



December 28, 2013

Dear Members,

Another year comes to a close and I wish you and your family a very Happy, Prosperous and especially Healthy New Year.

Our business year 2013 started with the board meeting in February where we gathered all details needed to create our Annual Report. We confirmed the date and location for the annual meeting and got the latest information about the society's investment situation by our advisor Mr. David Mallach. All board members approved his past actions with a much deserved thank-you and we all were looking forward to a healthy financial development. Other regular board meetings were held in March, May, October and December.

The society gathered for its annual meeting on Saturday, March 30, 2013 at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein. Due to our oversight on the date (Easter Saturday) we had a rather small attendance of 44 members. We were happy to welcome our Honorary Consul Christine Pfister and the President of the Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore, Paul Zurcher. The list of excused members included our directors, Alfred Knup, Jr., Alfred Kessi as well as our recording secretary, Dorie Harper. Annemarie Mueller read the minutes from last annual meeting and Dolf Herger presented the financial statement in absence of our treasurer.

A rather hectic discussion about setting a minimal balance flared up and a few figures were proposed. The issue eventually was tabled after a few members spoke up and found that it is the responsibility of our board to handle the societies finances according to the societies mission.

All incumbent directors as well as the president were re-elected. Luciano Mueller was nominated and elected as our newest director, which then unfortunately resulted in the resignation of our longtime directors, Ruth Freudiger and Jeanine Freudiger.

Franz Portmann offered to take the lead in reviewing our bylaws. He has selected a few members in good standing and his team will eventually present an updated set to the board of directors.

Our society added a few more Life Members and presently maintains a membership of 151. The dues were confirmed to remain at \$3.00 for annual membership and \$50.00 for a life membership for 2013.

As suggested by some of our members during the 2012 annual meeting the board decided not to arrange any entertainment, but opened the dance floor for whoever enjoyed dancing to tunes by our accordionist Michael Skweir.

I again had the opportunity to be part of the Scholarship meeting with the SBS in New York. The committee processed 83 applications and distributed \$66,800.00 to applicants living in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. 14 students residing in our coverage area received grants totaling \$32,900.00. I encourage parents and students to visit the web site www.sbsny.org to get more information on the scholarship fund. Applications can be downloaded and grant applications are due at the end of March.

Some of our members enjoyed the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the New Helvetic Society at the Belle Voir Manor on Sunday, October 13, 2013. We received a Thank-You from the NHS board for our support and contribution to this special event.

The Annual Business Meeting scheduled for **Saturday, March 29, 2014** at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein will be our first activity in the 2014 and I ask you to mark this date on your calendar.

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

Dolf Herger, President