing of these minutes.

Trustees ----- Don E Kaufman
Helen Nachtigal

Roger Juhnke then moved to accept nominations and H Keith Goering seconded the motion. Members present approved. Wayne Stucky moved to accept ballot of nominees and Vic Goering seconded the motion and called for the question. The members approved the nominees on the oral ballot and voted in favor of all.

Adoption of the proposed budget for 2007: The proposed budget was recommended by the executive board members. Discussion of the proposed budget resulted with line item "cemetary" being divided into 3 subdivisions. Those being -- cemetary mowing \$1,500.00, perimeter plantings -- \$3,000.00, renovation \$9,500.00

There is still work needing to be done in the area where the monument stands. The side markers are tilting and sinking plus there is some concrete work needing to be done. The board is to consider this at their next meeting. Maybe Von Peterson could be approached to consider doing the work.

The question was raised where would the funding come from, because it appears to be a deficit of income. For clarity in 2008, when presented the next budget could show where the money is coming from for the expenses for the year. Also include the income coming in from memberships. There are 60 plus members who have paid for a ten year membership. There will be no income from them for quite awhile.

If not approved today, what would be the approval process be later after the annual meeting is adjourned? President Wedel expressed confidence that the proposed budget for 2007 can be met. There was encouragement expressed to have faith. Vic Goering called for the question. Roger Juhnke moved to accept the proposed 2007 budget with this one change. The line item for the banquet be eliminated. Wayne Stucky seconded the motion. Those present approved.

New Business: The April Board meeting has been changed from April 12th to the 19th at The Citizens State Bank Room at 4:15 p.m. No other new business.

Adjournment: Myron Goering moved the meeting adjourn. Roger Juhnke seconded the motion and those present approved.