



THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
**The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons**
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Road
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Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

April 2, 2021

Issue 7

BRANCH 37, DETROIT

By Susi Fleischer

Now that Spring has arrived and blessed us with sunshine and warmer weather, after a long and dreary winter, we already feel more hopeful and ready to look forward to a more peaceful and brighter future, and enjoying the outdoors.

Hopefully we will be able to meet with family and friends in a more relaxed atmosphere and enjoy each others company as we did before Covid 19.

Thank you to all the members who have paid their 2021 dues. Maybe we'll be able to have a membership meeting in May, but for sure in June. After a long year of only minimal contact with each other, we are all looking forward to greeting everyone in person soon.

2021 has been the second anniversary celebration (107th and 108th) we have not been able to have for unforeseen circumstances. Hopefully we will celebrate our 109th anniversary in 2022.

If you have any questions or some news to share with the members, please let me know and I will report it in the Volksblatt.

I would like to wish all the high school seniors continued success in their academics, and please don't forget to apply for one of the many scholarships offered by the ATS. It's a wonderful program sponsored by the ATS and very rewarding to our young Saxons. Happy birthday and anniversary wishes to those celebrating a special occasion during the month of April. Wishing everyone good health and with God's blessing a joyous Easter with your family.. All the best until next time.

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO

By Rose-Marie Hauer

Happy Spring to everyone! Hopefully, we will all be back together soon!

The Board is hopeful to meet again in the future and plan for the rest of this year. The only event scheduled so far is the Picnic on July 18, 2021 at Lynn Woods-Morton Grove, IL. More details will follow as time goes on.

The Board would like to wish all our Saxon members and friends a very blessed Easter. The pandemic has presented many issues for all of us. Some are positive and some negative. Life has taken on a whole new meaning. I recently found this poem and would like to share it with you from: Wishafriend.com

It Stands For Hope

*Easter stands for hope
in your life*

*Easter stands for love
in your heart*

*Easter is such a graceful part
Easter stands for peace and will
Easter stands for celebration
in life*

*This Easter as you pray
to Almighty*

*Also ask for happiness
in your life*

*With the bright colors
of the eggs*

*With that vibrant spirit
Easter is such a good time,
Wishing you a Happy Easter!*



**KEEP CALM
AND
WEAR A MASK!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



We have set a deadline for the Saxon Memoirs stories. I've had a few people asking how much time they had left to wrap these up. The deadline is June 30th. So, get your pencils and keyboards in gear and get them finished and submitted. I want to thank everyone who has already submitted their stories. You've done a wonderful job!

The Board of Directors recently held its quarterly meeting. The financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2020 was reviewed. The assets of the ATS increased by approximately \$3.8 million for a total of \$98,107,283. Our bottom line was \$595,599 for the year. The Board also authorized the issuance of the annual Branch Sharing funds. By the time you read this, those checks will have been mailed to each of the Branches.

During the Board meeting, the decision was made to cancel the 2021 North American Heimattag which was to be held in Salem, Ohio in July. Even though the vaccine rollout is moving along, it's moving too slowly to justify planning the event. Our Saxons to the north in Canada have expressed that they most likely would not be able to attend. As of now, the border is still closed and appears to not have a reopening plan in place. It just wouldn't be a Heimattag without the Canadians. We will definitely have a big celebration once everyone can get together.

Last call for all high school seniors and college students who requested a scholarship application. The deadline to return those applications to the ATS Home Office is April 15th. Just a reminder, the high school seniors need to have one portion of their application completed by their guidance counselor. The Scholarship Committee will meet a few weeks after the deadline to determine the scholarship winners.

Did you know Easter Lilies are a relatively new tradition? These beautiful blooms first originated in Japan and later arrived in England in the late 18th century. The U.S. caught onto the trend after World War I. The transition from dormant bulbs to delicate flowers brings to

Continued on Page 2

Can't wait for the
postal delivery
of your Volksblatt?



Current and back issues
can be read on the ATS Website
www.atsaxons.com

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021**

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597



Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donation to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

Please indicate if donation is in memory
or honor of someone

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

mind hope and rebirth, two important themes of Easter. It appears that we can thank Germany for the idea of the Easter Bunny. The idea of a bunny giving candies and eggs is said to have originated in Germany during the Middle Ages, with the first written mention of this tradition dating back to the 16th century. Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania brought the bunny to the States in the 1700s. We all know that Easter falls on a different day each year. Sometimes it’s early and sometimes it’s late on the calendar. But do you know why? It has to do with the moon. Christ’s death coincides with the Jewish Passover, which is celebrated during the first full moon after the vernal equinox, better known as the first day of spring. The rule was set for the Christian church by the Council of Nicaea, stating that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. As you celebrate Easter this year with your family and friends, be thankful for all of the blessings you have. Until next time....



