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Dear Members,

Another year went by and I'm excited to let you know that we are only 3 years away from celebrating the societies 150th birthday.

We enjoyed a good year that started out with a board meeting in February. All our directors were involved gathering details for the annual report and make preparations for the business meeting. The board debated on whether the return to Kove Catering or explore new locations for the annual meeting, but decide to once again to meet in Palmyra on March 19th.

The society lost longtime members Mr. Richard Restrepo and Mrs. Francesca Wuest during January, Mrs. Kathleen Doess in February and well know Alphorn Player Mr. Edmond Doudin in late April. I'm sure we all keep them in our memory.

Our society was very well represented at the Swiss Roots events in Philadelphia on June 10th as well as on the bus trip to Ellis Island on July 29th. We, the society and individuals, are proud to have sponsored the Philadelphia event that attracted more than 30,000 visitors to see the "Sister Republic" exhibition including the "Bundesbrief" during a 3 weeks period at the National Constitution Center. The Bundesbrief then returned back to Schwyz and started a great incline of Swiss visitors.

The chairman of Swiss Roots Committee, Mr. Franz Portmann, thanks all our contributors for their generosity and commitment for having supported the well attended events.

I again had the opportunity to attend the Scholarship meeting in New York. The scholarship fund is administered by the SBS NY. The committee processed more than 80 applications during its session and awarded more than \$260,000.00 to students for the upcoming school year.

I encourage all parents and students to visit the web site www.swissbenevolentny.com to get more information on the scholarship fund and download the application form. You may also call the SBS NY (212-246-0655) to get more details and have application mailed.

Our society made a large contribution to the Pellegrini scholarship fund and donated funds to several non-profit organizations. We also found some needy families and supported them in their general needs and schooling assistance.

The membership is presently at 92 and we want to make an effort again to reach the magical number of 100 during the New Year. I ask you all to encourage family members and friends to join our society in hopes to get a large turnout for our annual meeting scheduled for **Saturday, March 31st at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Philadelphia.**

A Thank-You goes to all Directors of the Board for their continued support and I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2007.

Dolf Herger, President