



Lincoln Chapter The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia **NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 4

September/October 2006

From Your President...

I would like to take this time to thank all those who helped with the 37th International Convention, which was held from August 14 through August 20 at the Embassy Suites here in Lincoln. This includes the headquarters staff, the planning committee and all of you who volunteered to help, wherever that might have been.

I can't begin to count how many people came up to me during the convention and complimented the Lincoln Chapter on the special programs and on how well the convention was going.

For those of you who were able to attend the convention, I trust you had an educational and enjoyable time. I commend you for your hard work and a job well done.

Again, I give you my heartfelt "thank you."

*Your Lincoln Chapter President,
Paul Loos*

ATTENTION: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & FREE PICNIC



**Sunday, September 17, 2006
4:00 p.m.**

**Bethany Park Shelter House
Picnic Meal & Drinks Provided**

**RSVP BY September 13
Paul Loos - 477-3978
Larry Schenkel - 438-3814**

I would like to remind everyone about the General Membership meeting and picnic on Sunday, September 17th, at 4:00pm at the air-conditioned Bethany Park Shelter House. A catered picnic meal and drinks will be provided, at no cost, for all Lincoln Chapter members attending.

If you are planning on attending, you **MUST** call either Paul Loos at 477-3978 or Larry Schenkel at 438-3814 no later than September 13. We need an accurate count so we can order the right amount of food.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Paul Loos

CONVENTIONS—PAST AND FUTURE

Well, the 2006 Lincoln Convention is over and we can rest for a couple of weeks before we have to start planning for the next one.

In case you are interested in the schedule of the conventions for the next four years, they are as follows:

2007—Hays, Kansas

Their convention committee has many of the plans made and much of the work done. It's shaping up to be a great con-

vention and not that far for those of us from Lincoln to travel.

2008—Casper, Wyoming

The "dream" convention many have hoped we would have is being planned combining AHSGR and GRHS!

2009—Medicine Hat, Canada

Part of their convention committee attended the convention here in Lincoln. (That's dedication!) They already have many problems identified and solved.

I'm looking forward to spending time with our Canadian cousins. Norma and I had a great time in Calgary, where the last Canadian convention was held.

2010—Lincoln, Nebraska

It's definitely not too early to start making plans. We will need to have as many fundraisers as possible so we can once again have a successful convention.

CONVENTION TIDBITS AND MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC



Welcome Night

The evening started off with the award-winning Capital City Cloggers entertaining the over 250 people who were in attendance. How about those young people? Oh, to have the energy they have!

The German Singers were great. Even though the first part of the program wasn't supposed to be a sing-along, throughout the room, many people sang along anyway.

These were the songs of their parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents. For some, they were even the songs of their youth.

Most of the German Singers aren't exactly "spring chickens" and even though their voices may not be as strong as they once were, there was nothing lacking in their enthusiasm!

Kathryn Pabst, 93 and legally blind, hasn't lost anything on the piano! She is a national treasure for Germans from Russia.

Many of the songs were predictable. The songfest started with "God Bless America" and was followed soon after by "Gott ist Die Liebe." Their final song was "So nimm den Meine Hende." This song was often sung at the close of many German meetings.

When it came to the sing-along, there didn't seem to be any shy guests. The room fairly rang with their voices. We all had fun with "The Circuit Riding Preacher," "Ach du Leiber, Augustin," "Du, du Leigst mi Herten"



and the traditional Christmas song, "Stille Nacht." The evening ended with "Wie Grosse du Beist."

Opening General Session

At the opening of the General Session, Bobby Williams (grandson of Annie and Bob Settell) led the singing of the National Anthem with Jan Bukowske accompanying at the piano. Talk about someone with a gift from God, everyone I spoke with was in awe of this young man's talent.

The over-300 convention attendees were welcomed to the city of Lincoln by the North Bottoms own, Sheriff Terry Wagner.

Following the morning business sessions, the Foundation Appreciation



(continued on next page)



**Convention
(continued)**

Luncheon was held. A big "thank you" goes to all of the AHSGR members and other contributors for making the "Bridge Builders" program such a success. Over \$230,000 was received during the last two years in our fund-raising effort.



