



Early January 2015

Dear Members,

In the name of our Directors I wish you all a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

The last year started with a sad note from the Freudiger family. Our longtime board member, auditor and Life Member, Mrs. Ruth Freudiger, had passed away on January 22nd.

Our board met in February to gather all details needed for the Annual Report. The date for the Annual Meeting was set for Saturday, March 29th, where we could socialize with 46 of our members and their guests. The Cannstatter Volksfest Verein prepared a fine Hors D'Oeuvres display and we enjoyed the selection of either Pork Schnitzel, Salmon or Rostbraten. Michael Skweir entertained us during the lunch and a few of our attendees took the dance floor. We were honored to welcome our Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Philadelphia, Mrs. Christine Pfister and President of the Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore, Mr. Paul Zurcher. Mr. Bill Webb said Good-Bye and announced his relocation to Florida.

The 2014 Annual Meeting started with the approval of the minutes from the our 2013 Meeting. All officers presented their reports. Auditor Mr. Albert Imesch recommended to approve the financial report. All reports were accepted by the assembly. Franz Portmann reported that the proposed By-Laws were mailed to all members. The Luciano Mueller Challenge Fund (LMCF) added up to a Grand-Total of \$1,180.00 not including a \$500.00 matching gift from Luciano's Employer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb. Annemarie Mueller reported that our Life-Member count has grown to 35. The Nominating Committee reported the resignation of Ms. Jeanette Freudiger and W. Clement Smith. The President and all incumbent Directors were re-elected and the assembly approved Mrs. Liang Schweizer and Mr. Walter Wild as our newest Directors. The Annual Dues were set to remain at \$5.00 and the individual Life Membership dues is still \$50.00. Both, Honorary Consul Christine Pfister and President Paul Zurcher, addressed the members with updates from Switzerland and the activities of the Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore. Mr. Luciano Mueller announced another Challenge with a donation of \$500. The President thanked all Directors and Members for their continued support.

Our board met a few times during the 2014 fiscal year hosted by various Directors. It was decided to continue our contribution to the Pellegrini Scholarship Fund managed by the SBS in New York <http://www.sbsny.org/>. Twelve students in our area were granted a total of \$38,250.00 towards their college education. After some serious discussion on the continuation of assisting a needy family the majority of the board gave approval until the end of 2014. Future assistance will have to be discussed and approved in 2015. Mrs. Dorie Harper (Recording Secretary 1990-2014) and Mr. Alfred Knup Jr. (Treasurer 1975-2014) resigned at our October meeting and a letter sent to all members in November resulted in Mr. Karl Niederer joining the board as an interim Director until our next elections in 2015. We also received the resignation from Mr. Alfred Kessi and therefore the search for new Directors becomes more urgent and I hope to find some willing members to consider serving on the board of the society. In the name of all Directors and Members I thank all departing Directors for all their dedication and involvement with our society.

I'm happy to announce that the Luciano Mueller Challenge Fund collected a very respectable sum of \$4,385.00. Our society was mentioned as a beneficiary of Mrs. Friedel U. Volz (passed away in San Jose on July 25, 2014) annuity and we received a very generous contribution of \$13,072.00 which brought the total of donation to more than \$17,000.

We received a letter in late November that our former Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Philadelphia and Life Member (Teacher - Mentor - Friend) Mr. Samuel Laeuchli passed away in Switzerland at the age of 90. A memorable service at the Temple University saw a few of our society in attendance. There will be a memorial service in spring in the Basel area. In the name of our society I extend deepest sympathy to Mrs. Evelyn Laeuchli and her family.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 21, 2015** at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein.

In closing I extend a heartfelt Thank-You to all Directors and Members for their continued support and I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting.

Dolf Herger, President