AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 16, 2015, BILLINGS, MONTANA

Call to Order: President Robert Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:45 with a quorum present. Bill Dellos moved and Don Schenk seconded that the Standing Rules of Order as printed on page 27 of the Convention Manual be approved. Motion carried. Nick Bretz was appointed Parliamentarian and Timekeeper.

President’s Report: President Wagner’s report noted the following: (1) the need to increase our membership, (2) continuing to incorporate technology and use of social media, (3) issues as a result of recent heavy rains in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the need to protect our collections. He also commented on the development of a new website, migration to new software for database management, increased visibility of AHSGR in the community including over 600 visitors to the AHSGR campus since the beginning of 2015, and the availability of Interlibrary Loan for our library collection.

Headquarters Report: Executive Director Sherry Pawelko noted the increased visibility of AHSGR through activities such as the Sheldon Library display and History Harvest project, projects with local universities that have enabled AHSGR to have interns, the increased number of volunteers at headquarters and volunteer hours (e.g., 471 hours in June 2015 as compared with 75 hours in May 2014), and AHSGR presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. To date 840 of our family histories have been digitized and work continues on that project. Also, headquarters will be producing and identifying videos for chapters to use in their meetings. Goals for 2015–2016 are increasing the protection of our collections and increasing membership.

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the July 10, 2014, Annual Business Meeting are printed on page 28 of the Convention Manual. Don Schenk moved, Nick Bretz seconded that the minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Dennis Zitterkopf stated that the written report is available for members in the registration area. The audit report is found on pages 33–41 of the Convention Manual.

Committee Reports: Annual reports are available in written form in the registration area.

Nominating Committee: Donita (Dodie) Rotherham indicated that there are 18 open positions for the Board of Directors and nine individuals have indicated they will serve.

District 1—Nominations for one 3-year term – Donita (Dodie) Rotherham
District 1—Nominations for one 2-year term –
District 2—Nominations for one 3-year term – Rob Miller
District 3—Nominations for one 3-year term – Marvin Heckman
District 4—Nominations for one 3-year term –
District 4—Nominations for two 1-year terms –
District 4—Nominations for one 2-year term –
District 6—Nominations for two 3-year terms – Karen Penner and Mike Meisinger

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
District 7—Nominations for one 3-year term – William Dellos
District 8—Nominations for one 3-year term – Wilhelm Doos
District 9—Nominations for one 3-year term – Patricia Sellenrick
District 11—Nominations for one 2-year term –
District 11—Nominations for one 1-year term –
District 12—Nominations for one 3-year term – Karen Soeken
District 13—Nominations for one 1-year term –
District 14—Nominations for one 1-year term –

There was unanimous consent for approval of the nominees.

Jim Weibert, Chair of the Elections Committee, opened nominations from the floor for the unfilled positions.

District 1 – Nominations for one 2-year term – Susan Nakaji

There was unanimous consent for approval of the nominee. The Society Board of Directors will make out-of-district appointments for the remaining positions.

Proposed Bylaws: The proposed Bylaws changes printed on pages 30–31 of the Convention Manual were presented to the convention. The Board of Directors then moved the following amendment to the proposed changes: (1) Add to the New Section B the sentence ‘Only the investment income from the Life Membership Fund will be used for Society operations.’ And add to the new Section C the sentence that ‘Each person who is over the age of 14 years who is a member is entitled to one (1) vote.’

The amendment carried. The proposed Bylaws as amended carried.

New Business: Jerry Siebert extended an invitation to the 2016 convention in Concord, California, under the theme “Before the Storm.”

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karen Soeken, Secretary, Board of Directors
2016 Board of Directors Nominations
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (International)

Below are the Board of Directors nominations and election information. The data is separated by district. Listed first are the names of current board members, their current terms, and the dates of terms they are serving. Board members are allowed to serve consecutive three-year terms. See the AHSGR bylaws for more nomination and election information (Article XII: Elections). Where terms begin in 2016 (*), the candidates listed have agreed to be nominated in July at the 2016 AHSGR Convention in Concord, California. Where vacancies are noted (+), there are no nominees. As stated in the bylaws, AHSGR will NOT mail ballots for Board of Directors seats that are uncontested.

