

2017 SGGEE Convention Report

In 2016, SGGEE joined the International German Genealogical Partnership, a newly formed organization uniting around 100 world-wide German genealogical societies from Europe, South America, Australia and North America. The common goal of IGGP is to provide research assistance and share information on our German heritage by creating a world-wide network of genealogical societies with expertise in the history, culture and genealogy of our ancestors.

On July 28, 29 and 30, IGGP sponsored their first convention titled "Connections: International, Cultural, Personal" that was held at the Minnesota Northwest Hotel in North Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. This year, SGGEE combined our convention to support the goals of the partnership that gave our members a different convention experience.

As has been our annual tradition, individual assistance through a research room helped several new members break through their "brick walls" and at the SGGEE vendor booth 100+ brochures were handed out while dozens of people were introduced to the German presence in Poland and Volhynia.

On Friday evening, SGGEE sponsored a banquet for our members in attendance and held our Annual General meeting where new board members were elected. Outgoing president Edie Adam is to be commended for her involvement on the IGGP planning committee and two of our members, Sigrid Pohl-Perry and Carolyn Schott were featured speakers during the convention.

Overall, IGGP rated this initial convention a success. A total of over 700 registrations were received, more than 70 multiple track workshop presentations were provided and a plan for a future convention to be held in Sacramento, California developed. SGGEE continues to participate as a partner society, giving our members access to the international network of researchers.

In 2018, SGGEE will host our own convention and celebrate the 20 year anniversary since SGGEE became an official genealogical organization in Calgary, Alberta Canada. The convention will be held in at the Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary, Alberta on July 27, 28 and 29 with the theme "*Hands-on-Genealogy*". We are currently seeking ideas to make this convention extra special. Dave Obee has

agreed to be one of our workshop speakers and will deliver the banquet speech on the history of SGGEE.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas by writing to:
convention@sggee.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Tucholke, Convention Chair