After the luncheon, we were blessed with a performance from the Girl's German Choir, who we have dubbed "The Frieden Frauleins." They were directed by Irene Newhouse and accompanied on the piano by Peggy Russell. I'm told the girls' performance was wonderful. I'm sorry I missed it but I was at the Heritage Center for the open house.



Music Makes the Family Tree Grow

On Friday, a special folk music presentation was given by Larry Weigel, Jr. entitled, "Music Makes the Family Tree Grow." This presentation was to honor his father. The members who were in attendance

said the presentation was a rare and wonderful treat.

Convention Banquet

After the banquet Saturday evening, we were treated to a beautiful musical program by Jana Holzmeier. She was accompanied on the piano by Molly Manner.

Ecumenical Service

The Ecumenical Service on Sunday morning was one of the best I have attended at any of our conventions.

Diane Butherus, accompanied by Jan Bukowske, led off the service by singing the first verse of "Schoenster Herr Jesu" after which the congregation joined in. I haven't heard Diane sing solo for a long time, and had forgotten what a magnificent voice she has. Thank you, Diane.

Jerry McInnis tied the whole week together with a service about "keeping the dream alive." He related three dreams in the Bible to our (AHSGR) dream and keeping it alive for our posterity. Jerry is a retired minister and I'm sorry to say I have never heard him deliver a sermon before. I wish I had. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say, "Thank you, Jerry" for how well you brought the convention full-circle, from beginning to end.

Last, But Not Least

And finally, thanks to Norma Somerheiser and Nancy Borrell, for taking over the reins when I resigned as chair of the Convention committee.

You did a great job!

***UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG
OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY***

Minnie Huck
Twila D. Knaub
Richard L. Hill
Stan R. Brill

Harold J. Brumm
Conrad Worster
Mollie Spealman
Lloyd A. Alles

August (Augie) R. Kolb
George G. Schneider
Frieda Schuckman

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS DOES IT TAKE TO...

How many volunteers does it take to help put on a convention? Just ask Sidonia (Sid) Babcock. She knows. Sid was our volunteer coordinator for the Lincoln Chapter. It was an enormous job but Sid handled it well! Oh, by the way, her count was 67 volunteers.

How many volunteers does it take to staff the main building and all the out-buildings for an open house at the Heritage Center? A bunch!

The open house was held two days, four and one-half hours on Thursday, with 12 people volunteering and four

hours on Friday, with 13 people volunteering. Thirteen of the people that volunteered did so despite the fact that they were not attending the convention. Five of the Lincoln Quilters; Linda Ashelford, Karen Schmidt, Helen Schwartz, Gerry Shuster and Donna Thompson, were there both days. They were a big hit with the visitors. Thank you, Lincoln Quilters!

I won't try to list all the convention volunteers' names because I'm afraid I might miss someone, I'll just say, "Thank you, volunteers"!

There were many, many favorable

comments about how nice everything looked at the Heritage Center. The hard work of the staff, the Lincoln Chapter volunteers, and the Board of Directors who worked so hard before and during Work Week, did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Way to go, everybody!

Oh, one more thing, the second floor of the museum and the elevator, enabling everyone to go there, were both big hits!!

CAN YOU HELP?

The following are notes received via email:

"My family came to the United States from Stahl am Tarlyk in 1912 and initially settled in Sebawaing, Michigan. I understand some family members may have later relocated in Nebraska. I was curious as to whether you know of any Grass/Krass family members who are researching their family history. Thank you."

Margaret Kross
email address:
krossarts@hotmail.com

"Hi—My Mother's family name was Dechand, and we grew up in Topeka, practicing the "Rusian" custom of "Veinging" on New Year's Day. This comes from the visiting each relative's home, drinking a toast and reciting a poem in German that starts with something that sounds like "veinge ein glick, longus lavin...". Do you know of anyone I could contact who might be able to provide the German words to this toast? Or if this a common practice among other communities who share the Germans from Russia heritage? Thanks for your help."