**District 1: California (4 seats)**
- Dodie Rotherham  
  Third Term  
  2015-2018
- Sue Nakaji  
  First Term  
  2015-2018
- Jerry Siebert  
  Sixth Term  
  2014-2017
- Leonard Welsh  
  Second Term  
  2016-2019*

**District 2: Washington and Alaska (2 seats)**
- Rob Miller  
  Second Term  
  2015-2018
- Dennis Reich  
  First Term  
  2014-2017

**District 3: Nebraska (3 seats)**
- Nancy Borrell  
  Fourth Term  
  2016-2018*
- Delores Schwartz  
  First Term  
  2014-2017
- Pam Wurst  
  Second Term  
  2016-2019*

**District 4: Colorado (4 seats)**
- Vacancy  
  2015-2018+
- Vacancy  
  2016-2019+
- Vacancy  
  2016-2019+
- Vacancy  
  2014-2017+

**District 5: Oregon (1 seat)**
- Ed Wagner  
  Third Term  
  2014-2017

**District 6: Kansas (2 seats)**
- Karen Penner  
  Fourth Term  
  2015-2018
- Mike Meisinger  
  Second Term  
  2015-2018

**District 7: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah (3 seats)**
- Greg Amen  
  Second Term  
  2014-2017
- Bill Dellos  
  Second Term  
  2015-2018
- Judy Gareis  
  Third Term  
  2016-2019*

**District 8: Illinois and Wisconsin (1 seat)**
- Bill Doos  
  Second Term  
  2015-2018

**District 9: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota (1 seat)**
- Patricia Sellenrick  
  Fourth Term  
  2015-2018

**District 10: Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio (1 seat)**
- Vacancy  
  2014-2017+

**District 11: Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri (2 seats)**
- Vacancy  
  2014-2017+
- Richard Dann  
  First Term  
  2016-2019*

- Jill Gaddis  
  First Term  
  2015-2018
- Karen Soeken  
  Second Term  
  2015-2018

**District 13: Canada and other countries (1 seat)**
- Vacancy  
  2016-2019+

**District 14: Any AHSGR member in good standing (at-large) district (3 seats)**
- Bob Meisinger  
  Third Term  
  2016-2019*
- Kevin Rupp  
  Fourth Term  
  2016-2019*
- Stephen Murray  
  First Term  
  2016-2019*
Policy B4, Article IV: Board of Trustees

Section B. The Board of Trustees shall consist of eleven (11) elected members.

Section D. Each of eight (8) members of the Board of Trustees shall serve a Representative District. Three (3) at-large members shall be elected, except they shall not come from the same district; (The remainder of this paragraph is unchanged.)

Section E. Representative Districts

District 1. California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska
District 2. Nebraska
District 3. Colorado
District 4. Kansas
District 5. Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah
District 6. Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri
District 7. Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Canada
District 8. All states not listed above
District 9. At Large
District 10. At Large
District 11. At Large

Section J. Five (5) members of the BOT shall constitute a quorum. There will be no proxy vote.

Rationale.

When the By Laws were originally written our membership was growing, eventually reaching over 5,000. Membership at this time is declining and we are hard-pressed to recruit Board members. The proposed changes will make it easier to fill the positions and still retain approximately the same proportional representation as when originally written.

In summary, the changes are: fifteen (15) trustees will decrease to eleven (11). Of the eleven (11), three (3) will be At Large instead of two (2), and five (5) will constitute a quorum instead of seven (7). Representative District changes are for the Foundation only. Thus, we will have a smaller but more workable Board of Trustees.

D. C. Schenk, IFAHSGR Vice President