



MINUTES OF 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of South Africa took place on 24 February 2007 at 09:00 at the Pinedene Inn, Pinetown

1. Opening and Welcome

The formal meeting opened at 09:00. The National President welcomed members.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Isabel Groesbeek, Petro Coreejes-Brink, Colin Pretorius, Gideon dV de Kock, Mike O'Connor, Peter Moss

Present

See attached list.

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Daan Hamman pointed out that he was not the vice-chairman of eGSSA as the attendance list stated, but the appointed delegate. The correction was made and the Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting, which took place on 25 February 2006 at Port Elizabeth Women's Club, Summer Strand, was accepted.

Proposed: Lucas Rincken, Seconded: Richard Y Ford

4. Call for additional items to the agenda

6.2 GSU to be discussed under point 6.2 Free State Marriages

6.8 Simon du Plooy would like to discuss the documents kept by the Department of Home Affairs. To be added as point 6.8

8. Daan Hamman wants to discuss dual membership of branches and eGGSA. To be included in point 8 of the Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM)

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report

The National President of the GSSA, Johann Janse van Rensburg, presented his Annual Report. (Ref. Appendix A).

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Simon du Plooy, Seconded: Johan Pottas

5.2 Financial Report

a. *Familia*: The increased costs of printing *Familia* was explained.

b. Sponsoring for projects:

André Heydenrych express the willingness of the NEC to make money available to outreach project such as Hobby-X, Aardklop and the Volksbladkunstefees.

c. A separate sheet explaining the Sundries was provided:

Sundry Income:

- A donation of R10 000
- An amount of R20 928 acquired when the Johannesburg branch closed. It is proposed that this be kept in trust for three years should the Jhb Branch come to life again. André explained that the amount was reflected as current income and that it could therefore not be regarded as a Trust fund. A “bruidskat” would be considered when a new branch is formed in Johannesburg.
- An amount of R18 000 which should have gone to GISA but was erroneously deposited into GGSA’s account.

Sundry Expense:

- Return of R18 000 to GISA
- Software R2885

d. Tax:

All the legal forms should be completed for submission of the tax return before the next NEC meeting. It was stated that according to the constitution the branches do not have legal persona, and therefore their financial statements must be supplied to the National Treasurer for consolidation into the GSSA’s statements to SARS.

e. The unique position of Natal Midlands is to be looked into by the NEC.

f. New Membership and Fees:

It was mentioned that some new members still find the membership form and the different fees confusing.

(Refer to paragraph 6.3 regarding new fees.)

g. Audit:

Though the financial reports were not audited, André invited all to scrutinise the books. It was mentioned that both Johann Janse van Rensburg and Isabel Groesbeek have gone through the last two years’ accounts in detail, with no query outstanding.

The financial report as per attachment was accepted. (Ref. Appendix B1-B4)

Proposed: Daan Hamman, Seconded: Simon du Plooy

5.3 Specific Reports

5.3.1 *Familia* Report

Nico Gey van Pittius objected to the fact that the general advertising fee was also applied to branches who wanted an index of their publications published in *Familia*. The NEC was asked to reconsider the practice.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix C).

5.3.2 **Technology**

Paul Maré informed the meeting of the new approach that is being adopted regarding the management of memberships on the new format GSSA web page.

The idea behind the concept is that each branch will have far more responsibility in keeping the branch page updated, with regards to activities and memberships.

He also explained the numerous benefits that may be gained from having the membership data centrally available. He mentioned that the pages on Familia and the Cemetery Project are already under individual (project leaders') control, and that the new webmasters are getting acquainted with the technology.

Certain teething problems are occurring but they are being addressed, and the affected parties are kept informed.

An initial role-out plan was agreed upon where West Gauteng and Northern Transvaal's webmasters will be trained first.

Daan Hamman congratulated Paul on his work, but said that inclusion of the Omnibus would not be possible, since it would require getting permission from every single contributor.

Projects that become dormant should be removed from the web page.

5.3.3 **Public Relations**

One could poll the people who joined the web page to see whether they would be interested to join the GGSA. Telephone as well as e-mail polls have to be investigated.

An attempt should be made again to get an article published in The Farmer's Weekly and Landbouweekblad regarding farm cemeteries.

In the absence of Isabel Groesbeek her valuable work was applauded and the public relations report accepted. (Ref. Appendix D)

5.3.4 **Projects and Products**

The projects and products report compiled by Petro Coreejes-Brink was entered for discussion. An appeal was made to all the branches to help with the updating of the projects and products as they appear on our web-site. The report was accepted (Ref. Appendix P)

5.3.5 **Cemetery Project**

Errol Dollenberg unfortunately had to resign as co-ordinator of the Cemetery Project and a letter was sent to him on behalf of the GSSA thanking him for the great job he has done.

