

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 18, 2015 Annual Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:20 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Toni Meier, Maryalice McHugh, Gene Meier, Jesse Rhody, Pam Welch, Karen Johnson, Michael Meier, Barb Failing, Karen Baumgartner, Luann Lind, and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused was Marv Meier. Guests included Linda Marshall, Sue and Al Roupp, Phil Resch, Florence & Everett Johnson, Marie Arneson, Joan and Herb Magnuson, LaVonne Meier, Marilyn Erickson, Clare Meier and Pat Swenson.

The minutes of the September 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Toni made a motion, seconded by Maryalice to accept the minutes as presented with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Maryalice moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Karen J. with unanimous approval.

The first order of business was presented by Michael where he asked the Board to brainstorm ideas about 'what is next for G.S.H.I.' and 'what should we be doing in the future'. There were lots of great ideas, mainly focused on better advertising of our organization to the surrounding communities, encouraging young folks to visit our facilities as we continue to promote the local history. We have been discussing a combination of oral history interviews and memoir writing exercises by those inclined to share their stories, but offering our knowledge to local school aged children may be beneficial to stir an interest in the next generation. If children are not able to come to us for field trips due to budget constraints, perhaps we need to travel to them. Joan Magnuson offered to be our liaison with the local school boards and teachers as a way for G.S.H.I. to reach into the younger generation and perhaps generate interest and support in our organization. We also discussed providing the Liberty School newsletter and G.S.H.I. brochure to local schools, libraries, 4-H clubs, newspaper offices, etc. Another idea was to expand our social media presence on the World Wide Web by linking G.S.H.I. on some of the local websites and other internet platforms. Also suggested was writing articles or letters to the editor to be submitted to local area newspapers for publication and to help spread the word about G.S.H.I. Michael will be looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with some of these ideas and proposals. Would you be willing to make a presentation to a group of children? Could you write an article to submit to the local newspaper? What are other ways we can promote G.S.H.I.?

The nominating committee counted the ballots for the two open seats on the Board of Directors. Since there were no write-in votes or discrepancies to the 27 total ballots that were returned, Maryalice made a motion to accept the results of the election with a second by Pam to elect Karen Baumgartner and Dawn Meier each to a new five year term. The motion received unanimous approval.

We reviewed the calendar of events for 2015 and confirmed that the Barn Dance will be held on Sunday, May 24 and the Friends of Liberty School Picnic & Open House will be July 25th. Luann suggested that there is an inconsistency with the standard date of the picnic. The motion as presented at the January 2014 meeting was for the picnic to be held on the fourth Saturday in July each year whereas the brochure states that it is the last Saturday in July. Since 2016 will have five Saturday's in July, this could cause some confusion if not corrected.

For the past year or more the Board of Directors has been discussing the idea of providing matching t-shirts for Board Members to wear during our events. We agreed to table this proposal until our spring meeting and that in the meantime, Luann and Maryalice will work up a design and provide price quotes to present at that meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the role of the Nominating Committee who is charged with making recommendations for Board of Directors nominations each year. It was agreed that we need to begin the process much sooner in the year and to send the ballots out to membership well in advance of the annual meeting. Luann suggested that the nominating committee be a rotating assignment and those Directors most recently elected to the board, would serve as the next nominating committee the following year.

Dawn presented recent findings that she discovered regarding oral history of the Spirit area that was done in 1979 by Dale Treleven of the Wisconsin Historical Society with Roy R. Meier as part of the Wisconsin Agriculturalists Oral History Project. The interview was recorded on reel to reel tapes which are permanently housed at the archives in Madison. There are eight cassette tapes which are copies of the original recording available at the Northern Great Lakes Area Research Center in Ashland. The interview spanned three days for a total of 6 ½ total recorded hours. Since G.S.H.I. has a restricted funds account specifically designated for oral history, Dawn's proposal was to have the original tapes digitized through a process that would edit the overall sound quality and remove much of a background static and other extraneous noise from the original recording. The estimated cost of the project would be \$225, which would include digital copies that could be listened to locally or duplicated at G.S.H.I. Pam made a motion, seconded by Maryalice to have Dawn move forward with the proposal and to use whatever designated oral history funds are necessary to make this recording more readily accessible. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Herb Magnuson mentioned that he has a tape that was done of the History of Spirit Lake and Marie Arneson also informed us that she may have a recording that contains historical material. It was recommended that the next issue of Liberty School News include a request for any historical materials or interviews that people may be aware of or have in their possession that they would be willing to share with G.S.H.I.

Project Reports:

Toni reported that G.S.H.I. received the remaining inventory of Jeanette Gilge's books from Kathy Barnes who has donated 695 books to G.S.H.I. which include a variety of all six titles from Jeanette's original collection.

Brandt's Bear is the 1979 book written by James A. Rhody which has been out of print for some time now. Michael has received several requests for this book and proposes that we publish a small run of perhaps 100 books. For the next meeting, Toni agreed to check on the pricing from DigiCopy for up to 100 copies of the book. Toni will also get an estimate for the cost to copy the hand-written document containing the 'Muster Out Roll' of Company K of the 18th Wisconsin Regiment dated July 1865 that was received as a gift from Bill Caynor. Prominently displaying a copy of the original should be inexpensive compared to the cost of professionally framing the original in archive grade quality. This would also better protect the original from damage.

The autumn workday saw a lot of good projects completed or begun. The Yesterday House received a wood preservative treatment to the outside logs. Thanks to Jesse's expertise and professional equipment, the job was completed with relative ease. General clean-up of the grounds was completed, which included collecting scrap metal and other obsolete items that had been accumulating. A bit more organization was accomplished in the Machine Shed, as well as winterizing the inside items of the Yesterday House.

All volunteers are reminded to turn in their donated hours to Dawn, for recording into the *Past Perfect* database.

As requested by the Board, Toni provided an inventory of the items Gifted to G.S.H.I. during 2014.

The next G.S.H.I. Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 22, 2015 following a 12:30 potluck lunch.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Pam, and a second by Toni with unanimous approval at 2:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
03-24-2015

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 18, 2015 Election for Officers to the Board of Directors

Immediately following the annual meeting of the G.S.H.I. the Board of Directors met to elect officers to the Board of Directors:

Toni made a motion with a second by Maryalice to present the entire slate of current officers and to roll them over into the next year. This list includes: Luann Lind as G.S.H.I. President for a one year term, Karen Baumgartner as G.S.H.I. Vice President for a one year term, Dawn Meier as G.S.H.I. Secretary for a one year term and Pam Welch as G.S.H.I. Treasurer for a one year term.

Michael made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the four officers as nominated and was seconded by Toni with unanimous approval from the Board of Directors.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Michael recognized and thanked all the Board Members and the many guests who attended the meeting for their continued support and dedication to G.S.H.I.

Michael made a motion to adjourn the Meeting for the Election of Officers of the G.S.H.I. Board of Directors, with a second by Gene with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
03-24-2015