BRANCH 30,
YOUNGSTOWN
By Rosemarie Kascher

First of all, a salute to Tom Manning and his wife for their service to the Erie Branch, and to the ATS for many years. It is heart-wrenching that the Erie Branch needs to close.

Paulette Hopkins was taken in as a new member of the Youngstown Branch; welcome, Pauline.

Br. 30 scholarship requests deadline is April 15; contact 330-799-5171

We request that all members, while in the Saxon Club, keep on their masks when not actually drinking or eating their meals. Also, it is a requirement of the Club, that each member must have their temperatures checked at the bar when you come in. We want to keep our Club open and safe for all who enter.

The Saxon Club is open three days a week: Sundays from 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m; Wednesdays and Fridays, from 4:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Our next officers and general meeting will be on Sunday, April 11, at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. respectively.

The Pork/Kraut Takeout, after next week, will resume again in September; it has been most successful. Congratulations to all!

We ask for someone to consider continuing the management of the Flea Market on Tuesdays, an Eberth tradition that helps maintain our frontal property. Please contact the office if you can. Also, we need volunteers for various interesting projects at the Saxon Club. The more volunteers we can get, the less we have to pay for assistance. Please call our office, even if you have a short amount to share for the success of the Club.

Easter Sunday Brunch/ Dinner will be served in our ballroom, by Kravitz Delicatessen with 2 sittings at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.45, with discount to our members.

Our first all Club event will be Saxon Day on July 25, 2021; it will be good to see each other then.

I want to personally thank all those who are volunteering to keep the Club going, especially those in the office, kitchen and bar areas. We are so grateful for your dedication during this Pandemic and beyond.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

MAIL: 29076 Fall River Dr
Westlake OH 44145
E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021	FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021	FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021	FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?
Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

ATTENTION SALEM SAXON RETIREES

Meetings will resume on
Wednesday, April 7 at 11:30 a.m.

CONTINUED MEETINGS:
1st Wednesday of every month
at 11:30a.m. thru 2021.

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST
By Arline Krestel-Suts

So pleased to note that each meeting this year via Zoom has had increasing attendance— up to 27 members on March 10.

We welcomed and installed new adult member Nevan Medina, who attended, with his mother Susie, from New Jersey. Nevan is the great-grandson of dearly departed members John and Mary Guip, grandson of MaryAnn Guip. A Fourth Generation member! Also, a reminder to all of our junior members, once you are 16 years old please remember to apply for adult membership. You must be a Dues paying member for two years for Branch 33 college scholarship eligibility. Good news from the Foisels; they will be welcoming a new member to the family. Eric Foisel and his wife Lisa are expecting another baby boy. Remember to sign up your new family members too.

We send good wishes to all who have been unable to attend meetings or events, including Joan Blaha, Clara Weber, Evelyn Keefer, Inge Mahn, Jean Schneider, the Mahters, Florence Davidson. We wish speedy recovery to Dorothy Schneider who had hip surgery, and to Pam Schneider, hope you are well.

And greetings to others who are out of town; please send a note or an email, would love to hear how everybody is doing.

The ATS convention com-

mittee is meeting once again. The national convention is slated for May 2022 and the venue more than likely will be the Beachwood Marriott. We are also scheduling events once again. Lake County Captains baseball game Saturday, July 24. And Branch 33's Annual Picnic August 8 at Penetentiary Glen. More details will be coming in future articles.

At the close of our March meeting Fred Krestel, with the help of Bruce Schneider, shared a bit of history on Saxon Acres, Branch 33's former picnic grounds. It started up quite a conversation where everyone shared memories of picnics and dances and card games, ball games, soccer leagues, building up and working the property. Such good times! But as my mother says, nothing ever stays the same. And now we are so sorry to hear that Erie PA Branch 2 is dissolving. We remember many happy times in Erie at their wonderful club. And bowling too.

