

## SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2010, 4:00, Senior Center, Moundridge KS

### Minutes

Present: H. Keith Goering, Kathy Goering, Bruce Stucky, LaVern Stucky, Alice Suderman,  
Glen Goering

Absent: Gerry Schrag, Keith Albrecht, Don Kaufman, Bessie Huxman, Richard Ratzlaff

1. Opening and Minutes of the 2/4/2010 meeting. LaVern Stucky called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's Report. H. Keith Goering reported cash and bank accounts totaled \$34,398.36 as of 4/7/2010. Included are Cemetery Endowment Fund \$16,849.28; Checking \$4,581.91; Money Market \$1,626.40; OGoering Scholarship Endowment \$10,025.60; Renovation Funds \$1,315.17. Received for 2010 memberships was \$1,925 of which \$1100 was for ten-year memberships. Currently 129 members have paid their 2010 dues.
3. Schweitzer Salt. Charles Schrag has the issue ready and has solicited printer bids. Nancy Wiggers, who had printed Salt previously is unable to handle the project now due to health. The intention is to send to all who previously received it by mail (approximately 200) and in church mailboxes (approximately 1200) with the note that they need to join SMCHA to receive the next copy. A list of people who had helped get the issues to church mailboxes in the 2002-2006 years will need to be called to see if they would be willing to help distribute again and also provide us the number of Swiss folks in their churches who might have interest in receiving a copy. Kathy moved that she and Alice help Charles get this issue out with the help of volunteers and make the arrangements with the company that gives us the best bid. Keith seconded and motion carried.
4. "Only Schweitzer spoken here" No report. Don Kaufman serves as liaison from SMCHA to the "Only Schweitzer Spoken Here" committees. A program was held recently at Memorial Home Wellness Center. This Board wants to encourage this activity.
5. Trustee Report. No report. LaVern will ask Don Kaufman if he will serve as executive trustee again. Responsibilities for trustees include arranging care for the cemetery. Bruce Stucky is making arrangements for spraying of trees at Eden and volunteered to ask Brochamwood (Tom Bunn) to spray the Hopefield Cemetery trees for bagworms at the same time.
6. Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church. A record crowd enjoyed the Pretty Prairie program after the Annual Meeting. Elected were LaVern Stucky, president, and Bess Huxman, trustee. Re-elected were Keith Goering, treasurer, and Don Kaufman, trustee. The Executive Committee appointed Richard Ratzlaff who was also on the ballot from Pretty Prairie, as another Trustee with a three-year term. Many enjoyed the fellowship time and refreshments following. Esther Schrag said food expenses were \$145.43 for Mary Martha Circle and donations were received at the table for \$166.55. Keith reported that some money had been given to him for the refreshments. Glen Goering moved and Kathy Goering seconded that \$45 be sent to the Mary Martha Circle for their food service at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.
7. Looking to the Future. LaVern Stucky challenged the board to find ways to continue to more satisfactorily answer the question, "What is SMCHA?" especially for non-members. Using the example of Story Corps, a public radio program on which family stories are told, he encouraged us to promote SMCHA's focus on ethnic things but also to find ways to share the history of Swiss Mennonites. Alice Suderman reminded us of the letter that was sent in 2009 in which the intentions of SMCHA were spelled out. After the "Schweitzer Salt" is sent, a letter will be drafted emphasizing SMCHA plans and inviting people to renew their membership. The board should be thinking about how to carry out the purposes of this organization.
8. 2010 Membership Banquet. LaVern suggested that folks would welcome an ethnic meal from an organization such as ours. We talked about emphasizing the Swiss history in various ways. One way would be to encourage family stories at the banquet and/or other meetings. LaVern will pursue Brian Stucky as speaker for the fall banquet. Suggestion for place is Newton. Date for banquet Thursday, September 16. Serve ethnic foods. Bruce Stucky will check out possibilities of using Bread Basket to cater, possibly Faith Mennonite Church for place. Or part of the meal could be purchased from Bread Basket with several of our super local ethnic cooks like Geneva Siefker, Marjorie Stucky, Neva Kaufman and others to provide bohne berrogi and LaVern's daughter

poppysed. Gary Waltner would be another good prospect for speaker. Arnold had talked with Bob Krehbiel from Pretty Prairie about sometime doing a program honoring his father Ralph Krehbiel who has been an active supporter of SMCHA.

9. Swiss "Volhynian" Mennonites. Consensus was that not using "Volhynia" in our title or literature would be more widening and inviting to those whose ancestors made similar moves from Europe but maybe not through Volhynia.
10. 1943 Marker. The appraiser at McPherson raised our taxes from \$.56 to \$20 since they know now that the ground is not farm related. Keith completed the paperwork and sent a check for \$10 to apply for the exemption so that the taxes would be lower again. The ground there is 100' x 80'. Trustees care for this property. Keith and others have mowed it.
11. Committee Appointments. Consensus was to invite Ellen Kling to continue for another term on Scholarship Committee and Marlene Krehbiel on Research. LaVern will contact them. Research Committee also needs a third member; Vic and Elizabeth Goering were suggested.
12. Representative to McPherson County Historical Association. LaVern will ask Maynard Krehbiel to be the liaison from SMCHA to a very active McPherson County Historical Association to inform the board of their activities.
13. Next meeting. **Thursday, August 8** at 7:00 a.m. at the new restaurant in Moundridge.  
It was recommended that we invite the Research Committee to meet with this board next meeting to discuss responsibilities/possibilities for this Committee. Perhaps one project for them would be to organize SMCHA history and write stories about accomplishments and intentions.

-Kathy Goering, Secretary