



Rudolph Koradi, Founder SBS of Philadelphia, 1860

December 2016

Dear Members,

On behalf of our Directors I wish you all a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Dr. E. Frank Muggler passed away just a few days ago. Frank and his wife Ruth joined our society in 1994. In 1997 Frank offered to serve on the board and acted as VP until his resignation in 2015. The society awarded Life Membership to the Muggler's at last Annual Meeting. Our society will miss Frank's professional advice and hopes our members will remember all he has done for our organization.

We also remember Mr. Howard Brooks, Ms. Jane Kienholz and Mr. Robert Fenner Sr. who passed away during the year. May they all Rest In Peace!

The Annual Meeting in March 2016 brought out a rather small number of members and guests, but they enjoyed the socializing and the tunes of accordionist, Michael Skweir. Our Honorary Consul, Mrs. Christine Pfister extended greetings via email, but we were honored to have the President of the Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore, Mr. Paul Zurcher and his wife Robin among our attendees. The board had met during February to prepare for the meeting and all business was transacted in normal fashion. The President, Dolf Herger and all incumbent directors were re-elected and we welcomed Mr. Martin Schmid as our newest director.

During the May board meeting the directors discussed the societies investment situation. The majority of the board suggested to evaluate other than our present investment company, Merrill Lynch. An investment committee was formed with the tasks to arrange special meetings with at least 3 other investment companies.

Several investment meetings took place during the next few months and the board decided to transfer all our securities from Merrill Lynch to a self-directed account with Vanguard. This transition is presently in process and we hope to start the 2017 fiscal year with a new investment account managed by our investment committee lead by our treasurer, Alexander Zbinden. Other committee members are: Mrs. Rosemarie Portmann, Mrs. Sophia Jutzi-Beris, Mr. Luciano Mueller and Dolf Herger. This team will review our investment situation at a quarterly interval.

Our director, Luciano Mueller, again challenged our members for donations. He offered to donate \$500 if general donations exceed \$1,000, an additional \$500 if exceeding \$1,800 and another \$500 if the total donations reach \$2,700. So far we have received donations in the amount of \$1,380 and we very much appreciate Luciano's contribution. Bristol Meyers-Squibb (Luciano's employer) also matched his donation giving us a total of \$1,880 for the year 2016.

Our major contribution went towards the Pellegrini Scholarship Fund, managed by the SBS in New York. The board decided to send a total of \$12,000 to NY. As a member of the Scholarship committee I was engaged with rating 80 applications and I'm very pleased to report that a total of \$35,100 was awarded to students living in PA, NJ and DE. On behalf of our directors I extend a heartfelt Thank-You to the SBS in NY and all involved in making the Scholarship Program a continued success.

Several of our directors questioned how much more the society can provide to our fellow Swiss. Various options were discussed and the board decided to start an OUTREACH program. Based on the included flyer we are looking for your support in identifying elderly Swiss or friends of Swiss that may want to be contacted periodically or look for non-monetary assistance.

The New Helvetic Society was honored to have the President of the Swiss Center of North America at its Annual Meeting in April. Our Society has supported the efforts of the Swiss Center in past years by becoming a SWISS ROOTS Society member and our board decided to continue our membership by donating \$1,000 in the coming year.

By the way - the President of the NHS, Karl Niederer - is evaluating in organizing a trip to visit the Swiss Center.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 25, 2017** at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein.

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

Dolf Herger, President