"The times they are a-changing..." Bob Dylan's words are profound for any age, but seem even more so in this time. The lyrics bear a strong message about change. Changes happen, good and bad; there's an upside and there's a downside. People don't agree on the desirability of change, it's certainly based on one's perspective. But change is

ATTENTION: Members Cleveland East Branch 33
2021-2022 Application for
Scholarship/Reimbursement College Expenses

Branch 33 members who are newly entering or continuing college (undergraduate studies only) are invited to apply for a Freshman (\$1,000) or Sophomore/Junior/Senior (\$500) scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY to call or write to REQUEST an application. **DEADLINE IS May 30, 2021.**

Here are the eligibility requirements, i.e. the RULES.

1. At least one parent or guardian or grandparent of the applicant must be a member in good standing of ATS Branch 33 for the past two (2) years.
2. Scholarship applicants must be a member in good standing of ATS Branch 33 for the past two (2) years, having transferred from Junior/Juvenile status to Active/Adult i.e. local dues paying status.
3. Freshman: High School accumulative GPA minimum 2.0
4. Upperclassman: College accumulative GPA minimum 2.5

Branch 33 members attending college for undergraduate studies can request an application by mailing in the form below or via e-mail to Karyn Schmidt at mbks26@gmail.com. Questions call Karyn at (216) 382-7397

Application Request for Branch 33
College Scholarship/Reimbursement

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____
Phone: () _____
College/University: _____
Year: circle one Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
Parent/Guardian/Grandparent
Name: _____

DEADLINE IS May 30, 2021:

Mail to: Karyn Schmidt
4979 Anderson Road, Lyndhurst OH 44124

BRANCH 26, MERRILLVILLE
By Helen Brooks

Saxon Branch 26 held its meeting on Sunday, March 7. We started our meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

Brigitte Floyd installed the new officers for 2021. They are as follows:

President Jeff Szostek
Vice President Dan Schuffert
Secretary Jamie Connors
Treasurer Linda Smith
Recording Secretary Zita Palyok
Trustees Judy Andrews, Brigitte Floyd, Jimm Smith, Pete Guip.

We continued with our meeting. Minutes were read and approved, as was the Treasurer's report.

Zita was busy taking dues.

Willard Schuffert (Sick Committee) noted that Martin and Jackie Smith are under the weather; our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The raffle was won by Brigitte and attendance prize by Jamie Connors. There were two more prizes: Brigitte brought 2 decorated summer squashes from her garden. Winners were Jena and Judy.

It was good to see our friends since we have not met since November of last year.

A boxed lunch was then served followed by fellowship.

Be safe and healthy – til we meet again.

The Lord is Risen today! Rejoice in the festival!

"Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Is there anyone who is a grateful servant? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!" These words are taken from an Easter sermon of John Chrysostom, who was archbishop of Constantinople around 400 A.D.

Though the centuries pass, the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ is still the most important holy day on the Christian calendar. Joyful ceremonies take place at an evening Easter vigils, at sunrise and throughout the morning on Easter Sunday.

Many gather in silence in the darkness. Each person is given a candle and the light pierces the darkness. The celebration often

Rejoice! He is Risen

begins with the Lighting of the New Fire, from which the large Christ Candle is lit. This lighting of the New Fire takes place at locations varying from the grounds of abbeys and convents, to gatherings in the desert, to groups celebrating near the sea, and to worshippers gathered together in a church parking lot.

For many churches, a renewal of baptismal vows is an annual practice, and it is often a time of baptisms and for welcoming new members into the church.

It matters not
where you were born,
or where you live,
but what's in your HEART.
Be Proud to be
Transylvanian Saxon!

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

July 9-11, 2021
~~North American Saxon Heimattag CANCELED~~

LOCAL EVENTS

July 18, 2021
Chicago Br. 9 Picnic Lynn Woods, Morton Grove IL
July 24, 2021
Cleveland East Br. 33 Captains Baseball Game
July 25, 2021
Youngstown Br. 30 Saxon Day
August 8, 2021
Cleveland East Br. 33 Annual Picnic Penitentiary Glen

ATS Masks for Sale



The ATS has face masks for sale.
ATS Secretary, Monica Gilles, modeled
the mask while working at the ATS Office.

Masks are \$5.00 each. Send checks payable to
ATS Home Office
5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, OH 44129

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

A LITTLE OF TRANSYLVANIAN PERSONAL HISTORY

I have tried to research our family tree but it has proven to be more of a difficult task, as my sister and me are the first ones born in the U.S. The rest of our family is either buried in Botsch or has immigrated to Austria and Germany. Accurate records are hard to find. Also, it appears as though Saxons are not big on DNA and Ancestry.com.