Judy Hewitt
email address:
hewitt@iaao.org

OCTOBERFEST

Where: AHSGR Heritage Center
631 "D" Street

When: Saturday, October 7, 2006
11:00AM to 3:00PM

What: Volga Boatman sandwiches
Chips and soda
\$5.00
and a
Bake Sale

As well as: A Polka band,
pumpkin decorating, face
painting, and chalk art on
the driveway.

Bring your family and
enjoy Nebraska's beautiful
autumn weather as you
tour the Heritage Center
campus.



**HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH
ZUM GEBURSTAGL
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**DER JAHRESTABL/
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

September

Sharon Spellman
Nancy Borrell
Lucille Hedges
Jerry McInnis
Judy Runion
Nancy Richards
Barb Schmidt
Tom Bill

October

Greg Bouwens	Jane Alt
Patricia Olson	Delores Schwartz
Frieda Dobler	Lois Leonhardt
Lillian Giebelhaus	Helen Burbach
Jewel Hardt	Lilliam Loos
Norma Somerheiser	Paul Loos
Bud Dietrich	Scotty Kaufman
Jake Sinner	

September

Bud & Virginia Dietrich

October

Leslie & Tom Bill



Celebrate!

**2006 Board Member Directory
Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR**

488-3746	AMEN, Bill	4737 South 52nd Street	Lincoln, NE 68516
792-2175	BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372
486-0596	BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506
489-2583	BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
435-3052	BOUWENS, Nancy	541 West Beal	Lincoln, NE 68521
476-3600	BURBACH, Donald	3600 Hartley Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
488-5154	DINGES, Dale	1609 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506
486-1673	GRENEMEIER, Henry	7200 Van Dorn, #128	Lincoln, NE 68516
475-8221	HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th St.	Lincoln, NE 68528
489-5976	HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510
477-3978	LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521
489-5462	REITZ, Ann	4121 So. 30th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-4212	SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430
438-3814	SCHENKEL, Larry	9439 Benziger Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68526
476-8976	SOMERHEISER, Norma	2675 South 11th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502
488-2313	WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516
423-4345	WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Cr #7	Lincoln, NE 68542
		(Mail to: PO Box 23095	Lincoln, NE 68516)

Officers are elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. However, if you are interested in serving for a shorter period of time, you could ask about a one-year appointment, to determine if it would be something you would enjoy doing.

2006 Officers

President Paul Loos	Treasurer Norma Somerheiser
1st Vice President Sidonia Babcock	Corresponding Secretary Lucille Hedges
2nd Vice President Dale Dinges	Historian Leslie Bill
Recording Secretary Nancy Bouwens	



Lincoln Chapter AHSGR



Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr
Lincoln, NE 68526



**Calendar of
Events**

LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

September 17, 2006	. . .General Membership Meeting . . .	4:00 p.m.	. . . . .	Bethany Park Shelter House
September 18, 2006	. . .Board Meeting			631 "D" St.
October 7, 2006	. . . . .Octoberfest	11:00AM–3:00PM	. . . . .	631 "D" St.
October 10, 2006	. . . . .Coffee Club	9:00 AM.	. . . . .	Stauffer's 48th & HWY 2
October 16, 2006	. . . . .Board Meeting	7:30PM	. . . . .	631 "D" St.
November 3, 2006	. . . . .Broda Dinner	5:00–7:00PM.	. . . . .	WSI Hall. 1430 N. 10th St.
November 14, 2006	. . . . .Coffee Club	9:00AM	. . . . .	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
November 20, 2006	. . . . .Board Meeting	7:30 PM.	. . . . .	631 "D" St.
December 2, 2006	. . . . .Christmas Festival	11:30-3:00PM.	. . . . .	631 "D" St.
December 12, 2006	. . . . .Coffee Club	9:00 AM.	. . . . .	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
December 2006	. . . . .Board Member's Christmas Dinner. . . . .		. . . . .	(Date, time and location TBA)
January 7, 2007	. . . . .Annual Membership Meeting	1:00 PM	. . . . .	(Location TBA)
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers)			