Fanie Blignaut (convener of the Vaal Triangle Cemetery Project) was approached to head up the National project. He has indicated that he will be willing to take on

the task.

Regarding point 3 of the cemetery project report regarding the linking of photographs with the index, Paul Maré suggested that there be close co-operation between the electronic branch and the cemetery project to move the photographs of headstones on the Cemetery CD to the eGSSA's web-site and to link the CD data and the eGSSA photo database. Johann Ahlers volunteered to help regarding the cemetery photo's.

The better search facility and the lost information will be included in Version 6 of the Cemetery CD.

Peter Moss is looking into including the GPS co-ordinates with the cemetery information.

André Heydenrych will donate some of the Ver 3 Cemetery CD's to various libraries.

Peter and Beverley Moss were thanked for their huge contributions and their time spent. The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix E).

5.3.6 **Omnibus**

Daan Hamman was applauded for the huge amount of work that he has put into Omnibus 3, having gone way beyond his initial brief of just taking publishable articles and putting them together in a presentable format.

The CD is now available for duplication. It was decided to begin with 75 copies to be offered for sale.

The Genealogical Reference Guide needs updating.

5.4 **Branch Reports**

5.4.1 **Durban and Coastal**

The branch has the data compiled by Ellen Stanton on Natal marriages. Johann Janse van Rensburg warned that there might be a problem with copyright. An exhibition of the book on The German Cotton Growers will take place during during lunch time.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix F).

5.4.2 **eGSSA**

Some uneasiness was raised by one eGSSA member to the National Chairman regarding the selection of committee members of the eGSSA branch. The Chairman said that he has been in discussion with the committee of the eGSSA, and that the members of the eGSSA have the full right to approach the current committee with their grievances and that it is within the power of the members to choose how to be governed. Simon du Plooy asked that the selection of members on the eGSSA management committee should be based on people nominated for the different positions. Daan Hamman informed the meeting that no new

nominations were received for any of the branch committee positions and as such the branch committee was considered duly re-elected. He mentioned that there were numerous volunteers willing to 'assist', but not to be elected.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix G).

5.4.3 **Eastern Cape**

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix M).

5.4.4 **Free State**

Johan Pottas indicated that the branch intends placing articles in publications like the Volksblad supplement "Kontrei". It also planned on a repeat participation at the Volksbladkunstefees, since it was visited by many people and four new members joined.

The idea is still that the magazine "*Majores*" will only be in electronic format and will still be free of charge.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix L).

5.4.5 **Natal Midlands**

Eckhart von Fintel said that talks were presented at retirement homes, but that the feedback is guiding them to re-think their strategy and the contents of the talk. They intend to participate in the Family History Fair that is hosted by the Archives and Voortrekker Museum.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix O).

5.4.6 **Northern Transvaal**

The branch now has a new chairman Ferdi van Wyk, because of the illness of Thys van Wyk. The meeting wishes him a speedy recovery. The arrangement with the Voortrekker Monument seems to be sorted, though the financial arrangement is not optimum.

The branch intends to continue with their participation of the Antique Fair during May and September.

The NEC will contact the branch committee regarding the continuance of the Van Wyk-project, because of the size of the project currently.

The branch also intends to investigate presenting genealogical tours on the same basis that the Archaeological Society runs their tours. The meeting expressed interest and enthusiasm for the project.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix N).

5.4.7 **North West**

Research in the Archives of the Reformed Church is being negotiated, on request by Johan Swanefelder and Joke Botha.

Johan Vermeulen indicates the availability of books of genealogical interest, such as books found in second hand bookshops.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix H).

5.4.8 **Vaal Triangle**

The branch intends getting involved at the Vaal Show. They also intend making good progress with documenting the old Parys cemetery

The report as per attachment was excepted (ref. Appendix I).

5.4.9 **West Gauteng**

The branch is getting ready for the coming Hobby-X event in Johannesburg, which has proved very successful in the past. The genealogical course presented by Dennis Pretorius, Lucas Rinken and Richard Ford, was also so successful that the branch is thinking of presenting another during the year or at least making it an annual event.

Lucas told the meeting that the CD "A tribute to Mark Tapping" is now available. The CD on the diary of Ds.Schoon during the siege of Ladysmith "Die Dagboek van Ds Herman Frederik Schoon", is also available.

The Rinken de Wet database is to be renamed as the eSAGI-database and already contains 315 000 names. It was confirmed that all these products are official GSSA products.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix J).

5.4.10 **Western Cape**

The exhibitions held in the Bellville library and organised by Marianne Meyer and at the Archives during the Archive's open day were both very successful.

The branch meetings moved from Pinelands to Goodwood during the year and bought a digital projector for power point presentations.

The report as per attachment was accepted (ref. Appendix K).