That being said, I did find a little family history on how we left Botsch and eventually ended up in America.

There are a couple of things I have found out in reading various family letters and documents. Grandma Maria and Grandpa George Sollner came to America twice. The first time they came was in 1914. Things were not working out how they expected, so they returned to Europe in 1920. After a couple of years, they figured out that Europe was not the answer either, so they returned to America. They returned on in October of 1923. It took them from October 6-9 to get back to America. I am assuming their accommodations were similar to the poorer people that were on the Titanic. The name of the ship was the America. The older son, George Sollner, did not return with them. There was an older sister of my mother, her name was Mary. She was born in 1914

and died in 1921. When my mom was born in 1922, they just named her Mary, too. Seems a little strange but things were different back then. Grandma Sollner's parents were Johann Fleischer who was my great-grand father and his wife's name was Maria Moisch-Fleischer. He was born July 28, 1864 and died in October 9, 1950. She was born in 1870 (unsure of date) and died in 1934. She would be buried in Botsch. Johann is buried at Greenlawn (Columbus, Ohio) with Grandma Maria and Grandpa George Sollner.

I came across some interesting paperwork from Grandma Sollner. Her father Johann Fleischer, who was my great-grandfather, was driven out of Botsch by the Russians/Romanian communists after WWII in 1944. He went to Austria in 1944 and then eventually moved to the U.S. (1947) and stayed with Grandma Sollner. So the government (Romania/Russia) stole his home in Botsch, Transylvania. After WWII there was a government commission that was set up between the US government and the various governments of the eastern block that confiscated property from people. A fund was established where almost \$40,000,000 was set aside to compensate the individuals that had property confiscated. It was an interesting trail of correspondence that occurred. My mom helped Johann Fleischer, and then after his passing in October 9, 1950, Grandma Sollner file a claim. It was for a house/dwelling and 5 acres of established vineyard and small farm. Back in the late 1940's the property was valued at \$20,000, quite a bit back then. So, a claim was filed. Naturally, the claims were not going to be fully paid and the Russians would dispute and lie about the current value of the property. This claim proceeded for almost 20 years. Truly unbelievable, they were persistent enough to follow through with all of the filings and claims that occurred over that period of time, but they did. Their

reward for their effort was a settlement in 1967 or 1968 for \$2,800 plus interest. I researched what \$20,000 in the late 1940's would be worth by the time of settlement, in the late 60's, and it would have been worth around \$37,000. So, for their efforts they probably got \$.10 on the dollar, but they did get the satisfaction of having beaten the Romanian/Russian communists and received a settlement. I found this interesting.

I am sure your families have similar stories, where your family left Transylvania and immigrated to the US directly or incurred some stops in Austria and Germany before coming to America. Saxons have a rich history in Transylvania and now in Europe, Canada and the US. It is important we preserve that history by telling the next generation about their history.

FACEBOOK PAGE
Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10

We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldcblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the members include people from all over the US, Canada and Europe. We encourage you to spread the word about our group. Willkommen!

HUMOR
Bread is like the sun,
it rises in the yeast
And sets in the waist
Ignore this on your
Easter dinner.

CONCLUSION
Dear Saxon family, after a long year, we hope you are able to gather with family, friends or whomever you choose to be with on this special day of Easter. On this wonderful Easter Day, we can rejoice in knowing we are saved through Jesus Christ.

HAPPY EASTER!
May your nights be full of Wonderful Dreams, and your days bring Hope and Happiness!
GOTTES SEGEN VON DER SACHSEN KLUB



The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons is looking for members to share their family's personal story of life in Transylvania and their journey to America.

The ATS is hoping to gather enough stories that we can publish a book that will be valuable to future generations on learning from personal memoirs on how our Saxons lived in Transylvania and their travels from their homeland.

Individuals submitting their stories can also include photos.

Submit your story to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Include your full name, phone number, email and local Branch No.

We hope that we can collect enough stories within the year that we can publish a book of Transylvanian Saxon Memoirs.

Deadline for submission is June 30th.

