



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 1

APRIL 1999

A Message to the Membership

by Larry Schenkel

It has been quite awhile since we have put out a newsletter and there is no one to blame except yours truly and the weather.

The December Board Meeting was the Christmas dinner so no business was conducted and there was nothing to report.

The January General membership meeting at the Immanuel Fellowship Hall did not have enough members in attendance to conduct business so we have not had our chapter election of new board members and officers. We have scheduled the April general membership meeting for Immanuel Fellowship Hall again and we will have our 1999 elections then. This has always been a pot luck dinner in January, so let's make it a potluck for April, too.

The meeting will be April 18th and will start at 1:00 p.m. Please plan to attend!

The January Board of Directors' meeting has always been a potluck with the old board members and their spouses hosting the new board members and their spouses. Even though we had not had the election, we carried on the tradition of the potluck. (Well, I didn't. I stayed home, sick. Honest! I even had a note from my wife.) President Stuertz had created an information survey which he explained to all who had assembled. He then had everyone fill out the questionnaire. By the time all had finished eating and filling out the questionnaire, it was quite late so no business was conducted.

Then comes February. What a comedy of errors!

The Board meeting was scheduled for the 15th. John Schneider, who always unlocks Headquarters for us, had undergone knee surgery and was recuperating at his daughter's home. No one knew her name so we had Norma Somerheiser try to get Rick Rye to open up. (Rick and his wife are Norma's neighbors.) They weren't home so we decided to cancel the meeting until the 22nd of February. John Stuertz, Norma and I called the board members to cancel the meeting. Mary Wunder and Henry Sader weren't reached and made it down to Headquarters. Norma drove over from her home in case anyone did show up, and told them to go home. First time Henry was on time, too!

February 22nd rolled around and we were having a blizzard, so we made the phone calls again. Reschedule for March 8th and do February and March together.

March 8th, and another heavy snow.

We finally had at the February and March meeting on the regularly scheduled March date of the 15th.

Result: No newsletter until now.

We have put the calendar of events for the rest of the year in this newsletter and I would call your attention to some of the dates which have changed around a bit and some where there are no dates.

The Kraut and Brei Ethnic dinner is coming up in the first part of May. We hope to see you all there. This is come in and eat; get seconds, (or thirds, or whatever) and when you're ready to leave, you don't have to wait. (No pro-

gram.)

June is a special open house at the Heritage Center honoring grandparents/grandkids. Get your parents, etc., off of their couch and bring them down to their Heritage Center. And remember, the goal of the Heritage Center is to preserve the story and legacy of our ancestors. To honor them, and pay them homage.

I often hear members ask, "What do I get for my membership dollars?" I just answered that. You may not get anything back, directly. What you will get this the pleasure of knowing that you have contributed to the preservation of the odyssey of Unsers Leute. (Our People.) And if you don't put anything into the organization, you won't get anything out of it anyhow.

A quick word about the scheduled garage sale. If we have it, it will probably coincide with the sale at Friedens. That will help both of us have better sales by increasing the traffic coming into the area.

The reason I say "if" is simple. We had had pretty mediocre sales for all of the effort the past few years. Last year, we had a very successful sale. This was due to the quality of the items members donated for the sale. We made as much on our last sale as we did on the two sales before it combined. If we get enough good merchandise, we will have a sale. If we do not, we will have it every two years. Items that are donated this year will be stored until we do have the sales.

So, Spring Cleaning is coming up. If you find you have a lot of things you don't know what to do with and

Annual Kraut & Brei Dinner

Friday, May 7, 1999 - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

WSI Hall - 1430 North 10th Street

Buy your tickets from any Board Member or send in this reservation form. To order by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with this form and your check, payable to AHSGR, to:

Ann Reitz, 4121 South 30th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

Please reserve _____ adult tickets (\$7.50 each)

Please reserve _____ children's tickets (\$3.50 each, under 12 years of age)

you want to donate them to the garage sale, please call me at 489-3213; Dale Dinges, 488-5154; John Stuertz, 421-7416; and finally, Norma Somerheiser, 476-8976. If you need someone to pick it up because you can't get it to the garage, call one of us and we will get it picked up. If you are willing to help with the garage sale, call one of us and give us your name.

