

Germania Nachrichten

Germania Singing and Sport Society

543 S. Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Since 1866, Preserving German Culture for 146 Years

Home of the Original Oktoberfest in Columbus



March—April, 2013

President's Message

Dear Germania Member,

Here's hoping for warmer weather so we can all enjoy our Germania Club without our winter gear. Sorry we had to cancel Mardi Gras, but keep your costume in mothballs 'til next year.

The different committees have some great events planned for us, starting with the men singers and their popular Spaghetti Dinner on March 10.

The Ladies Auxiliary will treat all of us to a "Rouladen Dinner" on March 24 (Palm Sunday). Don't forget to make a reservation for this one!

Our St. Patrick Dance will take place on March 16. Our chef has promised traditional corned beef with cabbage for your menu.

April 14 is a good time to get out of the house and attend our General Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

April 13 is our Spring Dance with music by Bill Antoniak. The menu will consist of our famous pork roast with gravy, mashed potatoes and asparagus or red cabbage. For more information regarding the menus you can always call the kitchen, 228-9055.

Wishing you and your family "Happy Easter" on behalf of the Board of Officers.

Thea Klabunde, President

Damenchor

Schöne Winter Begrüßungen from the Damenchor! (Oh dear, is it still *Winter*? Does anyone really know?)

As occasionally (in past years), unfortunately we were unable to host the Mardi Gras dinner/dance related to "Winter" weather problems ... sigh. It is now so close to Lent, that there is no time to reschedule. We hope to see you all next year.

Raise your hand if you enjoy good German food. **GOOD!** (Lots of hands went up!) I will look forward to seeing you all at the next function the ladies will co-host along with our dear men from the Männerchor ... Germania's **4th Annual SCHMECKFEST** ... to be held on June 16th. That's right! **Father's Day** – EASY to remember! If you have not yet given thought to an outing for the fathers in your family, I strongly suggest you include a stop at the Germania between 1PM and 3PM that day. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletter. This year, we are planning a cookbook as well.

The Damenchor sings Thursday evenings at 7:30PM upstairs in the music room. We're always looking for more singers and we welcome anyone interested in joining us.

Sincerely,
Jane Ott, President

GERMANIA OFFICERS 2013

President:

Thea Klabunde

Vice President:

Joe Motika

Financial Secretary:

Open

Treasurer:

Udo Klabunde

Recording Secretary:

Harry Paulino

Corres. Secretary:

John Kneller

Trustees:

John Kneller, Chm

Mike Bals

Stan Bradley

Kathi Cline

Bob Traphagen

House Committee:

Dolores Kneller, Chm

Kathi Cline

Woody Davis

Deb Korting

John Korting

Vera Motika

Johanna Queck

Bob Traphagen

Benevolence

Our thoughts and prayers go out for Lotte Koennemann, Gerhard Wolff, and Maria and Mike Lochner as they deal with health issues and care giving. We hope that this season's round of flu and virus infections is coming to an end for the members of Germania.

**Next News
Deadline
April 15**

E-mail: germaniacols@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.germaniacolumbus.org

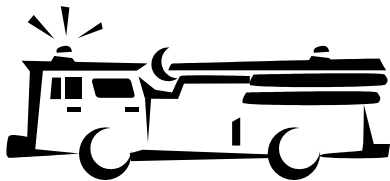
Dining Room/Reservations: 614/228-9055
Office/Society Information: 614/461-8095

Facility available for Private Parties not in conflict with Germania Events. Support your Society by attending as many functions as possible. Please send us your e-mail address for timely notification of schedule changes and event cancellations.

V.P. Joe Motika's News

The PUTT PUTT tournament has started. The Bad news is that we are 8 strokes behind the leaders, Good news is we have 5 more weeks to catch up. Golf team members are; Udo K, Mike B, Dan B and yours truly. Listing of the events will be posted on the bulletin board.