CHURCHES



St. Peter's German and Saxon Lutheran Church

11423 Chicago Rd.
Warren, Michigan 48093
(586) 979-3850
stpeters_church@sbcglobal.net
www.stpeterswarren.or

10:00 Bilingual Service

Nursery

Coffee following service

Senior Circle

Sunday School

Church Choir

Bell Choir

St. John's Lutheran Church

1000 Ford Road
Highland Hts., Ohio
(440) 449-1334

**Rev. Barbara Holzhauser
Pastor**

10:00 Worship Service

No stimulus check?

Individuals who never received economic impact payments can request a Recovery Rebate Credit. According to CNET, millions of Americans never got the first or second stimulus checks, possibly due to IRS error or missing money for dependents. Tax non-filers, such as SSI or SSDI recipients, were also more likely to miss their payments.

To request your rebate, simply claim your full stimulus check amount as a Recovery Rebate Credit on your tax return. According to CNET, this credit combines stimulus money with your tax return, so you could receive a larger tax refund as a result or reduce your tax bill. Outstanding debts such as overdue child support payments could be deducted.

BRANCH 5, LORAIN

By Michael Johnson

By the end of next month's meeting, we may finally be caught up with all the business backlogged by not having monthly meetings last year and one cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Our Trustees will audit the books for 2020 next month before our regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 19, 2021, with the regular meeting starting at 7 p.m. This past meeting those in attendance voted by a motion made to keep the same members in their respective offices for 2021. Serving again as President, Sister Monica Gilles, Vice President, Sister Jane Mowery, Treasurer, Sister Ginger Romes, Recording Secretary, Brother Brian Gilles, Financial and Dues Secretary, Brother Michael Johnson, Sergeant at Arms, Sister Arlene Gilles, and Trustees Brother Brian Gilles, Sister Jeanne Petty, and Sister Barb Gilles who is filling the third position recently held by Sister Sharon Powell who moved last month to Florida.

To date, some members have received the COVID-19 vaccine, some are undecided and younger people are awaiting their turn to sign up. When attending our meetings or any club function, the state is still mandating the wearing of face coverings and distancing. This too will remain our protocol until the state lifts

the order.

Sister Erica Zgola has been on the sick list since February 19 after having foot surgery. She is healing well as last reported and will be back on her feet again in the weeks to come.

Brother Brian Gilles will be participating this year in the American Lung Association sponsored "Fight for Air" fundraiser held this year at Progressive Field in Cleveland on May 2, 2021. Branch 5 pledged \$100 to this event which will require climbing 1100 steps. I believe Brian will be doing this in full fireman's gear as well! Good luck to you, and be safe!

Birthdays being celebrated this month by members are Sisters Ginger Romes, Debbie Tomusko, Barbara Gilles, and junior members, Mackenzie Smith, Sofia Ali, and Aidan Brown. Happy Birthday and may you all enjoy your special day!

It hardly seems possible that we're already into April, celebrating Easter with Christ now our resurrected savior! A perfect illustration of new life in the days ahead after the dreary past year some of us have had, struggling through either being sick, shut in, or both. Spring has finally sprung and soon we'll be welcoming summer. Until then though, stay safe, and stay healthy!

BRANCH 8, ALLIANCE

By Lesley Reed

Branch 8 held its first meeting of 2021 on March 17th. We had ten members present with four excused. We started the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remained standing for a moment of silence in honor of long time member Phyllis Biggs who recently passed. Her absence is felt by us all.

Our next meeting on May 19th will be hosted by the Crawford ladies, Denise, Casey, and Courtney. Three scholarships were awarded this evening to Emily Brennan, Sydney Hertel, and Courtney Crawford.

We had two items discussed as Old Business. Our combined Men and Ladies' lodges will be providing flowers for the altar of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alliance on Sunday, April 11th as we traditionally do each year. Member Barb Esterly will see they are delivered to elderly,

shut-in church members following the services. Also discussed was the canceling of the 2021 Heimattag in Salem.

Under New Business, there were several communications to read which were received since our last meeting. We received thank you cards from the family of Phyllis Biggs for our floral arrangement and from Evan and Sydney Hertel for scholarships. A Christmas holiday greeting was shared from the Home Office along with a donation that went toward our Christmas party. Another Christmas card we received was from Elaine Dunlap of the Alliance YWCA. Lastly, we were sent regards from member Dorothy Brunie who recently turned 101 years old.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on May 19th at the American Legion Hall in Alliance, OH at 6:30 p.m!

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON RETIREES

By Ro Dundon

Hello! Hello! Hello! So glad we got together on March 11th. Again, we meet at the Falcon Grille in Austintown.

