



December 2017

Dear Member,

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

In early 2017 we received the sad news that our Life member Ms. Alice Burgdorfer passed away on February 1st in Prescott, Arizona. Alice had served on the board in 1968 and was also a member of the board of the New Helvetic Society from 1996 - 1999. Ms. Paula Schilling passed away on September 18th in New Jersey. Paula served as director from 1991 - 2002 and became a Life member in 2003. She was the host of many board meetings during her years of service.

May they both Rest In Peace!

The board had met during February to prepare for the Annual Meeting. Treasurer, Alexander Zbinden reported that the investment transfer from Merrill Lynch to Vanguard is in process. Once the transfer is complete the Investment Committee consisting of 5 directors will evaluate the portfolio and suggest preferred funds.

The Annual Meeting in March 2017 brought out 47 members and guests. We all 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. All business was transacted in a normal fashion. The President, Dolf Herger and all incumbent directors were re-elected and we welcomed Mrs. Kelly Keller as our newest director.

During the May board meeting the directors discussed the societies investment situation. The Investment Committee presented a possible mix of stocks and funds to consider when liquefying the present assets. It was suggested to provide access for at least 2 directors to the newly established Vanguard account. The directors also agreed to establish a Spending Policy that can be discussed and voted on before the end of the year.

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 \$2,000 and another \$500 if the total donations reach \$3,000. I'm happy to report that, thanks to Mr. Mueller, we received donations exceeding \$5,000 including matching funds from Luciano Mueller's employer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

Our major contribution went towards the Pellegrini Scholarship Fund, managed by the SBS in New York. The board decided to send a total of \$15,000 to NY. As a member of the Scholarship committee I was engaged with rating 62 applications and I'm very pleased to report that a total of \$35,425.00 was awarded to 12 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.

Our newly established OUTREACH program showed some success by directors contacting some of our older members. All directors supported our efforts and it was suggested that each director should make one call per month with the goal to increase the number of names on the OUTREACH list. Please let us know if you know someone that should be added to the existing list.

The term of our director and recording secretary Mr. Karl Niederer will come to an end by the time you receive this letter and on behalf of all directors and the membership I thank Karl for all his contributions he made by serving on the board over that last 3 years. Our Nominating Committee is eager to find a replacement for Karl and I urge you to contact any of our directors should you be willing to join the board or you may know someone you would recommend.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24, 2018** at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein.

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

Dolf Herger, President