



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1997

ISSUE 8

Unser Leute Geburtstag (Happy Birthday)

September 14...
Dee Dee Zimmerman
September 19.....John George
September 20.....John Schneider
September 25.....Robert Bauer
October 1.....Norma Somerheiser
October 2.....Barb Dittenbir
October 4.....Frieda Dobler
October 5.....John Stuert
October 5.....Ruth Amen

October 6.....Helen Burbach
October 6.....Jewel Hardt
October 7.....Berniece Dittenbir
October 8.....James Robertson
October 10.....Gib Meier
October 11.....Leah Rebensdorf
October 11.....Jake Sinner
October 14.....
Gottlieb (Scotty) Kaufman
October 15.....Lillian Loos



October 15.....Edward Wunder
October 15.....Lillian Giebelhaus



Der Jahrestag (Happy Anniversary)

Congratulations to:
September 22, 1958.....Delores and Donald Schwartz
September 30, 1927.....Hilde and Alex Schwabauer
October 12, 1965.....Frieda and Hugh Dobler
October 17, 1948.....Violet and Albert Hehn

Don't forget to send in your names for inclusion of the birthday, anniversary, and congratulations section each month. Send all communications to Annie Settell, 333 South 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (fax 402-476-6532).

Dates to Remember

September 20, 1997—PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File—Lincoln User's Group); 7:00 p.m.; Family Service Center; 3100 Old Cheney Road

October 14, 1997—LLCBS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society); 7:00 p.m.; Dick Administration Building; (Lower Level) Union College Campus

October 18, 1997—PAF-LUG

October 20, 1997—Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; 631 D Street

November 7, 1997—Broda Dinner and Quilt Raffle

AHSGR Lincoln Chapter

Executive Committee, 1997

President.....John R. Stuert
1st Vice Pres.....Larry Schenkel
2nd Vice Pres.....Dale Dinges
Treasurer.....Ann Reitz
Folklore.....Delores Schwartz
Newsletter.....Annie Settell
Secretary.....Gladys Herstein

Board Members

Ruth Amen, Sidonia Babcock, Harold Bauer, Donald Burbach, LeRoy Butherus, Daniel Dittenber, Richard Dittenber, Henry Grenemeier, Lucille Hedges, Alma Kehling, Henry Sader, John Schleicher, John Schneider, Ed Schwartzkopf, Sam Sinner, Jake Sinner, Norma Somerheiser, Lois Sorensen, Esther E. Stuert, Kathie Svoboda, Lillian Weber, Mary Wunder

BRODA DINNER

WSI Hall
Friday, November 7, 1997



Don't forget to buy your quilt raffle tickets!

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AHSGR

August 25, 1997

Dear Chapter President:

Your Board of Directors and Board of Trustees Presidents are writing to explain an action important to the Society and International Foundation that was taken by the Membership at the 1997 Annual Convention in San Jose. This action was to adopt the recommendations of an *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee appointed by the Society and Foundation in January 1996. The committee was charged with studying the recommendations of an earlier Long Range Planning Committee regarding the organizational structure of the Foundation, and business relationships between the Society and Foundation.

Some Background:

In the early formative years of the Society, the leadership concluded that the Membership could best be served by having the Society and Foundation established as separate non-profit corporations. These two non-profit corporations, AHSGR and International Foundation AHSGR, were charged by the leadership to work together in achieving the objective of preserving the heritage of the Germans from Russia. The Society is managed by an elected Board of Directors, and the Foundation by an elected Board of Trustees. Each Board elects its own officers for the coming year. The Members of the Society are, by definition in the Bylaws of the Foundation, also members of the Foundation.

Over the years, the Society has become the focus for all of the day-to-day research, publishing, genealogical and other similar activities of AHSGR. These activities are funded by dues, book sales, donations by the Membership, and periodic grants from the Foundation. The Foundation has become the focus for raising moneys for long term projects, such as building the Heritage Center and the Endowment Fund, and the owner and procurer of all of the real estate owned for the benefit of AHSGR. From time-to-time, however, it appeared that the activities of the two Boards were not in harmony with one another, and the purchase of certain real estate was seen by some as not in the best overall interest of the Membership. Further, there was concern that neither organization was truly looking beyond the next year or two in planning its future activities. Because of these factors, the Membership, at the 1991 Convention in Chicago, passed a resolution directing the appointment by the two Board Presidents of a Long Range Planning Committee to (1) study the then existing plan for the development of the Heritage Center compound in Lincoln, and (2) to evaluate its adequacy and appropriateness for the future. The report of this first committee was presented at the 1994 Annual Convention in Lincoln.