Lisa and Roger did not attend...we missed you. We did have a new member (we hope). John came to the first meeting of this year. He fit right in. We hope to see him at the next one.

We caught up on the happenings that went on in our lives—what we did, what we didn't do and what we hope to do.

We recognized our deceased sisters and brother. In January Mary Teresa Laret passed on to her final reward. She was lovely and very talented. Aside from being an expert seamstress she was also a wonderful artist, especially work in charcoal. Her Christmas cards were always copies of her original holiday drawings.

Dom and I have relocated to Ashtabula, Ohio. I'm never moving again! Two days after moving in I locked us out of the condo, three days later we were without heat for two days. I had to drown the smoke alarm because it wouldn't shut up and then I fell flat on my face in the road, anyone looking out the window saw me.

Thank goodness we can come back every month to be with our wonderful group.

We seemed to enjoy our lunch as the conversation stilled until we were through.

We will meet again on April 8th at noon at the Falcon Grille. Should the time or/and place change our President, Diana Kommel will contact everyone.

Happy Easter to all—Happy Spring to everyone.

Till we meet again...As usual it's RO.



We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

Donald L. Nordin

Age 88

Died: December 4, 2020
Branch 2, Erie, PA

Raymond E. Coppersmith

Age 93

Died: March 12, 2021
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Susanna Scheel

Age 99

Died: March 14, 2021
Branch 17, Canton, OH

Michael D. Hennie

Age 70

Died: March 14, 2021
Branch 33, Cleveland, OH

George Rach

Age 86

Died: March 20, 2021
Home Branch

Nice surprise! Stimulus doesn't count as income

Tax free money? Is that even possible? It seems so with stimulus checks.

Stimulus payments are not considered taxable income and will not be subject to income taxes, according to the IRS.

More than half of Americans don't know that stimulus payments are non-taxable, a statistic that reflects the widespread confusion surrounding this year's tax season, according to Forbes.



"To save time, let's tell each other which parts of our bodies aren't aching."

Brenndorf / Bod



The fortified church in Bod went through difficult times, strongly affected by fire and earthquakes. The Romanesque basilica with a bell tower built in the 13th century was partially destroyed by fire only two centuries later. Starting with the late 18th century, the events precipitated: the bell tower collapsed only to be rebuilt nine years later. But after three years the church was massively destroyed by an earthquake, together with its fortification wall. The polygonal wall with outer bailey and defence towers was almost completely dismantled after this episode. Today in Bod one can admire the church built in 1806, whose tower damaged by the earthquake in 1977 was subsequently stabilized. The interior of the church houses the altar from



Fortifed Churches Foundation
www.kirchenburgen.org

1869, which forms a whole together with the organ built in 1816. Original bells, dating back to Catholic times were destroyed when the tower collapsed. One bell that escaped the damages of war and further two bells made of bronze in 1922 accompany the Sunday service today.

Place and surroundings

Although the inhabitants of the village Bod have endured many strokes of fate over the centuries, they never gave up. Thus their eventful history can be nowadays traced on the church in the centre of the village. After the village was first mentioned in the 14th century, the number of devastating attacks increased: only between 1421 and 1658 the village has been set aflame and burned almost completely at least 5 times. During the same period the villagers were forced to participate in building the fortification of the town of Braşov and also to contribute with construction materials. Between 1718 and 1719 the plague caused around 500 victims in Bod. In 1779 floods caused major damage, closely followed by two earthquakes (1790-1802) that caused new destruc-

tions. To all these two major fires in 1844 and 1867 are added, which affected extensive ares of the village. However the villagers have repeatedly rebuilt and repaired the church. In recent years the building underwent significant repairs due to the involvement of the Federal German Government and of the Saxons emigrated from Bod.

Hilda Femmig

Um Isterdåg

Dett wor bä as en hiesch åld Broch:
Noom Gottesdänst um Isterdåg,
wonn der Herr Voter hiemegeng,
dro mosst et ä Begliedung seng.
De gånz Gemien, dä beld en Zaß,
dro wor e stattlich glatt genaß.

De Blossmusik, dä geng virun en stämmt en Isterpsalmen un;
end hängderher äm Lutherk lied
riëcht würdij der Herr Voter schritt.
Ze senger Segt, do geng ellien
der Herr Kurator der Gemien.

