

Saturday, February 12, 2022, the Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa met for their regular meeting at the Remsen Public Library. President Judy Stokesberry brought the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Nine members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting of November 13, 2021, were read and approved as read. Mary Riedemann read the treasurer's report. In the regular account beginning balance from November was \$2,258.30. Deposits totaled \$100, expense total was \$61.80, making the ending balance \$2,296.50. An expense in December for an ad in the Remsen Bell in the amount of \$16.25 was deducted, making the ending balance on February 12, 2022, \$2,280.25. The donation account total in November, 2021 was \$3,296.82. A donation of \$100 brought the ending balance on February 12, 2022, \$3,396.82. A motion to accept the report was made by Joe Konz, seconded by Tom Hansen. Motion carried.

A discussion on the Board of Directors who were elected or chosen at the beginning of the Society, has not been updated or renewed. One member had moved and one is deceased. Ethel Heidesch said she will step down. Contact by letter will be made to the other directors to ask their wish to stay or relinquish their position will be sent by approval of the officers. Members Joe Konz, Tom Hansen and Judy Stokesberry offered to fill the vacancies if accepted by the Board of directors still holding that position.

Tom Hansen has been working on the Sister City possibilities with local towns. We discussed that Le Mars would be ideal as Peter Gehlen was present there in the 1870's building a Grist Mill, owning land and helping build the town. Jean offered to locate forms that need to be filled in by the City or Chamber to be presented to a city or town in Luxembourg.

Robert Arens is working on the 501-c3 for our Society. He has applied for a Federal Tax number with the IRS. His genealogy books are at the Alton City Library and can be used for research or reference by anyone. Robert asked if we would write a letter of acceptance of his books valued at \$95,000. A motion by Joe Konz, seconded by Ethel Heidesch to write the letter was given. Motion carried.

Judy made a list of events that Luxembourg celebrates throughout the year. We decided it would be a good way to let people know about the country if we also celebrate in some way in our area. The first we will work on is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, young men present a pretzel to a lady they like. If she returns his feelings, she will offer him a hard-boiled egg or candy egg at Easter. If not interested, he gets an empty basket, meaning he is "given the basket" or dumped. Joe said he would check on costs of small bags of pretzels we could pass out after Mass at some of our local churches. Other times we may plan on would be June 23<sup>rd</sup>, National Day, celebrating the Duke's birthday and St. Nicholas Day, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The program Judy will present at the Remsen Public Library has been changed to Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. She asked if we could help with food items for the guests. Judy has been asked by the Luxembourg Cultural Center in Belgium, WI, to make a presentation in the fall.

As we have been discussing a trip sometime this year to Eastern Iowa, Judy has proposed an itinerary for October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. A busy schedule but will cover many towns along the way. If interested, please let our Society know if you would consider the trip. The itinerary, which may have a few changes, can be sent by email for your viewing or will be on the website, [nwialux.org](http://nwialux.org). Some of the highlights would be St. Donatus and the Peter Gehlen House and barn; a cruise down the Mississippi river to Savanna, IL, and much more. Prices have not been confirmed as yet but will be reasonable.

Meeting was adjourned. Judy Stokesberry provided the snacks.

Secretary, Jean Nilles