A number of the recommendations from the first Long Range Planning Committee were adopted at the 1995 Annual Convention in Calgary. These included priorities for maintaining the buildings on the Heritage Center compound, endorsing joint budgeting activities by both Boards, and support for the one million dollar goal for the Endowment Fund. As mentioned above, two recommendations related to the organizational structure of the Foundation, and the business relationships between the Society and the Foundation, were subject of further study by a newly appointed and second Long Range Planning Committee. This second committee presented its recommendations to the Membership at the 1997 Annual Convention in San Jose. The recommendations, put in the form of a motion, were adopted by the Membership in separately convened, consecutive meetings of the Society and Foundation Membership.

The motion, as passed, is as follows: "That the *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee requests that the Foundation Board of Trustees at their fall board meeting at Lincoln, NE adopt a resolution setting an election on voluntary dissolution of the Foundation to take place at the 1998 Wichita Convention with the proviso that the election be rescinded and withdrawn if the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Society Board of

AHSGR AND IFAHSGR

Letter to the Membership

August 25, 1995, Page Two

Directors prior to the Wichita Convention have entered into a mutually acceptable working agreement to transfer all property and other unrestricted assets except for the Endowment Fund to the Society."

The *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee had seven members, and was chaired by Lee Kraft. The Committee's recommendations came with five supporting votes, one no vote and one not present.

A Discussion of the Motion's Recommendations and the Steps Necessary to Implement Them:

As detailed above, the motion anticipates that a working Business Agreement (contract) will be developed this coming year between the Society and Foundation, approved by each Board, signed by the appropriate officers, and ratified by the Membership at the 1998 Convention in Wichita. A goal of such an agreement is to resolve long time disagreements that have existed among some of the Membership, and assure an unchanging business relationship between the Society and Foundation, regardless of the future make-up of the two Boards. A committee comprised of members of both Boards will be appointed to develop the Agreement.

As an incentive to the Boards to complete the Agreement in a timely manner, under the motion, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation must, at its October 1997 meeting, adopt a resolution to dissolve the Foundation. If the Business Agreement is not completed in time for ratification by the Membership at the 1998 Convention, formal notice for dissolution must be mailed to each voting Member of the Foundation announcing that a vote to dissolve the Foundation will take place at the Convention. Under Colorado State Law, (the Foundation is a Colorado non-profit corporation), a two-thirds majority vote of eligible Members, voting in person or by proxy, is required to dissolve the Foundation.

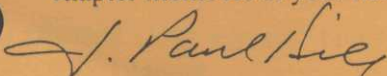
If an Agreement is successfully developed, then under the terms of the motion as described above, the resolution to dissolve the Foundation adopted by the Board of Trustees at its October 1997 meeting is rescinded and withdrawn, and the two organizations continue to exist, each with its specific duties and responsibilities defined in the Agreement. If an Agreement is not developed, and dissolution is approved, a resolution presenting a plan for the distribution of all the Foundation's assets must also be adopted by the Board of Trustees, and voted on by the Membership. Again, acceptance of the distribution plan by the Membership requires a two-thirds majority of the eligible voters, voting in person or by proxy. If the resolution to dissolve the Foundation fails to pass, the plan for distribution of assets becomes moot.

Examples of the types of matters that will be considered in developing an Agreement include:

1. More specific assignment regarding which organization will raise what kind of funds, e.g. maybe the Foundation focuses only on building and managing the Endowment Fund.
2. The procedures to be used by both the Foundation and Society in distributing and then accounting for the expenditure of the earnings of the Endowment Fund or other Foundation funds
3. The ownership of real estate assets.

If an agreement is approved by both Boards, it will be submitted to the Membership prior to the 1998 Wichita Convention so that the Members will be familiar with its contents when asked to ratify it at the annual meetings of the Society and Foundation.

We ask that you publish this information in your newsletters, and make copies of this letter available to your chapter members at your next meeting. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.