Et foljten all dä härzij Kängd, ze Zwet se hälde sich de Hängd,
de klenste glech noom giestijen Hirten;
mät Uewständ Mede mät dem Bierten,
Presbyter, Purschen, Mån genaß –
kurz: allest, wat schwarz Hise draß.

De Fräe beldten det Spalier. Um Oingd dro hess et: Na ku mir!
Se schlusse sich als Lezten un,
seng äng zer riëchter Zegd nooch kunn.
Dro af dem Farrhof Jang uch Ält
hot sich äm Halwkries afgestält.

Wä ältihrwürdij äs de Troocht, doch jang de Wält fast iwwer Noocht:
Grän Gras, blo Hemmel, Sannescheng,
entro de Laft gorr längd uch feng –
em eedemt deff, em späztz det Ihr
en richt de Bläck zer Liew empir.

Derwell do der Herr Voter

Alles gute zum Namenstag!

Hugo	1. April
Lienhard	2. April
Alarich	3. April
Ambrosius	4. April
Emilie, Irene	5. April
Maja	6. April
Alwin, Elfriede	7. April
Albert	8. April
Demeter, Hartwig	9. April
Daniel, Emma	10. April
Leo, Reiner	11. April
Inge(borg), Julius	12. April
Ida, Justinus	13. April
Tiburtius	14. April
Furchtegott	15. April
Herwig	16. April
Rudolf	17. April
Valerie	18. April
Irmela, Werner	19. April
Gisela, Hartmut	20. April,
Anselm	21. April
Egmont	22. April
Adalbert	23. April
Georg	24. April
Markus, Siegmar	25. April
Raimar	26. April
Anastasius	27. April
Roderich	28. April
Robert, Rolf	29. April
Wanda	30. April

stiht
uch sich bedänkt fir det Beglied,
denn säht, hie äs dervir bekânt:
E riëdt gorr gat uch wiert gewând!
Loingst em stiht de Frä Farrerän
en segt besangders frängdlich drän.

Na tritt der Herr Kurator vir en gitt sich sengersegts de Ihr,
begresst de Farr uch de Gemien,
de Kängde gitt e’n Zieche schin
en hirt: Se roffen, holprij zwor
end tratzdem rährend, na äm Chor:
Vivat, der Herr Voter uch de Frä Motter selle liëwen!

Dråmol se reffen dese Wänsch.
Zastämmend schmunzelt e jed Mänsch.
Dro hun de Kirchemetter trå ä Fälpeseren nuegelnåå,
mät Sälwstgewirktem ausgelooßt,
de Kängden ärär Gowe broocht:

Aus Kachen en hiesch Isterlumm
uch halt en Pomerânz bekum e jed vergnäjt uch monter Racker,
uch farwij Ächer, gånz aus

Zacker.
Se dånkten, wä et sich gehirt
uch der Kurator se’t gelihrt.

Derwell na Dänzmusik erklang,
bedoocht de Jugend sich net läng
en dreht af gränem Gras de Råhn –
uch dett e Grangd, äm sich ze från.
Jcha, munch e Kängd, dot hopst schi mät
äm Walzer- uch äm Polka-schrätt.

De Rende lockerde sich na, em geng hiesch hemlich hiemenza,
bespråch sich af dem gånze Weß
en wänscht sich gläcklich Feiertäj
end endlich gaden Appetit, derwell’t båld Lämmche brode gitt!

Håwt ir, meng Damen uch meng Herrn,
zem Mättågämmes diës net gærn?
Er hot mer frängdlich zagehirt –
erluwt mer schlesslich noch e Wiert:
Bevir mer ausenåndergohn, wåll ech ich „Gott erhåld ich!“ soon.

SBZ Online
24. März 2019



Choruses

CLEVELAND, SECTION 1

EINTRACHT SAXONIA

SACHSENCHOR

Rehearsal:

Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

Horst Hebrank

26148 Kennedy Ridge Rd

No Olmsted OH 44070

(440) 734-2584

SECRETARY

Christa Herbert

4703 West Ridgewood Dr.

Parma, OH 44134

440-888-6094

NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6

EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR

Rehearsal:

Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT

Jonathan Baisch

3336 Plank Rd

New Castle PA 16105

(724) 519-0519

newcastleeintracht@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Samuel Audia

