

# **MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING**

## **MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA**

**3:00 PM Friday, 19 January 2007**

**MCC/MHSA offices**  
**32<sup>nd</sup>. Street, NE**  
**Calgary, Alberta**

**Present:** Ken Reddig, President (Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies)  
Sam Steiner, Vice-President (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada)  
Lucille Marr, Secretary (La Société Mennonite Historique du Québec)  
Richard Thiessen, Treasurer (Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia)  
Royden Loewen Member at Large, (Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg)  
Maurice Martin, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Marlene Epp, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Victor G. Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Dave Pankratz, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Vincent Friesen, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Judith Rempel, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
David Giesbrecht, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia  
Bert Friesen, GAMEO, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society  
Peter Penner, GAMEO, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Linda Huebert Hecht, GAMEO, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Henry Fast, Evangelical Mennonite Church  
Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Church Canada

### **1) Welcome**

Ken welcomed the full board, thanking the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta and MCC Alberta for the use of their office space and for making arrangements for the meeting. Peter Penner welcomed us to Alberta, reminding us who we are, a group of historical societies representing Mennonites spanning across the nation from British Columbia to Quebec. He affirmed the MHSC in its strong role in pulling the provincial societies together and supporting such organizations as GAMEO.

### **2) Minutes of the 2 December 2005 meeting**

Lucille read the minutes of the last meeting of the MHSC and moved their acceptance.  
**M/S/C (Lucille/Richard)**

### **3) Business arising from the minutes**

a) **Change of date in MHSC award deadline**

Ken suggested moving the deadline to be two months before the meeting date.

**M/S/C (Alf/Judith)**

b) **By-law change**

Ken also noted that we need to update the society's by-laws (section 18) to incorporate the SHMQ

**M/S/C (Maurice/David)**

👉 **Action:** Who will do this?

c) **MHSC History:**

We still need to find someone willing to work on this and write the history. Minutes are housed at MAO and the Heritage Centre.

4) **Approval of Agenda for Board and annual Meeting**

Agenda for board meeting was approved; the approval for the annual meeting was moved to 10.

5) **President's report**

- Our president acknowledged the need to find some way to distribute the reports for the meeting more efficiently.
- He also updated the board on the cancellation of the federal ACE program with the coming in of a new Conservative government and
- on Mennonite Books' move. Ken encouraged members to consider being in touch with manager Ted Peters if and when we have books for sale.
- Ken reported further that the executive received two nominations for persons for the award of excellence, but decided to accept the MHSO's nomination of Lorna Bergey. Several around the table recalled with fondness Lorna's enthusiasm for Swiss Mennonite history and her helpfulness. Ken moved the acceptance of this executive decision. **M/S/C (Ken/Bert)**  
👉 **Action:** As MHSO president, Maurice Martin was asked to facilitate the presentation of the MHSC Award of Excellence to Lorna and to convey to her from the national society our appreciation for her and the good work that she has contributed to the development of Mennonite History in Canada.  
👉 **Action** Ken invited the MHSO to prepare a press report with a photo and to report back to the MHSC.
- Ken reported that he is pushing MCC Canada to write their history with the fast of approach of 2013 and their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MCC binational is anticipating their upcoming centennial which they will celebrate in 2020 by posting MCC history papers on their website.

6) **GAMEO report**

GAMEO now has two levels: a management group and an editorial group. Priorities are to post the *Mennonite Encyclopedia* Vols 3-5 and to increase publicity. Partners are MHSC, MCC, Mennonite Church USA, MB Commission, MCC International and MWC.

The accounting has been separated out. Issues with the search engine are still being sorted out.

7) **DVCM II Report:**

- Roy reported that there is a call out for papers for the Family and Sexuality History conference coming up in October.
- Marlene Epp then reported on her book on Mennonite women which she had been invited in 2000 to write under DVCM. A solid draft of the manuscript has been received and read by a small Reader's committee. She hopes to complete the revisions in late winter or early spring.
- Roy reported that the Readers' Committee is excited with this first rate history and suggested the MHSC approach University of Manitoba press publisher with a \$5000.00 subvention in hand.
- Roy also outlined the upcoming proposed conference as per his report.

8) **Mennonites in Canada Report**

Ken is keeping Ted Friesen abreast of what is going on.

9) **Finance Report:**

was brought by Richard

10) **Budget 2007/2008**

Richard presented this as well.

11) **Nominations Committee report**

Speaking on behalf of the Nominations' Committee, David asked the Board to reflect on the mandate of said committee. After thanking the executive for serving us well, he recommended the same slate for 2007 and suggested that the Chair of Mennonite Studies should also continue to be on the MHSC Executive.

12) **Other Items:**

a) **Letter from Conrad Grebel University College regarding the Frank H. Epp Memorial Fund Committee:**

The MHSC is one of five partners, along with Frank's family, responsible for the fund. Ken read Henry Paetkau' proposal and summed up our society's executive's concerns regarding releasing history society ownership of the fund. A lively discussion brought out the following concerns:

- there are few history funds out there and we value that;
- have we not done enough with the fund? Could more be done if there were a larger fund?
- the college has struggled with knowing how to handle the fund for a variety of reasons including the difficulty of knowing how to weigh out the varied types of proposals and the problem of fund-raising.

- the College's development office and president have developed a new enthusiasm for the fund as its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaches.
  - the society would like to respect the Epp family's wishes,
  - at the same time MHSC wishes to convey our claim to Frank Epp and his contributions to history.
  - we would like to make the college aware that this is an important fund because there are so few out there.
  - we need to demonstrate as a society that we do have interest in the fund, especially since this has not been in evidence over the past 20 years.
- 👉 **Action:** to be brought to the AGM for a decision.

b) **Adjournment:**

The Board was adjourned for a delicious supper provided by Welcome Place people and a wonderful program sponsored by the MHSA. This included a Choral Concert with the Corpus Christi Male Chorale, Arthur Kroeger's launch of *Hard Passage: A Mennonite Family's Long Journey from Russia to Canada* and brief reports from the Alberta Society and the Canadian Society. The MHSC would like to convey a big thank you to the Alberta society for planning the event.