6 **Points for Discussion and Motions**

6.1 **Updated CD for Members**

Johann Janse van Rensburg distributed the updated CD to the different branches on a pro rata basis.

6.2 **Free State Marriages**

Johann Janse van Rensburg reported that he had finished converting the Free State Marriage data from the Access DB format to Gedcom format, and although the data was available he could not present it due to the expected difficulties that GSSA might run into.

Johann explained the situation regarding the agreement entered into by the

various interested parties, that is, the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), the churches as the data owner and the researcher.

The NEC was tasked to determine what the source of Neil Botha's work was and to propose the follow-up actions.

The branches were also requested to contact the NEC for clearance on this issue before they start with any project which involves using GSU sources for anything other than for personal research.

6.3 Proposed membership Fee adjustment

After careful considerations regarding the affordability of membership to pensioners, the motion was adopted to increase membership fees for 2008 to R120 and to R100 for members receiving *Familia* electronically. The provision was made that branches may apply for a grant on behalf of their pensioner members should those members now not be able to afford the membership of the GSSA.

Regarding the Society's income it was mentioned that the Income Tax Act provides for Tax exemption for income generated from Membership services and not for income generated from sources other than Members. This matter to be investigated.

6.4 Changes to the Constitution

The proposed changes as per attachment were accepted (ref. Appendix Q).
Proposed: Richard Ford, Seconded: Paul Maré

6.5 New Projects/Products

With acceptance of the meeting, this point was referred to the Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM)

6.6 Omnibus

Daan Hamman was asked to continue this function with an assistant to be decided on by the NEC or himself. It was pointed out that the original brief should be followed, because of the huge amount of work that had to be put into Omnibus 3.

6.7 Project Leader for the List of Sources

The appointment of someone to handle this matter was referred to the NEC.

6.8 Documents at the Department of Home Affairs

The NEC was tasked to get in contact with Government regarding the availability of sources. A member of the GSSA in the North West has access to someone. The Estate File Indexing under the leadership of Adelbert Simmelink is at present dormant due to his work pressure, and the fact that he is abroad most of the time.

7 Election of Office Bearers

The list of proposals for positions was entered. The nominated members for serving on the National Executive Committee was elected unopposed.

President:	Johann J van Rensburg	(Prop.: Lucas Rinke) (Sec: Johan Pottas)
Vice-President:	Isabel Groesbeek	(Prop: Johann Janse van Rensburg) (Sec: André Heydenrych)
Secretary:	Elmien Wood	(Prop: Johann Janse van Rensburg) (Sec: Nico Gey van Pittius)
Treasurer:	André Heydenrych	(Prop: Johann Janse van Rensburg) (Sec: Richard Y Ford)
Add. Member:	Dennis Pretorius	(Prop: Lucas Rinke) (Sec: Johann Janse van Rensburg).

Appointment of Co-opted members to the NEC:

Editor of <i>Familia</i> :	Richard Y Ford
Editor and compiler of Omnibus:	Daan Hamman (assistance from Faan Pistor)
Technology:	Paul Maré
Cemetery Project Co-ordinator:	Fanie Blignaut

8 **Next AGM**

The 45th AGM will be hosted by the North West Branch on 1 March 2008.

The meeting ended at 13:15.

Minutes accepted

1. (Signed)	2. (Signed)
(Dated)	(Dated)

ATTENDANCE AT THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GSSA 2007

The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of South Africa took place on 24 February 2007 at 09:00 at the Pinedene Inn, Pinetown.

NAME	APPOINTMENT / POSITION	BRANCH REPRESENTED
Johann Janse van Rensburg	President	National
André Heydenrych	Treasurer	National
Elmien Wood	Co-opted Secretary	National
Daan Hamman	Representative	eGGSA
Richard Y. Ford	Editor Familia	National
Paul Maré	Webmaster	National
Jacques Benadie	Chairman	Durban and Coastal
Ancia Bower	Representative	Durban and Coastal
Judy Letard	Secretary	Durban and Coastal
Paul Bower	Librarian	Durban and Coastal
K. Knight	Member	Durban and Coastal
Johan Ahlers	Representative	eGSSA
Johan J. Pottas	Chairman	Free State
Fritz Fourie	Treasurer	Free State
Vanessa Ford	Secretary	Natal Midlands
Eckhart von Fintel	Editor Gnus	Natal Midlands
Ferdie van Wyk	Chairman	Northern Transvaal
Ellen Harmse	Treasurer	Northern Transvaal
Simon du Plooy	Chairman	North West
Johan Vermeulen	Vice-Chairman	North West
Engela Spaleck	Chairman	Vaal Triangle
Lucas Rinken	Chairman	West Gauteng
Dennis Pretorius	Treasurer	West Gauteng
Nico Gey van Pittius	Chairman	Western Cape