St Pats day is on Sunday 17 Mar. Looking for Germania members to participate. Sign up is on the bulletin board or call me, 491-6832, or motikajoseph@yahoo.com.... The Fire Truck and the Trailer are confirmed. We have until Mar. 1 to commit. Particulars will be made available if we commit. Staging will start around 9 or 10 AM. Go to church early.



Volkstänzer News

Dear Members:

The Volkstaenzers have been working hard this winter on learning two new dances and we can't wait for you to see them. However, you won't get to do that until after the Maifest on May 10th, which of course you'll get to see the traditional May pole dance. And that is always an adventure!!

In January, we lost some of the young men from the Schuhplattler group. However, we added four new boys; ages 3-6 years old. So you all are in for a treat when you see the young ones dance. It is a delight to see them having fun!!!!

The dancers will be hosting the St. Patrick's dance again this year on Saturday, March 16th. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and the band starting up at 7:00 p.m. for our evenings entertainment and dancing. We are not sure on the menu yet, but we will be having our traditional Irish stew. Please remember to call ahead and make your reservations for dinner. It really helps the kitchen in planning.

We look forward to seeing you at the St. Patrick's dance, and remember, we are always looking for the brave to join us in sharing our German culture through dance. So please join us on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,
Mark Pinnick

Deutscher Radfahrerverein

Spring is soon to arrive! So, in a few short weeks the temperatures will rise once again, and with that another season for the Deutsches Radfahrer Verein!

I will start the rides on the 11th of May and continue through October. So, the new schedule for your calendar, so far, is as follows:

5/11 Heritage Trail (still need a potluck host who lives near Hilliard or Plain City),

5/25 The Scioto Trail with potluck at the club,

6/1 North Alum Creek Trail, Hosts: The Kneller's

6/29 Olentangy Trail with potluck

10/5 Three Creeks Trail with potluck, Hosts: The Motika's.

As always, please double check the website for any last minute changes or updates, plus information about where to park, etc. I will add some dates for later in the summer, if anyone is willing to host a potluck, please let me know and I will find a trail near your home.

Tschüß!

Sean O'Briant

Editor's Note:

It's great to see fairly new members step up and take the lead. Sean and his wife, Jennifer, have already begun making a difference at the Germania. You saw them working at Sommerfest, Bratwurstfest, Oktoberfest and the Bride Show.



Ladies Auxiliary News

The Germania Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 14, 2013. All ladies of the Germania are welcome to attend and to participate in our activities in support of the Germania. Our purpose is to support the Germania Singing and Sports Society with various fundraising events.

Beth Bradley, President

Männerchor News

Sunday March 10th is our annual Spaghetti Dinner. We will begin serving at 11:30am and finishing at 3pm. It all starts with fresh ingredients in the kitchen at 8am with the making of the meatballs using a top secret recipe. The meatballs are gently browned in the oven before they are added to the sauce to simmer for a few hours to give the sauce and the meatballs that wonderful flavor. Gather the family and come down to enjoy a very good meal. Thank you for your support.

Mike Bals, Maennerchor Chairman

***** **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *****

Reservations are required where noted, and must be made on or before the dates given. Call **614-228-9055 (unless noted otherwise)** for reservations and for more information (menu, price...etc.) concerning specific events. Unless otherwise noted, all diners are served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the bands play for dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 10

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Annual Maennerchor Fundraiser
11:30 am to 3:00 pm
Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Roll, Coffee
All you can eat for only \$8.00!
(\$3.00 for children under 12)
Desserts extra

Saturday, March 16

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE

Menu: Corned Beef and Cabbage with Potatoes
Ray Galla band for dancing
Reservations required by March 12
Hosted by the Volkstänzer

Sunday, March 24

PALM SUNDAY DINNER

Serving from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Menu: Rouladen
Salad, Sides, Bread and Tea or Coffee,
Chocolate Mousse Dessert
\$18.00

Call Dolores Kneller at 898-9022 by March 20 for reservations

Hosted by Germania Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday, April 13

