

Rusin Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2010  
St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

President Karen Varian called the meeting to order at 10:50 A.M.

The first item of business was the introduction of officers.

#### 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 7, 2009 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2009

The Treasurer's report was presented by Polly Walker. The report included a profit and loss budget overview for January through December 2009 and a summary of profit and loss by class (Duchnovich Dinner, Festival of Nations, Hostina, Operating, Picnic, Sales Merchandise). The balance sheet as of December 31, 2009 showed total assets of \$8,425 and total liabilities and equity of \$8,425. \$2,500 was moved from the checking account to the savings account for income purposes. The report was approved. (See attachment)

#### 2010 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Treasurer proposed a budget for 2010 based on the profit/loss tendencies of the preceding year. The budget proposal was accepted. (See attachment)

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The paid membership for 2009 was 89. To date we have received \$255 in dues for 2010.

#### NEED FOR AN AUDIT

The need to audit the association accounts related to maintaining non-profit status and other issues was discussed. It was determined that an outside audit would be too expensive and that a well-documented internal audit would suffice to meet any legal obligations. Tom Sery was drafted to conduct the audit.

#### PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISIONS

Proposed By-law revisions were distributed for review and discussion prior to a future vote.

##### 1. Family Membership (Article III, Section 3.B.).

The current situation is confused since some members buy banquet tickets for their entire families, whether all are actual members or not, at the membership rate. The intent of the differential rates is to provide a benefit to actual individual members, rather than whole families unless all the family members are also association members. The possibility of defining a "family membership" as applying only to a maximum of two persons didn't seem like an effective solution. In the end, the consensus was to dispense with the family membership category.

MOTION: To delete section 3. B. of the proposed By-law revisions which in effect eliminates the family membership category beginning in 2011 and to approve the other By-law revisions as printed to present to the association for approval in the future. Motion passed.

2. Disposition of Collection and Assets (Article XII)

The disposition of the association's assets in the event that the association dissolves was discussed. The positive and negative aspects of possible inheritors were discussed. The Carpatho-Rusyn Society (CRS) in Pittsburgh has the cultural center which may keep the materials, but it is far from Minnesota which would limit access for Minnesota Rusins and their descendents. CRS does have By-laws that specify the disposition of materials in the event of dissolution. The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota is local, but is not currently accepting new materials because their archival space is full. The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center (CRRC) which does business out of Glassport, PA. The physical location of the materials given to CRRC is not clear at this time. Does IHRC have better prospects for survival than CRS or CRRC? The Rusyn Center in Presov, Slovakia would limit access to the materials more than the Pittsburgh location and the future of that institution is not assured. The Minnesota History Center might be worth investigating as a future repository. One other option is the Czecho-Slovak Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Center seems to have good prospects to continue, but it is unclear whether they would be interested in Rusin materials from countries outside of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

MOTION: To prioritize possible recipients of any Rusin Association assets and materials in the following order:

- 1) Carpatho-Rusyn Society
- 2) Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center
- 3) ?
- 4) Immigration History Research Center

~~The motion passed.~~

MOTION: To change the order of the possible recipient organizations as follows:

1. IHRC
2. ? (same as #3 in the first motion)
3. Czecho-Slovak Center
4. CRS

The motion failed for lack of a second.

## DUCHNOVICH DINNER PLANS

### 1. Ticket Prices

Effective 2011 there will be no family rate and members will not be able to purchase tickets for family members who are not members at the member rate if the proposed By-law revision reported above is adopted.

### 2. Eliminate Presentation-Only Tickets

The consensus was that we should no longer sell tickets or charge admission for the program or presentation. We will put a donation basket at the door to solicit contributions from people who attend the presentation whether they have tickets for the banquet or not.

### 3. Dancers and the Dinner

The dancers can stay for the dinner for the cost of the food rather than the full dinner ticket price.

### 4. Dinner Guests

The presenter or presenters and their spouses, the priests of St. Mary's and St. John's, any visiting hierarchs, and exchange students can attend the dinner as guests of the association. Mark Wansa and his wife will be guests at this year's dinner in conjunction with his book tour for The Linden and the Oak.

### 5. Slivovitza, Vino, and Pivo

Larry Goga will arrange for beer, wine, and slivovitza for the toast at the banquet. Nzdroye.

### 6. Friday Evening Reception for Helene Cincebeaux and Mark Wansa

There is some concern about decent attendance at the Friday since he will do a presentation at Magers' Bookstore on Thursday evening and we will have the program on Saturday. The consensus was to go ahead.

### 7. Banquet Decorating and Set Up Arrangements

Tasks associated with setting up the banquet were assigned or volunteered.

### 8. Bill Konchar Accordionist Extraordinaire

Bill Konchar, retired from the Brooklyn Park Police Department, will provide accordion music at the dinner. He and his wife will be guests at the dinner.

### 9. Merchandise Table

10. Matt Dion will manage the merchandise table. Copies of the The Linden and the Oak will be available.

### 11. Dessert

Several members are working on it.

## FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

1. We need a chair to oversee arrangements for the display and staffing the booth.
2. Larry Goga will solicit Festival helpers at the Duchnovich Day event.

## CARPATHO-RUSYN CONSORTIUM OF NORTH AMERICA

The Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America has been formed. Mnohaja lita.

### 2010 CENSUS PROJECT

There are problems with reporting ethnicity, specifically Rusin ethnicity on the census forms. There is a new form and multiple options related to Rusin ethnic identity which will probably dilute the resulting measure of Rusin Americans. Some possible solutions were explained.

### SUMMER 2010 TOURS AND EVENTS

CRS is running the annual summer tour to the Rusin lands. There is a tour of Transcarpathia planned for the summer of 2011.

There is a Rusin language and cultural study school being offered at Presov University from June 14 to July 4, 2010. An email with more information has been sent to the members.

### TOUR PRESENTATION

The annual meeting closed with a presentation by Polly Walker of a tour of the Rusin lands. The meeting ended at 1:15 P.M.