

CONSTITUTIONS

The Davenport Schuetzengesellschaft was first incorporated in 1862. This lasted until 1868, when the corporation of 1862 was dissolved and a new corporation was established. The new corporation was formed on December 16, 1868. Adopted as part of that action was a constitution. Amendments to that constitution were adopted June 11, 1873, and April 24, 1876. The term adopted for the corporation of 1868 was until December 1890. The DSG operated under the constitution of 1868 until December 1890.

On December 2, 1890 the DSG adopted a new constitution and renewed the corporation, with a term to last until 1910. With the constitution of 1890 were adopted some structural changes that will be discussed later. In 1911, perhaps a bit late, the corporation was formally extended under the same constitution to December 1940. At the annual meeting in 1912, some amendments to the constitution were adopted that, among other things extended the corporation to 1960.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Under the constitution of 1868, the officers of the Davenport Schuetzengesellschaft (DSG) consisted of a President, Vice President, Protokollirender Secretar (Recording Secretary), Correspondirender Secretar (Corresponding Secretary), Schatz Meister (Treasurer), and the First and Second Schuetzenmeisters. There were also three trustees. All officers were elected for one-year terms at the annual meeting in January. There were some years when the annual meeting was deferred to February, apparently due to weather, but not specifically stated. On those occasions, there are simply no minutes for January.

Several committees were appointed at the regular monthly meeting following the annual meeting. These committees were Shies Comite (Shoot Committee), Preis Comite (Prize), Park Comite, and Ticket Comite. Each of these committees consisted of three members. There were also two Fahrentrager (Flag bearers), and a Secretar der Ehrenscheibe (Secretary of the Honor Target) who was to compile the scores on the honor target through the year. Officers could be committee members, but there did not have to be an officer on the committee. Most committee members were not officers.

In 1901 the duties of the Protokoll Secretar and the Corresponding Secretar were combined into the single office of Secretar. In 1916 the offices of 1st and 2nd Schuetzenmeister were reduced to the single office of Schuetzenmeister. English terms were used for the offices in 1916 and after, except for Schuetzenmeister.

The standing comites were reduced to Fahrentrager, Shies, and Preis until about 1910. These committees remained until at least 1919. There was a Scretar der Ehrensheib to approximately 1905 when those duties were turned over to the Schuetzenmeister. A Pistolen Meister, established in 1902 to officiate over the pistol matches at the monthly shoot, was abolished in 1915, along with that potion of the schuetzen program.

Monthly shoots, the king shoot, tournaments, parades, and other special events were under the control of the schuetzenmeisters. The schuetzenmeisters compiled the financial reports of these events, which were inserted into the minutes.

Other committees were appointed for special purposes as needed at other times of the year. Some of these included, for example, a Schuetzen Ball Committee, a Turkey Shoot Committee, and others for other special functions. If these committees did not function or achieve their tasks as assigned, they could be threatened with a fine. The special committees were formally discharged by vote of a meeting when their assigned task was accomplished, or when it was determined that it could not be accomplished

MEMBER MEETINGS.

The business of the corporation was conducted by the membership in monthly meetings. This included matters relating to membership, conduct of monthly and other shoots, rules, finances and general concerns. The protokolls include reports by officers to the membership pasted into the bound record books as part of the minutes of the meetings. These reports commonly include, for example, the list of the scores for the season on the Ehrensheibe (honor target), a financial report of the 7 monthly shoots (as a group), a financial report of the King shoot, and financial reports on other special events. If a special meeting was called, a clip of the advertisement was included in the minutes of the meeting.

The bylaws of 1875 gave the order of the proceedings for the meetings:

- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Action on new members
- Reports of officers and committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business

This order of the proceedings was adopted in the constitution of 1890 with little change.

The meetings of the association continued monthly until 1940. The meetings first changed to quarterly, but during World War II changed to annually. The

duties of the trustees were expanded with the reduction in the number of membership meetings.

TRUSTEES

According to the constitution of 1868, three trustees were elected each year for a one-year term. Each year the trustees elected a Chairman, Secretary and a Kassier (cashier). The Kassier was the treasurer of the trustees.

The trustees operated as a separate organization, though subsidiary to the Gesellschaft, so the records of the trustees were kept separate from the general records. The minutes of the monthly trustees meetings were read at the meetings of the general membership, when those minutes were available.

According to the constitution of 1890, the trustees were to manage the real estate and debt of the corporation. Real estate consisted of Schuetzen Park for most of the time, though there were other real estate interests after the agreement to sell Schuetzenpark. Although the constitution gave the trustees sole authority to act regarding real estate matters, on major decisions the trustees deferred to the membership.

Trustees were empowered to enter into leases for up to 5 years. This was the method of operating the facilities in Schuetzen Park from its dedication in 1870 to its sale. The facilities were leased to a manager who operated the facilities and paid a monthly rent to the association. The lessee in turn rented the facilities to others for special events and operated the park for his profit. The DSG, however retained some control over the facilities, as the minutes record the DSG granting use of the park to various Turner Associations from Davenport, Rock Island, and East Moline for their events and for other large events as well..

