

SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Board and Trustee Meeting, July 14, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
Central Truck Plaza Restaurant

Present: LaVern Stucky, Keith Albrecht, Kathy Goering, Keith Goering, Bessie Huxman, Don Kaufman, Val Krehbiel, Richard Ratzlaff, Alice Suderman,

1. After a delicious buffet supper, President LaVern Stucky opened the meeting. The minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting were approved as printed.
2. Treasurers report—Keith Goering reported the \$6479 income includes \$5,000 gift given to underwrite the recipe book project which will stay in a separate account until used. Some accounts were moved for better interest rates. Keith sent required report to state for nonprofits at a cost of \$40 that will show up in next month's records. Over 60 2010 members have not paid their 2011 dues.
3. Funds Invested. The possibility of sending SMCHA endowment funds to Moundridge Community Foundation was discussed. Don Kaufman will talk with Fred Schrag about whether matching funds might be available that could benefit SMCHA and ask under what conditions SMCHA funds could be withdrawn. Decision next meeting.
4. Trustees report—Don Kaufman was glad that with the current heat conditions trees were not planted at the cemetery yet. Shrubs at the Monument are not growing either but weeds are. The pile of branches was burned. Kathy said dead branches by the marker need to be trimmed.
5. The nominating committee is Clemon Kaufman, convenor, Arnold Wedel and Richard Stucky.
6. Annual banquet date is October 20, 2011 at West Zion Mennonite Church, Gary Waltner speaker. West Zion women will serve a sausage supper, poppyseed cake dessert. Other program items would include a report by research committee and a poem read by LaVern's niece. Jesse Graber from Newton will play some old instruments - saw, etc. as well as violin.
7. Membership Committee. Purpose would be to promote SMCHA. Not yet formed.
8. Schweitzer Salt next issue. Communication is needed with the members. The banquet needs to be advertised in September. Schweitzer Salt should be sent to members and perhaps a postcard to the full address list specifically inviting to the banquet and to join.
9. Scholarship report—Alice Suderman recommended that \$250 go to Neah Ortman and \$250 to Charles Graber. Both are in long-term Christian service currently in Seattle WA and both are from the Freeman area. Neah is leaving in August for Burkina Faso through SALT. The Board unanimously approved. Roger Juhnke and Clark Graber serve on Scholarship Committee with Alice. Only two applications were received.
10. Report on Story telling—Keith Albrecht. Jason and Heather Holcomb interviewed nine people in June, approximately two hours each. Interviews were digitally recorded. Heather will transcribe these in due time and get copy to Keith. He will make copies for those interviewed and for archives. A suggestion was made to store the records of the interviews at the Mennonite Archives and inform people where they are to be found. Keith will send thank you notes to all who participated. An honorarium will be sent to Jason when the project is completed. It was suggested that we ask Jason to report on his experiences of this project on a Sunday afternoon around harvest when he plans to be in the area - June 24, 2012 - since Keith has found him to be a very interesting speaker. People signed release so that Jason could use the materials for a book if he chooses. How do we keep the storytelling going now? Stan Saner is writing up history information on the Burns Mennonite Church as it relates to the immigration. Keith Goering said that Bill Juhnke wrote many articles about life in the late 1800s in the Moundridge area which probably could be located through Ledger newspaper archives and reprinted. Encouraging Bethel students interested in history to interview and discover more stories and write about them would be useful. Should some interviews be added to our web site?

11. Schweitzer dialect project with Dr Mike Putman of Penn State. "Schweitzer Only Spoken Here" was the forum for some of the interviews about language. Dr. Putnam doesn't know what will come out of this project. Bessie Huxman and others participated.
12. Display space at the Moundridge Historical Museum - 4x8. Included should be information/pictures of the Marker, Monument, and Cemetery including names of those buried there, possibly homestead map, history that would include South Dakota, Pretty Prairie, and Moundridge particularly, picture of City of Richmond, and artifacts. LaVern will ask curator of Kaufman Museum Rachel Pannabecker for suggestions. Kathy will request a tour of the Moundridge Historical Museum for our board members in the next two weeks from Rosemary Fisher and invite SMCHA liaison Robert Stucky to join us.
13. Hopefield Cemetery. Scott Waltner told LaVern Stucky that people of Hopefield believe they can be buried there free because that was stated in the 1998 agreement (printed in SMCHA minutes September 2, 1998) when the Cemetery was given to SMCHA. Affirmation was stated for the Name "Hoffnungsfeld" since that was the original burial ground and the only cemetery in that area from the immigration until Eden built their own in 1924. We will seek architectural assistance for designing a sign that would show ownership of SMCHA and fit well with other structures (Val Krehbiel will make contacts) as well as estimate expenses. We will make an effort to have that information available to present to the membership at the October banquet or next March annual meeting and seek funding at that time. Recently Wilbur Mossiman was buried at this cemetery; his first spouse was Myrtle Stucky who is buried there. Merv Schrag should have the details.
14. Catlin Cemetery. LaVern has list of names of children buried in the Henry Hornsburger field at Catlin and will e-mail them to the board. These names are also listed in the Hopefield Directory building. We will attempt to understand family relationships first and approach relatives first to see if there is interest in placing a memorial to these children at the Catlin Cemetery. Kathy Goering visited Catlin Cemetery last week and found it to be well maintained. The grave of young girl Hornsberger is toward northeast and the graves that Brian Stucky found of 14 Schweitzer children are on the southwest side by the fence. The Old Mennonite church was built in 1886 and taken down in 1961. The article about 14 children in Elder Stucky's party dying near Peabody was reported in "Herald of Truth." Two trustees of the cemetery, Good and Stutzman, are very willing to assist in placing a memorial flush with the ground for easy mowing or even 14 small flat stones commemorating this event. Brian Stucky has offered to help with wording on a marker if needed. Some Schweitzers are also buried at the cemetery at the corner of Halstead Road and 12th Street that we may also need to recognize as well as 185 people who James W. Krehbiel lists as dying on the journey or in unmarked graves. A memorial to these who died in those early days has been discussed, probably to be placed at the Hopefield cemetery. Kathy is getting information from the Iowa Mennonite Historical Society that was putting up a memorial at a cemetery between Donnellson and West Point in 2010 acknowledging unmarked graves.
15. Recipe book. Fern Goering agreed to underwrite a recipe book project reprinting only ethnic food recipes and including a DVD demonstrating those recipes. Kathy Goering has spoken with many women who agreed this was a good project but were not willing to chair the project; she will seek leadership. Kattie Boyts asked LaVern Stucky for name of best cook in area; LaVern will suggest good cookbooks and mention several highly-regarded cooks - Neva Kaufman, Nadine Wedel, Vernelle Kaufman.
16. SMCHA Update of last 25 years. Kathy Goering and LaVern Stucky wrote and presented a new updated article about SMCHA for the Moundridge Centennial book update that will be available in 2012. This is the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of Moundridge.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 6, at 4:00 p.m. at Citizens State Bank

--Kathy Goering, Secretary