635 Moffatt Rd

New Castle PA 16101

(724) 651- 3354

eintrachtmaennerchor@gmail.com

ERIE

SIEBENBUERGER SINGERS

Meet Monday at

Siebenbuerger Club

PRESIDENT

Tim Clint

5805 West Road

McKean, PA 16426

(814)572-6639

Email: tjbcclint@verizon.net



Cultural Groups

CLEVELAND SAXON

DANCE GROUP

Rehearsal: Fridays

6:30 p.m Children

7:30 pm Adults

Westside Sachsenheim

PRESIDENT

Stephanie Miller

23500 Wingedfoot Dr

Westlake OH 44145

(216) 647-3229

Samiller55@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Bryan Sizemore

4510 W 145th St

Cleveland OH 44135

(216) 314-3828

Bsize650420@gmail.com

YOUNGSTOWN

SAXON CULTURE GROUP

Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month

Youngstown Saxon Club

PRESIDENT

Erna Weber

525 Quarry Ln

Warren OH 44483

(330) 509-9421

Saxnera@aol.com

SECRETARY

Kevin McCarty

1901 Oakwood

Youngstown, OH 44509

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TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE



PRESIDENT

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Salem, OH 44460

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VICE PRESIDENT

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(330) 720-7988

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

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Lorain, OH 44053

(440) 309-7894

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SAXON SENIORS

YOUNGSTOWN

SAXON RETIREES

Meets 2nd Thursday 11:30 a.m.

Youngstown Saxon Club

(March - December)

PRESIDENT

Diana Kommel

666 N. Schenley

Youngstown, OH 44509

(330) 799-1738

SECRETARY

Rosemary Dundon

7637 E Parkside Dr

Youngstown OH 44512

(330) 726-6851

SALEM SAXON RETIREES

Meets 1st Wednesday

of the month

Noon at 1980 NewGarden Rd

PRESIDENT

Lois Whitacre

15425 Lisbon St.

Minerva, OH 44657

(330) 813-0400

SECRETARY

Dianne Kuttler

4282 McCann Rd

Salem OH 44460

(330) 428-1723

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

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Certificate No. _____ SS# _____

Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

All information in the form
to the right and below must
be correctly typed, or
legibly written.

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☐ CANCELLATION

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THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

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☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____





Spring forward to a better financial future!

Spring is here! Most people seem to hibernate through the Winter. Even in a non-Covid year, we tend to stay indoors and very rarely venture out during the winter months. Once Spring arrives, we all spring back to life and are raring to go places and meet people. We spring clean the house, start planting gardens and flowers, and look forward to the rest of the year. But what about your finances? This is the perfect time to change bad financial habits and create new habits to ensure a strong financial future.

Here's a few ways to Spring Clean your Finances:

- **Sweep out old spending habits.** Spring is a great time to get rid of things that you no longer need. Do that with your finances as well. Do you have an automatic deduction to the gym that you haven't went to in more than a year? Now's a good time to cancel the membership. Do the same with a radio or video subscription, or cable package that you don't really use. Do you really need that expensive coffee every day on your way to work or need to eat out every day for lunch? Just one or two changes to your spending habits each month can really add up.
- **Dust off your budget.** If you haven't been sticking to your budget lately, this is a good time to restart. If you're saying "what budget", it's time to create one. A budget is one of the best tools you can have for reaching major financial milestones, from paying off credit cards to saving up for a down payment on a house. When you budget consistently, it becomes much easier to reach those financial goals.
- **Plan your Retirement Contributions.** Have you budgeted your retirement years? Or how much money you will need to retire? Are you contributing the maximum amount to your IRA or 401(k) or just taking advantage of the matching contribution? This is a good time to look at those and maybe increase your contributions.
- **Review your Life Insurance Policies.** Do you have enough life insurance? Has your situation changed during the year? Did you get married or have a child? Do you need to update your beneficiary on your life insurance policy?
- **Review your credit report for errors.** The three main credit bureaus let you check your credit report for free once a year. This is as good a time as any to check yours. To get your free annual credit report, visit www.AnnualCreditReport.com.

The ATS is here to help you! If you find you need additional insurance or a new annuity or IRA after your spring clean, contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS Home Office to learn more about our Life Insurance and Annuity Plans:

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- **Life Paid up at Age 65**—Premium payments are completed by retirement age
- **Whole Life**—Provides the maximum amount of permanent life insurance with cash value at the lowest rates
- **Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity**
- **Single Premium Deferred Annuity**
- **Single Premium Immediate Annuity**
- **Traditional IRA**
- **Roth IRA**