Please do not call the Heritage Center and expect them to pick things up. That is not their job. This is a function of the Lincoln Chapter, not Headquarters. Lord knows they have enough of their own work to do (and are short employees) without us adding to it.

You may notice that the potluck/bingo usually held in June has been moved to September. That is to accommodate the open house we want to host. We will need a lot of help for the open house so, if you are in a volunteering mood, call any of the numbers in this newsletter and give us your name. Also, this is for the members of AHSGR, not just Lincoln. If you have any ideas that would help make this a successful event for you, call one of us and give us your ideas. PLEASE!!

Many of you may not know that the German Singers gave what may have been their last performance just before Christmas. Katherine Pabst, who organized the singers and was the glue and fiber that held them together, felt she had to retire. Her age and failing eyesight were just too much. We have lost another brick in our heritage. A heartfelt "Thank You, Katherine!!!" from all of us in the Lincoln Chapter.

John Stuertz is proposing the idea that we start a new tradition which is in keeping with our heritage. We have asked the National Board of Directors for permission to have a holiday open house in December during which we will decorate the Headquarter's building and all of the outbuildings, including the caboose and chapel. It has been approved and if you have any Christmas decorations you would care to contribute, please feel free to do so.

If you would like to help decorate, look for more information as we get closer to the holiday season.

I think our ancestors, who kept Christmas wherever they were, and whatever their circumstances, would like for us to keep Christmas where we preserve the archives that tell their story.

Your Board of Directors created a new committee at the March Board Meeting. It is called the Heritage Center Committee. Their function will be to keep the Heritage Center outbuildings clean. It is going to need a lot of volunteers to help. Eight board members volunteered to be on the committee the same night we created it. Why is that significant? Because only 15 of 24 board members were at the meeting and over half volunteered. You have a working Board of Directors, Lincoln Chapter. They are not serving just to say, "Hey, look at me! Aren't I something?"

The Heritage Center is again open on Saturdays. There has been talk about being open one or two nights during the week. This is something that many members have asked for. If

it comes to pass, we are again going to be looking for volunteers. Ladies and gentlemen, I know I keep saying the same thing over and over. We are going to need more volunteers. Again, the more you put into your organization, the more you get out of it in satisfaction. That is what you get for membership.

I know I have rambled on and on but there was just a lot of things that had to be talked about in this issue. We will try to get a newsletter out more often.

If anyone out there is willing to serve on or even chair a newsletter committee, please call me. We need (yes, you guessed it) a lot of help.

One last thing. I would like to feature some stories about our people here in the area. For instance, if you know Harry Kolb, help me work on him to give us some details about being shot down and held as a POW by the Germans during World War II. We have a lot of members who have interesting stories. We need to preserve them, too.

Thanks for listening.

Calendar of Events Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

- April 18 – Immanuel Fellowship Hall, 10th & Charleston. Election of new board members and officers for 1999. Pot luck 1:00 p.m.
- April 19 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- May 7 – Kraut & Brei Ethnic Dinner – 5:00-7:00 pm., WSI Hall, 1430 No. 10th
- May 17 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- June TBA – Open House at 631 D Street. Honoring Grandparents.
- June 21 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- July 6-11 – Convention 1999, Casper, Wyoming
- August TBA – Garage Sale, 601 D Street
- August 17 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- September 19 – Chapter Picnic (Bingo & Potluck) – 1:00 p.m., St. Paul's Church, 13th and F Streets
- September 20 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- October 18 – Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- November 12 – Broda Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – Program TBA, WSI Hall
- December TBA – Open House at 631 D Street. We will be decorating the outbuildings and Headquarters building for Christmas.