

[www.sbsphiladelphia.org](http://www.sbsphiladelphia.org)

**Dear Members,**

The Swiss Benevolent Society, Philadelphia was founded in 1860, which means we will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010.

Our society enjoyed another successful year during 2007 even so we did not achieve the set goal of 100 members. We added 6 new members for a total of 98 and were very fortunate not to have lost anybody due to death.

Our business year started with a board meeting in February. The directors of the board were involved in gathering and sorting details for the annual report. We again prepared for the annual meeting, a new location, at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Philadelphia.

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> arrived and we all enjoyed great food and camaraderie during the annual meeting attended by 49 members and guests. Michael Skweir entertained us with his well liked accordion tunes and Julia and Guy Rothfuss accompanied by a pianist presented well know Viennese songs and American show tunes.

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. The fund distributed more than \$260,000.00 including \$31,100.00 to students living in the State of Pennsylvania.

I encourage all parents and students to visit the web site [www.swissbenevolentny.com](http://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 an application mailed.

Our society's largest contribution again went towards the Pellegrini scholarship fund. We also supported Swiss families in our territory and donated funds to several non-profit organizations.

Our membership is presently at 98 and I challenge you all to sponsor the next 2 new members to reach a new high of 100.

Due to the positive feedback on the new meeting location the board of directors decided for a repeat at the **Cannstatter Volksfest Verein** for our annual meeting, scheduled for **Saturday, March 29, 2008**.

In closing I extend a heartfelt Thank-You to all Directors of the Board for their continued support and I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2008.

Dolf Herger, President