



December 2018

Dear Member,

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

We received sad news that our Life member Mrs. Dorie Harper passed away on March 16th. Dorie was the Recording Secretary from 1990-2014 and was honored with a Life Membership when she resigned in 2014. We also lost our Life member Mrs. Rosalia Weibel who passed on July 29th. Rosalia had joined our society in 2002 and became a Life member in 2015. From the Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore we received the sad news that their member Mr. Anthony Barile passed away on October 23rd. Anthony had joined our society in 2011. On behalf of our directors and members I extend deepest sympathy to all grieving families.

The board had met in February to prepare for the Annual Meeting. Treasurer, Alexander Zbinden reported that the investment transfer from Merrill Lynch to Vanguard was completed and the established Investment Committee will review the portfolio on a quarterly cycle. The Annual Meeting on March 24th brought out 41 members and guests. We got a few excuses due to sickness or scheduling conflicts and could have had 53 attendees. We all enjoyed the socializing and the tunes of accordionist, Michael Skweir. Our Honorary Consul, Mrs. Christine Pfister was present and updated us on happenings in Philadelphia and Switzerland. All business was transacted in a normal fashion and all incumbent directors were re-elected.

During the May board meeting our director Mr. Martin Schmid accepted the Recording Secretary's position. The chair of the investment committee, Mr. Alexander Zbinden, stated that he would prefer to relinquish the task of trading on behalf of our society to eliminate possible inside trader conflicts, since he is employed with a local bank. The board transferred all trading action to Mr. Luciano Mueller who already had on-line access to the account. Director Mrs. Sophia Jutzi-Beris resigned from the Investment Committee and director Mr. Hans Huber filled the vacant spot. The board also reached out to the membership and welcomed Mr. Franz Portmann as the newest Investment Committee member.

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 \$5,500 including matching funds from Luciano Mueller's employer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

This was the first year our previously approved Spending Policy was applied. In order to stay within the policy guidelines we approved \$5,000 toward the Pellegrini Scholarship Fund, managed by the SBS in New York. Director Mrs. Kelly Keller and I were involved with the review of 53 applications and I'm very pleased to report that a total of \$20,860 was awarded to students living in our coverage area. 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 OUTREACH program is alive and our directors continued making phone calls to contact elderly and needy members. We continued our assistance program and count on our members to report individuals or families in need for help.

Our director, Mrs. Kelly Keller established the SBS Facebook page linked with our website. She served on the board for a short time and was interested in the scholarship program. Due to unfortunate circumstances she decided to leave PA and resigned from the board. We were happy to have her on our board and thank her for her input to bring the society closer to the younger generations.

Our board presently consists of 8 directors meeting the required number as per the By-Laws, but due to the departure of Mrs. Kelly Keller, the board is eagerly to fill that open position. Are you interested to join the board? Let us know!

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 30, 2019** at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein.

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

Dolf Herger, President