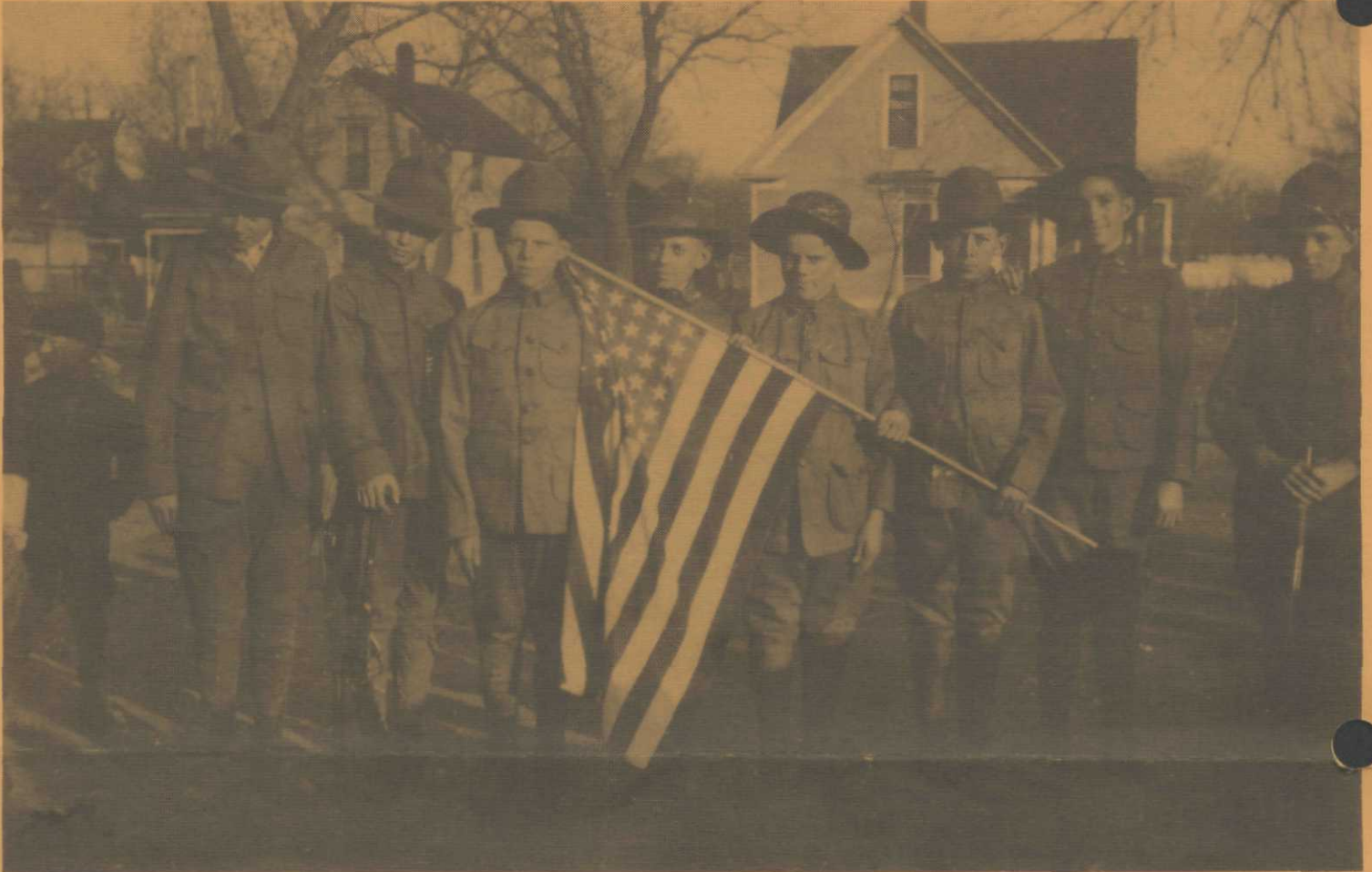
J. Paul Hile, President IFAHSGR
(703) 968-7098



Sam A Dreith, President, AHSGR
(303) 757-1449

Recognize Anyone?

Photograph submitted by Kathie Svoboda



Taken at Park School, November 1917

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schwartz
 1000 Butler Ave
 Lincoln NE 68521

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lincoln Chapter
 American Historical Society
 of Germans from Russia
 631 D Street
 Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

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