SPRING DANCE

Menu: (our famous) Pork Roast with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes and choice of Asparagus or Red Cabbage
Dance to the music of the Bill Antoniak band
Reservations required by April 9
Hosted by the Trustees & House Committee

Sunday, April 14

MEETINGS

Ladies Auxiliary at 2:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
(No meetings in May)

Friday, May 10

MAI TANZ

(More information will be in the next newsletter.)
Cost: \$16.00
Reservations required by May 6
Hosted by the Mendelssohn Liedertafel

A Note on Dinner Reservations:

We hear many questions concerning dinner reservations. Do I have to make one? When are reservations due? What's the big deal? Well, it's like this. We ask for reservations so that we can prepare enough food to serve everyone, and yet not waste the club's money on unnecessary labor and food not eaten. However we can achieve this, it is incumbent upon **every member** to do his or her part by making and honoring timely reservations. It hurts our club if we don't.

Editorial

I think Germans are a great people, and very interesting. But, if I weren't half German, myself, I probably wouldn't like German folks at all. The German half of me is obstinate, argumentative, bullheaded and often mean spirited. At best I'm blunt. It's only the English-Irish half of me that makes me the nice person that I am. You'll soon see where I'm going with this.

We of German descent can get right down to the nitty-gritty when it comes to verbal interaction and discussion. Call it outspoken, blunt or just truthful, but we boldly express our feelings. We don't hold back.

However, those who don't understand how we communicate can get a terribly wrong impression. What we consider to be a discussion can appear to others to be a brutal argument. And that can be a problem in an organization where we are attempting to recruit and retain new members. Guests and new members

don't know us, and many do not know how we communicate. Our normal way of boldly expressing our feelings and opinions can easily alienate (now there's a strong word) persons who don't know us. But, we don't want to alienate them. We want them to like our organization. And to like our organization they have to like us. To the newer members we are the face of the organization. If they decide they don't like us they will soon leave us. And there go our much-needed volunteers and the future of our club, our life blood. I believe that in the presence of our guests and newer members we should try to temper our conduct so that we appear cordial and welcoming, not argumentative, at all times. That's a pretty tall order, but an important and necessary one.

I welcome all written comments, and I will publish them in future issues.

John Kneller, Herausgeber

Trustees News

The Trustees are pleased that the members voted on January 13 to proceed with the list of capital improvements as proposed. The voting members selected the sale of bonds as the method of financing the improvements, and 28 members quickly signed up to purchase bonds.

To manage the individual projects we divided up the work as follows.

Stan Bradley is heading up the attic insulation job and is now getting final bids on the work. Leading the garden fence project are **Bob Traphagen** and **Kathi Cline**. They are working with a number of fence contractors to get the best fence for the most reasonable price.

Mike Bals describes the projects that he and Kathi are pursuing as follows: "Among the trustees' projects this spring is buying a new center cooler for the bar that will hold 5 kegs of beer. We will no longer have the kegged beer piped up the 25 foot copper tubes from the basement and the headaches of foaming and off flavors of our beer. Also, we will be installing a smaller ice machine behind the bar that is more economical than our large machine currently in the utility room. These projects will help save electricity and lower our monthly bills."

On February 5 the Trustees met with **Vicky Leavitt** of FITCH and our Banquet Coordinator, **Karin Browning**, to begin working on marking and business development. The objective is to bring our financial picture back to where it was a few years ago when our cash flow was positive and we had sufficient funds to conduct business and even invest some. As we have previously reported in this newsletter and at membership meetings, in the year 2012 we experienced a \$6,000 increase in property taxes (which we are contesting) and our income from rentals was markedly lower than in previous years. It was only by the hard work of our member volunteers and careful spending that we were able to keep our finances in the black. We began preparing in 2012 for a similar loss of rental income in 2013, but at the same time we are working to increase that income. We now have more rentals booked than we did last year at this time, but we are still are planning three Sommerfests to help boost our income. Please keep posted by reading Die Nachrichten and attending membership meetings!

John Kneller, Trustee Chairman

Address
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Place
Stamp
Here

Germania
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543 S. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215