A semiannual report of the trustees to the members was required by the constitution of 1890. These reports were completed by the Kassier and are included among the insertions after the constitution of 1890 became effective. The first of these semi-annual reports was in July 1891. Each subsequent report was dutifully numbered until the 1940's

The constitution of 1890 changed the terms of the trustees to 7 years, one elected each year. The initial trustees under the new system were elected by the membership at the January 1891 meeting. The length of terms, from one year to 7 years, of the first group of trustees was determined by lot at their first meeting, with the subsequent trustees each elected by the membership one each year for seven-year terms.

The first seven trustees elected after the constitution of 1890 and their initial terms in office are shown in the following table. Although the duties of the board of trustees have changed, the board of trustees has been in continuous service with the same structure since then. It is possible to determine which of the current trustees is the successor to which of the seven trustees elected in 1891, so I have included that list below. Now in 2005, we are in the process of electing year by year the 17th term after that initial group of trustees.

	Initial Term	last full year of term	Current Trustee (successor)	last full year of term
Chris Toerring	1	1891	Jim Fields	2010
H. Kohrs	2	1892	Bob Nicewanner	2011
John. F. Bredow	3	1893	Paul Sass	2005
F. T. Blunck	4	1894	Jerry Rogan	2006
J. D. Brockman	5	1895	Randy Paper	2007
J. C. Boehl	6	1896	Clark Ehlers	2008
Fritz Schmidt	7	1897	Errol McCollum	2009

Most of the trustees elected in 1891 were active in various capacities prior to 1891. Several had already served terms as trustee or other offices. In the following, note that I can only list offices held in 1876 and after.

Chris Toerring had served as President in 1876 and nine one-year terms as trustee scattered in the 14 years from 1877 to 1890. He served as trustee until 1898.

H. Kohrs had previously served as Vice president in 1882 and was later elected to three 7-year terms as trustee.

John Bredow had previously served two years as President and three years as Schatz Meister, as early as 1876. He served as trustee until 1914

F T. Blunck had previously served as President 2yrs, Prot. Secr 1 yr, Corr secr 1yr and trustee 6 years as early as 1876. He served as trustee until 1915.

J. D. Brockman had previously served as Schatz Meister in 1888 and 89. He served as trustee until 1895 but later served two additional terms elected in 1919 and 1926. He had also served as president in 1884.

J. C. Boehl served as trustee until 1896. He had previously been president two years, trustee for three, Vice-president for 2 years and corr. Sr=ecretar for 1 year.

Fritz Schmidt served as trustee until 1904, but held no other office.

NOTABLE OFFICERS

From the minutes of the meetings of the membership I have a complete list of the officers of the DSG from 1876 to 1946. I did not accumulate a list of the comite members, though that information is also in the minutes. I have not yet decided the best way to present this information. Some of the notable officers of the association are mentioned below.

Ernst Wilckens President 1903-1946, also Vice President 1899 & 1902 president a total of 44 years. One surprising thing about Wilckens is that he did not shoot during his many terms as President. I can find only two occasions where he participated in a shoot. He is listed in the seasonal summaries of honor targets as having shot one month in 1898 and one in 1900. His performances were not impressive either time, scoring in the mid 40's of 75 possible in three shots.

Ed Berger was President 1891-1902, a total of 11 years, the first long time President. Between 1884 and 1890 he served 3 terms as 2nd Schuetzenmeister and one as Corr. Secretar. He later served two 7 year terms as trustee, elected in 1916 and 1923.

Chas. W Ranzow Trustee from 1897 to 1936, Kassier (Cashier) from 1892 to 1936. Ranzow succeeded J. C. Boehl as trustee. Although Kassier is not an official listed in the minutes, Ranzow signed all the semiannual Trustee's reports as Kassier from the third report in July 1892 to the 90th in January 1936. He was the Kassier of the trustees during this time, though he was not a trustee when he signed the 3rd through the 10th trustees' reports. During the financially troubled times for the club before the sale of Schuetzenpark, Ranzow loaned the club \$900, the equivalent of approximately \$45,000 today. He was eventually repaid with 5% interest after the sale of Schuetzenpark. Ranzow was also Protokol Secretar four terms from as early as 1883 to 1890, and served single terms as 2nd Schuetzenmeister and Vice President

Emil Berg, 1st Schuetzenmeister 1882-1991 except 1888, Prot. Secretar and Secretar 1893-1929. Berg was also trustee from 1932 to 1935.

Chris Jansen, Jansen was 1st or 2nd Schuetzenmeister from 1903 to 1915 except for 1911 and Schuetzenmeister from 1916 to 1931 except for 1917 and 1918. He was also trustee from 1920 to 1926. His influence exceeded his offices. Jansen was also assigned many special tasks, for example talking to a neighbor about the use of the park road in wet weather due to the resulting ruts, and coming to an agreement on maintenance of a fence with a neighbor.

Otto B. Schmidt, Schatz Meister (Treasurer) 1896-1935. Schmidt served in no other office, but 40 years as treasurer is notable by itself.